

L A K E H E A D U N I V E R S I T Y
DEPARTMENT OF SOCIOLOGY
Introduction to Sociology
Sociology 1100YA

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UC0038

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Office Hours: Tues. & Thurs. 1:00-2:00 PM

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Fall/Winter 2012/13

Tues. & Thurs. 11:30-1:00 PM

ATAC 1001

Course Description

This course of study addresses 3 basic questions: What is sociology? How do societies work? How is sociology personally relevant? Through readings, lectures, classroom discussions, and audio-visual materials, students will come to understand sociology's unique perspective on human behaviour, its major theoretical paradigms, and its basic research methodologies. Furthermore, students will examine in detail numerous core sociological concepts which may include culture, socialization, social interaction, formal organizations, social stratification, crime and deviance, race and ethnicity, gender and sexuality, aging, social institutions (family, education, medicine, etc.), demography, collective behaviour, social movements, and globalization.

Course Material

Main Textbook: Steckley, John, and Guy Kirby Letts. 2010. *Elements of Sociology: A Critical Canadian Introduction*. Don Mills: Oxford University Press.

It is imperative that you read the required chapters in the Steckley/Letts textbook according to the Course Schedule (see below). Please be advised that classroom lectures do not merely repeat the content found in our textbook. Attending lectures is not a substitute for reading the text. Examinations will include numerous questions on content from our main textbook which is not covered in class. You may make comments and ask questions about textbook content in class.

Study Guide: The Steckley/Letts textbook has an easy-to-use companion website which serves as a helpful study guide. The website offers chapter summaries, learning objectives, self-help study questions, self-grading quizzes, 'explore & discuss' exercises, and more. You are strongly encouraged to work with the study guide on a regular basis. The link to the Steckley/Letts companion website is found in the textbook.

Readings for Winter Term Paper: Nelsen, Randle W. 2012. *Life of the Party: A Study in Sociality, Community, and Inequality*. Toronto: Between the Lines Books. (136 pages)

Randle Nelsen's *Life of the Party* serves the important purpose of bringing lofty sociological concepts -such as social class, race, and gender- down to earth by making these concepts visible in instances of everyday life such as birthday celebrations and tailgate parties. We will use *Life of the Party* as a collection of readings for our Winter Term Paper. References to *Life of the Party* will also be made in lectures from time-to-time.

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Lectures: Lectures are an important source of required course content. You should make every effort to attend classes regularly. You are responsible for everything that takes place in class (announcements, lectures, videos, class discussions). Just as attending lectures is not a substitute for reading your main textbook, reading your text is not a substitute for attending classes. The examinations will include numerous questions based on material covered exclusively in class.

Videos: We will view several videos throughout the course of study. Video content will be discussed in class and will be included in course examinations. Because some of these videos may not be available outside of our classes, it is imperative that you attend their classroom showings.

Grading Scheme

Fall Group Assignments.....	6%
Fall Midterm Exam.....	12%
Mid-year Exam.....	22%
Winter Group Assignments.....	6%
Winter Midterm Exam.....	12%
Winter Term Paper.....	14%
Final Exam.....	28%

Examinations

There are 4 examinations scheduled throughout the course of study. The Fall and Winter mid-term exams will be held during regular class times, and will include approximately 75 multiple-choice questions each. The Fall midterm exam will cover all course material (readings, lectures, videos, class discussions) from the first class to the time of the exam. The Winter midterm exam will cover all course material from the first class in the Winter term to the time of the exam. See the Course Schedule for midterm exam dates. The Mid-year (Xmas) exam will cover all course material from the beginning of the course to the time of the exam, with an emphasis on the material covered since the Fall midterm. The Final exam will cover all course material from the beginning of the Winter term to the time of the exam, with an emphasis on the material covered since the Winter midterm exam. The Mid-year and Final exams will be held in the Saunders Fieldhouse (the Gym). These examinations will be 3 hours in duration and may include multiple-choice, short-answer, and essay questions. The dates and times of the Mid-year and Final examinations will be announced at a later date. See the Grading Scheme above for examination weights.

**Lakehead University has a very strict policy regarding the failure to write formal examinations at the prescribed time. Please note that make-up examinations will only be offered when missed exams are due to medical and/or compassionate reasons, for which detailed supporting documentation must be submitted. It is your responsibility to familiarize yourself with the University's policy regarding missed examinations. Knowing your obligations in this area may help you avoid serious academic penalty.*

Group Assignments

At different points throughout the course, students will be asked to form groups of 3-5 members for the purposes of completing and submitting mini-assignments. Student groups will be formed during class-time. Some of these assignments will be completed during class, others will be completed outside of class. Each mini-assignment will entail a single group meeting during which group members will engage in a task involving the application of specific course concepts to a particular social issue or aspect of everyday life. Each group will submit a brief report for evaluation. Deadlines will apply. Further details will be provided in class. Group mini-assignments carry a maximum total weight of 12% of your final course grade.

Winter Term Paper

You are required to prepare and submit for grading a 5-6 page paper based on Randle Nelsen's *Life of the Party: A Study in Sociability, Community, and Inequality*. The assignment asks you to apply specific course concepts to Nelsen's various discussions of the party scene. Further details on content and format requirements will be released at a later date. The paper is worth a maximum of 14% of your final course grade. See Course Schedule for deadline.

COURSE SCHEDULE (subject to minor changes)

Sept. 10 - 23	Introduction to Sociology -Steckley/Letts ch. 1
Sept. 24 - Oct. 7	Culture -Steckley/Letts ch. 3
Oct. 8 - 21	Socialization -Steckley/Letts ch. 4
Oct. 23	<u>Fall Midterm Examination</u>
Oct. 24 - Nov. 4	Social Roles, Interaction, and Organization -Steckley/Letts ch. 5
Nov. 5 - 18	Deviance -Steckley/Letts ch. 6
Nov. 19 - Dec. 3	Social Inequality: Stratification -Steckley/Letts ch. 11
T.B.A	<u>Mid-year Examination</u> - Saunders Fieldhouse (the Gym)
Jan. 7 - 20	Race and Ethnicity: Sites of Inequality -Steckley/Letts ch. 12
Jan. 21 - Feb. 3	Gender and Sexuality -Steckley/Letts ch. 13
Feb. 4 - 17	Family -Steckley/Letts ch. 7
Feb. 14	<u>Deadline for Winter Term Paper</u> - class-time/location - late penalties apply
Feb. 18 - 22	<u>Reading Week</u>
Feb. 26	<u>Winter Midterm Examination</u>
Feb. 27 - Mar. 10	Education -Steckley/Letts ch. 9
Mar. 11 - 24	Health and Medicine -Steckley/Letts ch. 10
Mar. 25 - Apr. 9	Social Change and the Future -Steckley/Letts ch. 14
T.B.A	<u>Final Examination</u> - Saunders Fieldhouse (the Gym)