
CAMOSUN COLLEGE
School of Arts & Science
Social Sciences Department

Sociology 101
Social Processes & Institutions

Winter 2012

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COURSE DESCRIPTION:

This course will utilize the concepts and theories learned in Sociology 100 to examine some of the substantive areas of sociology. Emphasis will be placed on the broad theoretical concerns inherent in each of these areas and in particular their application to Canadian society.

COURSE OBJECTIVES

The broader objective of the course is to encourage students to think independently and critically when dealing with social processes and institutions. Sociological theory will be emphasized to this effect, as will its application to contemporary Canadian society.

INTENDED LEARNING OUTCOMES

Upon successful completion of the course the student will be able to:

Demonstrate a critical understanding of one or more of the areas of Canadian political economy, development and underdevelopment, **ecology and social change**, globalization, and the **impact of technology on various institutions of contemporary society**, within the context of Canadian society.

METHOD OF INSTRUCTION:

The course will be based on a series of lectures, followed by seminar-type discussions in which students are urged to participate.

REQUIRED TEXT:

Ursula Franklin **The Real World of Technology.**
Anansi, 1990

Recommended Reference Text On Reserve At The Library

Paul A. Alcorn *Social Issues In Technology*
Pearson/Prentice Hall, 2003

REQUIRED READINGS

The course will cover the Franklin text to a good extent and selective chapters from the text on reserve at the library. However, lectures will broadly follow the outlines of the reserve text. Additional materials and illustrations will be introduced during lectures and discussions and students should be prepared to take notes when materials not covered by the texts are thus presented. It is therefore essential for students to read in advance in order to know when it is necessary to take notes. However, students must realize that *a textbook does not represent the course*, and that, given the topic being discussed, much of the contents of a lecture may originate with the Instructor's own research and study.

Basis of Student Assessment

OPTION I

- 1) In class test (30%)
- 2) 2 Group Discussion (10% x 2 = 20%)
- 3) In class test (35%)
- 4) Final Test (15%)

OPTION II

- 1) Test #1 (20%)
- 2) Group Discussion (20%)
- 3) Test #2 (20%)
- 4) Essay (30%)
- 5) Final Test (10%)

****Specific Details of each of the above listed components are listed below****

In Class Test #1 and #2 and #3 (80% or 50%)¹

The tests will consist of approximately 30-40 multiple-choice questions. The dates of the tests will be announced in class. There is no final exam in this class, just a final test. **The tests themselves are NOT cumulative.**

The tests can potentially ask ANY question related to issues discussed in class, the textbook, or presented in in-class videos. The rule of thumb for tests is: BE READY FOR ANYTHING!!!

Just in case anyone is wondering: ***THERE IS NO FINAL EXAM IN THIS CLASS!!! That is either a good or bad thing depending on your point of view.***

Group Discussion (20%):

In talking about social phenomena, it is inevitable that we will discuss issues or topics that some may deem to be controversial. While an effort will be made to get students to participate in class discussions on many of these issues, it has been the experience of this Instructor that most students feel intimidated by the prospect of speaking up in class; this is very understandable; making one's opinions heard in a class of 40 or so students can be a daunting experience.

In order to alleviate this concern, the class will be broken up into small groups where students can more comfortably express their opinions on a given topic. During the course of the term, two such discussion groups will be held, one in **late February and the other sometime in March**; this discussion will require the student to read a specific article and prepare a critical review of that article by assessing the main weaknesses of the article and suggesting improvements. **The article will be handed out in late January or early February.**

Students should bring their review and discuss them with others in their group. Afterwards, the group should pick the written criticisms and suggestions for improvement from one of their peers they feel are the best articulated and hand it in at the end of the class. Lastly, the group should come up with one question that is different from all the "Critical Thinking Questions" listed in the

article and state why this question is important and submit them to the instructor at the end of class.

The review session is worth 20%. Evaluation of the critical review will be based on the quality of the review and the created questions. Be sure to write your review on the assumption that the reader knows very little about the topic you are discussing. Be explicitly clear with respect to your statements so the reader does not have to guess what you are trying to say.

