

**Lakehead University
Department of Sociology
Sociology 1100 ADE
Introduction to Sociology**

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Summer Semester: 2021

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Required Texts

The textbook for this class is *Principles of Sociology Canadian Perspectives* and is edited by Tepperman and Albanese. The edition we are using is 2018. The textbook can be purchased as an e-book or in hardcopy through the Lakehead University bookstore.

You will need to purchase, borrow, or rent a copy of the movie *Erin Brockovich*.

Course Description

Welcome to the exciting world of sociology. Throughout this course you will be challenged to look at the world through *sociological eyes*. You will explore the concepts sociologists use to examine the social world. Sociological theories, the ways and end results of research will provide the background to explore such substantive areas as: culture, socialization, society, social structure, social interaction, networks, groups, organizations, deviance and crime, social class and stratification in Canada, global stratification, race and ethnic relations, sex and gender, aging, work and the economy, power, politics, government, families, intimate relationships, education, religion, health, health care, disability, population and urbanization, collective behaviour, social movements, and social change. The course will begin with an examination of theoretical perspectives and the methods sociologists use to conduct research.

Course Requirements

Students are expected to regularly check the D2L site and actively participate in class discussions. As well, reading assignments are to be completed for the date they are assigned. The reading list is attached to this syllabus. This class is designed to be interactive and group discussion is a central component of the course.

This is a compressed course and we are covering in 6 weeks what we would normally cover in 7 months. If this was a face-to-face course, on-campus during the summer semester, we would spend 10 hours a week in class; not including daily readings, studying for examinations, and the assignment. This course is designed so that you spend 10 hours a week working on lectures, links and videos in the lectures, and answering discussion posts. The 10 hours does not include the poster assignment and assigned readings in the text.

All times for this course are Thunder Bay time, Eastern Daylight Time.

Learning Objectives

Gain familiarity with key sociological concepts.

Understand the applicability of sociological concepts to explain everyday social life.

Examine sociological perspectives. Learn to examine the social world through sociological eyes. Develop a sociological imagination.

Comprehend the importance of sociological research and the tools used to do sociology.

Investigate substantive areas of study in sociology.

Develop critical skills.

Develop written skills.

Develop communication skills engaging in discussion posts.

Enjoy the material!

Evaluation

Midterm Examination

Marks

20%

Poster Assignment

25%

Final Examination

20%

Participation

35%

100%

Due Dates

July 22, 2021

Aug. 6, 2021

August 14, 2021

Throughout the course

Examinations

The midterm examination date is July 22 and is held online. The final examination date is set by the registrar and will be held online on August 14. Both the midterm and final examinations are held at 6.00 pm Thunder Bay time, Eastern Daylight Time. Please note these times on your calendar as they are the only time the examinations are available. Everyone will write the exam at the same time. These are individual examinations and you are not to answer examination questions with another person(s). Answers to examination questions are to be based on your knowledge, using your words; you are not to google answers, copy lecture material, or other sources, etc. You can increase your chances of doing well by reading the textbook, reading the links in the lectures, watching the videos in the lectures, carefully reading the lecture material, actively engaging in online discussion with your group, and understand the material.

Examinations will incorporate lectures (including links and videos), discussions, poster assignment and assigned readings. Examinations are not cumulative.

Participation

Participation is a significant part of your overall mark. Your participation mark is based on your contribution to group discussions. This entails fulsome responses to discussion questions; stating "I agree" or "I disagree" without adding why you agree or disagree is not considered a fulsome discussion. Repeating what a group member has said in discussion posts is not a fulsome discussion. Participation means engaging with the material. You are to answer each discussion question in each lecture. While you certainly can agree or disagree with a post, you need to outline your rationale for doing so. Critical thinking is not about opinions. Critical thinking is rational, unbiased, evidence based thought.

If you are concerned you will be repeating what a group member has posted you might want to answer the question offline, cut and paste it into the discussion forum, and then comment on what your group members have said.

Each of you is randomly assigned to a discussion group forum and will work with your group throughout the course. Discussion forums can only be viewed by the members of the group and me. Respectfulness of answers is to be practiced. You do not have to agree with your classmates, you can respectfully disagree. Academia is about discourse and critical thought.

Each question, in each lecture will be marked out of 4 possible marks, following the list below. Your answers should not only reflect that you have read the material/watched the videos in question, but have thought about and further analyzed it. Additionally, you should read the responses of your peers to avoid repeating or copying their answers, as well as to further your group discussion regarding that question.

- 0 Marks: No answer or answer reveals a fundamental misunderstanding of the question or content being asked about.
- 1 Mark: Answer reveals you have read the relevant material and provided an answer.
- 2 Marks: Answer shows an understanding of the material being asked about and appropriately addresses the question.
- 3 Marks: Answer illustrates a full understanding of the material and the question, as well as the capacity to engage with the discussion beyond merely answering the question.
- 4 Marks: Answer proves that you have not only understood the material and question, but are able to deeply discuss the sociological relevance provoked by the question and the material.

Discussions are not marked for length, only for content.

While you are to read all the posters, you are to select 15 of your classmates' poster assignments to read in-depth and ask questions/make comments on these. As well, you are to answer questions/comments asked of your poster. Please ask questions/make comments of the posters of your group members before examining the posters of those in other groups. Doing so ensures everyone has questions/comments to address and everyone's work is read in-depth by some classmates. Respectfulness is expected when asking questions/making comments or responding to questions/comments. Questions/comments/responses are to be fulsome. Saying nice colours is not a fulsome comment.

