

L A K E H E A D U N I V E R S I T Y
D E P A R T M E N T O F S O C I O L O G Y
I n t r o d u c t i o n t o S o c i o l o g y
S o c i o l o g y 1 1 0 0 Y C

Brian McMillan
UC0038
brian.mcmillan@lakeheadu.ca
Office Hours: Tues. 1:00-2:00pm, or by appointment
Sociology Department Website: <http://sociology.lakeheadu.ca>

Fall/Winter 2010/11
Tuesday 7:00-10:00pm
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, audio-visual materials and online, interactive activities, students will learn how to apply 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 such as culture, socialization, social interaction, formal organizations, social stratification, crime and deviance, race and ethnicity, gender and sexuality, aging, social institutions (economy, family, education, medicine), demography, collective behaviour and social movements, and globalization.

Textbook and Course Material

Macionis, John J., and Linda M. Gerber. 2011. *Sociology: Seventh Canadian Edition*. Toronto: Pearson Canada Inc. ISBN 978-0-13-700161-3

MySocLab. The purchase of the Macionis/Gerber text entitles you to unlimited access to MySocLab, an interactive website configured specifically for the Macionis/Gerber text. MySocLab features numerous student resources such as an e-version of our text, self-assessment tools, audiovisual material, research data bases tailor-fit to the needs of introductory sociology students, guidance in preparing sociology papers, easy-to-use links to fellow students, teaching assistants and instructors, Google Earth, etc.

Grading Scheme

Fall Term Class Participation.....	7.5%
Fall Midterm Exam.....	10%
Mid-year Exam.....	20%
Winter Term Class Participation.....	7.5%
Winter Midterm Exam.....	10%
Research Paper.....	18%
MySocLab Self-Assessment.....	7%
Final Exam.....	20%

Class Attendance/Participation

You should make every effort to attend all classes. Course examinations will, in part, cover material which will only be made available during classes (lectures, videos, activities). You should ensure that

Class Attendance/Participation (cont'd)

you are prepared for classes by reading your assigned chapters *before* the classes in which the chapters are addressed (see the Course Schedule below).

Examinations

There are 4 examinations scheduled throughout the course of study. The Fall and Winter midterm examinations will be held in our classroom during regular class times, and will be composed of 80-90 multiple-choice questions. The Mid-year and Final examinations will be held in the Saunders Fieldhouse (the Gym) on dates and times T.B.A. These 2 exams will be 3 hours in duration and will be composed of multiple-choice and short-answer questions, and perhaps essay questions. All exams will be based on all class material and required readings. See the Course Schedule for Fall and Winter midterm examination dates. See the Grading Scheme for examination weights.

**Lakehead University has a very strict policy regarding the failure to write formally-scheduled exams at the prescribed time. It is your responsibility to familiarize yourself thoroughly with this policy, especially in the matter of required documentation (e.g., a doctor's note). Knowing your obligations in this area may help you avoid serious academic penalty.*

Research Paper

You are required to prepare and submit one research paper worth 18% of your final course grade. Your paper MUST be prepared according to the requirements below:

- your paper must examine an important social problem in Canada
- you must get written approval for the social problem you select (email me and I will reply)
- you must incorporate into your paper, *in an explicit manner*, one of the main theoretical perspectives covered in our course of study
- your paper must include 7-8 pages of discussion (NOT including title page, abstract, References page, tables, graphics, figures, appendices, etc.)
- you must use ASA (American Sociological Association) formatting style for your title page, References page, pagination, margins, in-text citations, etc. Google ASA for abbreviated ASA formatting guides or try <http://www.calstatela.edu/library/bi/rsalina/asa.styleguide.html>
- your paper must be typed, double-spaced, with a 12 point standard font
- you must base your paper on at least 4 scholarly, peer-reviewed books or articles from academic journals (do not use our course textbook as one of your 4 sources)
- you must NOT use newspapers, magazines, videos, Wikipedia, encyclopedias, dictionaries or other non-academic sources or non-academic websites
- avoid value judgement (don't use words like 'should' or 'ought', and avoid using personal anecdotes or first person references such as 'I', 'me', 'my', etc.)
- avoid plagiarism! Plagiarism is a serious offense! It is your responsibility to know what constitutes plagiarism, and to familiarize yourself thoroughly with Lakehead University's official policy on academic dishonesty. See the L.U. calendar at "IX Academic Dishonesty". Also, see the following site for helpful info on plagiarism: <http://www.northwestern.edu/uacc/plagiar.html>
- you must submit a hard copy of your paper... no electronic copies will be accepted. Be sure to save a copy of your paper to your hard drive. See the Course Schedule for the research paper deadline. ***A late penalty of 5% per day applies to all late submissions.*