In order to be fair to all students, the following conduct will be penalized:

- Depositing your questions with the instructor or sending them with another student and not participating in the discussions.
- Not attending the discussion sessions without a legitimate excuse.
- Doing the review sessions before class and then just coming to class to hand in the review session.

Optional Essay (30%)

- The essay can be done alone or in groups of up to 5.
- The length of the essay should not exceed ten (10) double-spaced typewritten pages in a standard font. The essay is due the last week of March. An exact date will be given in class.
- The essay is purely optional, though if you do decide to do an essay, your evaluation will be structured differently from those who do not do an essay.
- If you choose to do the essay, select a topic about a social problem you are interested in examining by using one of the major theories or concepts discussed in class and/ or the text.
- Develop a clear argument with respect to your essay. The argument must deal with an issue about your topic that your paper should help you to answer. An example would be: ***“In this essay, I will argue that the conflict perspective is a very useful theoretical tool that can help us to understand why many corporations are not concerned with issues of environmental pollution .”***
- Or, as another example, ***“I will argue that Durkheim’s concept of anomie can effectively explain why the post-industrial world we now live in generates so much stress and unhappiness in the lives of people.”***
- Regardless of the topic selected, your essay must be structured according to the template illustrated below in the next two pages.

HEADINGS	BASIC REQUIREMENTS	TOTAL POSSIBLE MARKS OUT OF 100	YOUR GRADE
INTRODUCTION	Tell the reader what your essay will be about. What is it that you will be trying to argue, how will you be trying to substantiate your argument and why is this important.	20	/20
METHODOLOGY	Tell the reader how you went about collecting your data. Did you approach your topic inductively or deductively? Why? How did you record your observations? If you did the essay as a group, how did the group record their observations? What specifically were you looking for when you were gathering your data and why? This is directly tied into the argument you stated in the introduction. Be clear and specific!	20	/20

ANALYSIS	In this section, tell the reader what you observed. Be as detailed and as specific as possible with respect to your observations. Avoid making vague comments that leave the reader guessing what you are trying to say. Be sure to directly link your observations with sociological concepts or theories discussed in class and/or the textbook so the reader can understand the sociological significance of your observations. Be very clear and specific!!!	40	/40
CONCLUSION	In this section, summarize what you did in your paper and the findings of your research. Discuss the importance of your study, any problems you encountered in conducting your research and how you could improve and expand upon what you did in a future project.	20	- /20
	SUB-TOTAL	100	/100
	NO HEADINGS	-20	
	NO BIBLIOGRAPHY²	-30	
		FINAL TOTAL	

² **Note: You are expected to have a minimum of two academic references in your bibliography. If you hand in your paper with just one academic reference, you will lose 15 marks. In addition, do not pad your bibliography; that is, if you do not directly cite a reference or use it in any fashion, do not bother listing it in the bibliography.**

ESSAY WRITING: ADDITIONAL NOTES

In writing the essay for this class, it is imperative that you clearly explain all terms and theories used; too often in the past, students would throw out terms and theories without even the briefest explanation or discussion. ***In composing your paper, assume that the reader does not know anything about the topic or discipline in question. As such, it is up to you to clearly explain concepts and theories in as clear and straightforward manner as possible!!!***

As much as possible, avoid making vague and imprecise statements that leave the reader wondering or speculating as to what you are trying to say. ***You are not writing a mystery novel but an academic paper. As such, do not leave your reader guessing or confused with what you are going to be arguing or demonstrating in your paper.***

Lastly, any definition or factual statement you make in the body of your paper needs to be properly cited.

In this respect, your essay must also have a bibliography, references or works cited page at the end of your essay. Academic work is cumulative and as such, any fact or piece of information that was published by somebody else must be fully referenced in your essay.

When citing information, follow the ASA documentation style, **or any other style that you are comfortable with.** The following are examples of the ASA style:

CITING REFERENCES WITHIN THE ESSAY

- (1) “Researchers who focus on causal relations usually begin with an effect, then search for its causes” (Neuman,1997:107) [**Author’s last name, year book was published, page number of cited material**].
- (1a) In Harry Potter and the Chamber of Secrets, Malfoy said to Ron Weasley, “Red hair and hand-me-down robes; you must be a Weasley”(Chamber of Secrets,2002).

CITING REFERENCES IN YOUR BIBLIOGRAPHY

- (2) To cite a journal article: (e.g. **Kent, Susan**
1995 “Unstable Households in a Stable Kalahari
Community in Botswana.” **American
Anthropologist 97 (2): 292-312**).
- (2a) To cite a book: Macionis, John J., S. Mikael Jansson and Cecilia M. Benoit.
2005 **Society: The Basics**. Toronto: Prentice-Hall.
- (2b) To cite a movie: Harry Potter and the Chamber of Secrets. Warner Brothers. 2002
- To cite something from the internet, the website and the date the cite was visited should be included. For example:

United States Department of Energy
1996 *Impact of the Human Genome Project*. March 3
[<http://www.gdb.org/Dan/DOE/prim5.html>]

Remember, references in your bibliography must be in alphabetical order by last name of the principal author of the work you are citing. Lastly, do not bother listing references in your bibliography that you did not explicitly use.

For more information on citation styles, please consult the *Style Manual for the Social Sciences* available at the bookstore or at the Camosun Library.

IT SHOULD BE NOTED THAT THE DUE DATES FOR THE ESSAY WILL BE STRICTLY ENFORCED. TWO PERCENT A DAY WILL BE DEDUCTED FOR EVERY DAY AN ASSIGNMENT OR ESSAY IS LATE!!!

NOTE: In evaluating the examination papers and essays the emphasis will be on understanding and analysis, rather than the recitation. Avoid memorizing sentences, in particular when it is not clear to you what the sentences mean. Papers indicating memorization will receive a grade zero. As for analysis, your learning strategy should be to understand the relationships among facts, not the facts alone. Another important point is illustration; after discussion and analysis give examples from current or historical developments in society. This will show that you understand the concepts and theories and are able to apply them to society as tools for analysis.

A grade of zero will be granted for absence during examinations, unless the student produces a medical certificates confirming serious illness and writes the substitute exam within one week of recovery.

Final Test (20%)

There is a no final exam for this course. The structure of the final test will be identical to the previous class tests. The final test will be held on the last day of class.

Examination Procedures

All examinations must be written in the section of the course in which the student is officially registered.

A grade of Zero will be granted for absence during examination, unless the student produces a medical certificate confirming serious illness and writes the substitute exam within one week of recovery.

Grading System

The following percentage conversion to letter grade will be used:

A+ = 95 - 100%	B = 75 - 79%	D = 50 - 59%
A = 90 - 94%	B- = 70 - 74%	F = 0.0 - 49%
A- = 85 - 89%	C+ = 65 - 69%	I = See Calendar for Details
B+ = 80 - 84%	C = 60 - 64%	AUD = Audit

W = Official withdrawal has taken place.

Academic Misconduct

Academic misconduct includes, but is not limited to, the following acts:

- (i) giving, receiving, or obtaining unauthorized information during any type of examination or test;
- (ii) obtaining or providing unauthorized questions or answers relating to any examination or test prior to the time of the examination or test;
- (iii) Asking or arranging for another person to take any examination or test in one's place;
- (iv) **Plagiarizing**, that is, appropriating the work of another or parts or passages of another's writing, or the ideas or language of the same, and passing them off as a product of one's own mind or manual skill.
- (v) Disruptive behavior/Disorderly conduct. **This includes any behavior** that interferes with the provision of College services or of instruction or interferes with any member of the Camosun College community by students and any others accompanying them. Examples: verbal outbursts, physical gestures, actions or interruptions which limit or interfere with the provision of College services or instructional activities; unwarranted and unreasonable disturbances during any Camosun College related activity.