Research Paper (cont'd)

In addition to the above research paper requirements, please consider the following when preparing your paper:

- The best papers are those that reflect a tight focus. Once you have selected your social problem (e.g., poverty in Canada), explore ways of limiting your topic's scope (e.g., women and poverty, or children and poverty, etc.).
- Provide a brief introduction in which you simply state the objectives of your paper. You might start your paper with something like "The following paper is an attempt to...". Don't include any references to the literature in your introduction. Don't start the analysis of your topic in the introduction. Simply inform your reader where your paper is going.
- In the body of your paper, you must address all the objectives stated in your introduction. This represents the bulk of your paper and should include numerous references to scholarly, published literature on the topic. Remember: ideas that you draw from the work of others must be cited in-text using ASA format; (e.g., Smith 2006:72)
- Define 'social problem' according to a sociological approach. I have placed several social problems texts on Library Reserve to be used for this purpose.
- Describe the magnitude of your chosen social problem; (i.e., how serious is it?)
- Indicate by social location who is most affected by the social problem (age group? males or females? social class? marital status? racialized group? ethnic group? region of the country? etc.).
- Explain the social problem according to ONE of the following theoretical perspectives: structural functionalism, social conflict theory, symbolic interactionism, feminism, postmodernism (note: this is a very important part of your paper which, if neglected, will most certainly precipitate the return of your paper ungraded).
- Identify and briefly discuss a solution to the social problem according to your chosen theoretical perspective.
- Provide a brief conclusion to your paper in which you simply provide a summary of your paper's main points. Do not add anything new. Do not make references to the published literature.
- Be absolutely sure that you discuss your topic in a SOCIOLOGICAL manner. I am not qualified to grade psychology, history, philosophy, political science, economics, or nursing papers, or any other paper that is not essentially sociological. If your paper is not sociological, I will be forced to return it to you ungraded.

COURSE SCHEDULE (subject to minor changes)

Sept. 14	The Sociological Perspective I - Macionis ch. 1 - Video: <i>Java Jive</i>
Sept. 21	The Sociological Perspective II - Macionis ch. 1 - Video: TBA
Sept. 28	Society - Macionis ch. 4 - Video: <i>Gods of our Fathers</i>
Oct. 5	Culture - Macionis ch. 3 - Video: TBA
Oct. 12	Socialization - Macionis ch. 5 - Video: <i>Anybody's Son Will Do</i>
Oct. 19	<u>Fall Midterm Examination</u> - regular class-time and location
Oct. 19 & 26	Social Interaction in Everyday Life - Macionis ch. 6 - Video: <i>Truth Merchants</i>
Nov. 2	Groups & Organizations - Macionis ch. 7 - Video: <i>The Corporation</i>
Nov. 9	Deviance - Macionis ch. 9 - Video: <i>Stopping Traffik: The War Against the War on Drugs</i>

Course Schedule (cont'd)

Nov. 16	Social Stratification - Macionis ch. 10 - Video: <i>Social Classes</i>
Nov. 23	Social Class in Canada - Macionis ch. 11 - Video: TBA
Nov. 30	Catch-up & Mid-year Exam review
T.B.A	<u>Mid-year Examination</u> - Saunders Fieldhouse (the Gym)
Jan. 4	Sexuality & Society - Macionis ch. 8 - Video: <i>Tough Guise: Part 1</i>
Jan. 11	Gender Stratification - Macionis ch. 13 - Video: <i>Tough Guise: Part 2</i>
Jan. 18	Global Stratification - Macionis ch. 12 - Video: <i>The World According to Monsanto</i>
Jan. 25	Race & Ethnicity - Macionis ch. 14 - Video: <i>The African-American Wallet Exchange</i>
Feb. 1	Aging & The Elderly - Macionis ch. 15 - Video: TBA
Feb. 8	<u>Winter Midterm Examination</u> - regular class-time and location
Feb. 8 & 15	The Economy & Work - Macionis ch. 16 - Video: <i>Clockworks</i>
Feb. 21 - 25	<u>Reading Week</u>
Mar. 1	Family - Macionis ch. 18 - Video: <i>Men and Women Unglued</i>
Mar. 8	Education - Macionis ch. 20 - Video: <i>Who Needs Boys?</i>
Mar. 15	Health & Medicine - Macionis ch. 21 - Video: <i>Drug Deals</i>
Mar. 22	<u>Deadline for Research Paper</u> - class-time and location - late penalties apply
Mar. 22	Population, Urbanization & the Environment - Macionis ch. 22 - Video: TBA
Mar. 29	Collective Behaviour & Social Movements - Macionis ch. 23 - Video: TBA
T.B.A	<u>Final Examination</u> - Saunders Fieldhouse (the Gym)