Academic misconduct will result in a grade of "F" for the entire course. The students should note that in accordance with the college policy quoted above, mere access to unauthorized information (for example, texts or lecture notes) constitutes academic misconduct. It is not necessary for the instructor to prove that the information has been used by the student.

Tape-Recording in the Classroom

In order to ensure free and open discussion of controversial ideas by the students, tape-recording of the proceedings is not permitted in class. Exceptions, however, will be made for students who are visually impaired or are unable to write due to physical disability.

Procedure Changes

In order to deal with the day-to-day management of the course, new procedures or revisions to procedures may be implemented from time to time throughout the semester. Such procedures and revisions will be announced in class for two consecutive sessions before they are implemented. It is the responsibility of each student to keep informed of such developments.

All matters that are not covered by this course outline are governed by official college policies and procedures.

Course Content and Readings

January

Topics and Readings

Week 1	General Introduction/Social Theory (Chapter 1³).
Week 2	General Introduction (Chapter 1)
Week 3	General Introduction (Chapter 1)
Week 4	General Introduction (Chapter 1).

February

Week 1	Chapter 2: Social Resistance to Change/ Video.⁴
Week 2	Chapter 2: Social Resistance to Change
Week 3	Chapter 3: Creativity and Innovation Group Discussion .
Week 4	Chapter 3: Creativity and Innovation⁵ Video⁶

March

Week 1	Chapter 4: Economics and Cultural Impetus (Pg. 61-98)/ Video⁷
Week 2	Chapter 4: Economics and Cultural Impetus (Pg. 61-98)
Week 3	Chapter 5: An Idea Whose Time Has Come. Group Discussion .
Week 4	Chapter 5 (Additional Topic): An Idea That Has Overstayed Its Welcome: The Future and Collapse of Technological Societies⁸ (Lecture Content)/ Video⁹

³ It should be noted that Chapter 1 is a very basic – not to mention, weak – introduction to this area of study. The instructor will be providing a very different – though not necessarily incompatible – introduction to the topic in question, one that focuses far more on the social processes involved in technological development. As such, chapter 1 should be viewed as just a very elementary, alternative discussion on what technology entails. In this respect, most of the material discussed in the first month or more of the course will be based on lectures and the Franklin text.

With respect to the Franklin text, since it is not a textbook per se, feel free to read it in its entirety at your own pace.

⁴ *Guns, Germs and Steel (2005)*.

⁵ Another text students may wish to consult, one that will be drawn upon in this class, is Sociologist, Sherry Turkle's book, *Alone Together: Why We Expect More of Technology and Less From Each Other (2011)*.

⁶ *Who Killed The Electric Car(2006)*

⁷ *Manufactured Landscapes (2006)*

April

Review

**** It should be noted that the above schedule is tentative and is listed here only as an approximate guide for the student.**** It is very likely that more chapters or topics will be discussed if our progress through the material is deemed to be faster than expected. If this is the case, the additional areas of study will be announced in class.

Recommended Materials or Services to Assist Students to Succeed Throughout the Course

Students are encouraged to utilize support services available at the Writing Centre to prepare for their essay and exams.

LEARNING SUPPORT AND SERVICES FOR STUDENTS

There are a variety of services available for students to assist them throughout their learning. This information is available in the College Calendar, Registrar's Office or the College web site at <http://www.camosun.bc.ca>

ACADEMIC CONDUCT POLICY

There is an Academic Conduct Policy. It is the student's responsibility to become familiar with the content of this policy. The policy is available in each School Administration Office, Registration, and on the College web site in the Policy Section.

www.camosun.bc.ca/divisions/pres/policy/2-education/2-8

⁸ As a reference students may wish to consult the following book on their own for more information on this topic – though it is NOT required that they do so – *Collapse: How Societies Choose to Fail or Succeed (2003) by Jared Diamond*. This issue is not explicitly talked about in Chapter 5, but could be – and should be; as such, the Instructor has decided to weave it into the existing framework of this chapter for better or worse.

⁹ *Collapse (2011)*