Participation marks will be posted on a regular basis. Please note the grade as it will be deleted when the grade is updated.

Discussion posts open at 8.00 am on Friday. The last posts for discussion questions need to be made by 2.00 pm on Thursday. I will provide a response to at least one post, per student, each week, for posts made before 5.00 pm on Tuesday.

To be clear, no participation marks will be assigned after 2.00 pm on Thursday. Participation will be graded for each discussion question in each Lecture.

Poster Assignment

You are to find and research an example of environmental injustice or environmental racism in Canada. You might want to consider the following: Clearly identify the environmental issue/crisis/disaster. What is the cause of the environmental issue/crisis/disaster? Who is/was affected by the environmental issue/crisis/disaster? What is/were the short-term implications and the long-term implications of the environmental issue/crisis/disaster? What social institutions were involved in the environmental issue/crisis/disaster (law, politics, etc.)? What are the affects of the environmental issue/crisis/disaster on the social world? What is/was the resolution to the environmental issue/crisis/disaster? What is the current status of the environmental issue/crisis/disaster? Apply a sociological theory to make your argument. You are to reference your sources and include a reference page in your poster or attach the reference page as a separate document. All sources in the poster are to be fully cited; not just direct quotes. For example, intext citations should be (Smith, 1927: 36).

You need to use a minimum of 6 sources for your assignment. Three of the sources must be academic sources. Simply finding 6 sources on the internet is not sufficient. As this is a research project make use of research skills and find your information from a variety of sources; books on the environmental injustice/racism, journal articles, newspaper articles, organizational mandates, etc.

The poster assignment will be posted for the entire class to read. There will be time devoted to reading the posters, posing questions, and answering questions. Poster assignments are to be posted by 9.00 am on Aug. 6, 2021. Posters posted after 9.00 am Aug. 6 and before 9.00 am on Aug. 7, 2021 will be docked 5 late marks. Should you submit your poster any time after 9.00 am and before 6.00 pm on Aug. 7, 2021 you will be docked 10 late marks. No posters will be accepted after 6.00 pm on Aug. 7, 2021.

There will be a forum set up to post your poster. Classmates can ask questions or make comments simply by hitting reply under your posting and you can make your response in the same way. Responding in this way keeps all questions/comments/responses in one place, which makes is easier for all concerned. You can post your poster beginning Aug. 4 at 8.00 am. Comments to posters can begin on Aug. 6 at any time. Questions/comments must be made prior to Thursday, August 12, at 2.00 pm.

If you were handing in a hardcopy of the poster, it would be on standard Bristol board, which is 22 X 28 inches; this is the size your poster is to be. You will be creating your poster online, based on the instructions found in content. You are to use the site posted in the link or google docs to create your poster. There is an example, crafted by Graduate Assistant, Ms. Sierra Korczynski to help you.

Remember to post your poster in the poster forum specifically designed for posters. You also need to post your poster in assignments. The poster will be graded in the

assignment folder and only you can see the comments and grade in the assignment folder. Should you choose not to submit your poster in the assignment folder, on or before 6.00 pm on Aug. 7, 2021, no comments will be made on your poster, your grade will appear in myinfo.

American Sociological Association (ASA)

All assignments in the Department of Sociology are to follow the ASA (American Sociological Association) style guide. The guide can be accessed on the web. Google ASA Style Guide and a number of examples will be available for you to choose from. A good, condensed guide is included under content, in the D2L site.

Plagiarism

Plagiarism is unacceptable and subject to various sanctions. Please see the university regulations section on academic dishonesty in the Lakehead University Calendar.

All sources must be cited in your poster. If you use sources in your posts, these sources must be cited.

Medical or Compassionate Consideration

Should you require academic consideration for medical or compassionate reasons, you will need a note from a physician or counselor. Please refer to the current Lakehead University Calendar for detailed information.

Please use Lakehead Email to converse with me lforbes@lakeheadu.ca . Any notices I send will be through your Lakehead Email account.

I will be online often reading posts. Should you need any assistance or have a question I am only an email away and happy to help/answer questions.

Lecture and Reading Schedule

Please note: the lecture titles are below and you are to read the corresponding chapter in the textbook.

Week One: July 2 to July 8, 2021

Lecture 1: Introduction

Lecture 1: Theory and Methods

Lecture 2: Culture and Culture Change

Discussion questions for these lectures is due by 2.00 pm on Thursday, July 8, 2021.

Week Two: July 9 to July 15, 2021

Lecture 3: Being Social

Lecture 4: Social Organization

Lecture 5: Deviance

Discussion questions for these lectures is due by 2.00 pm on Thursday, July 15, 2021.

Week Three: July 16 to July 22, 2021

Lecture 6: Class and Status Inequality

Lecture 7: Gender and Sexuality

Midterm Thursday, July 22, 2021

Discussion questions for these lectures is due by 2.00 pm on Thursday, July 22, 2021.

Week Four: July 23 to July 29, 2021

Lecture 8: Ethnic and Race Relations

Lecture 9: Families and Health Issues

Lecture 10: Education

Discussion questions for these lectures is due by 2.00 pm on Thursday, July 29, 2021.

Week Five: July 30 to Aug. 5, 2021

Lecture 11: Work and the Economy

Lecture 12: Religion in Canada

Lecture 13: Politics and Social Movements

Discussion questions for these lectures is due by 2.00 pm on Thursday, Aug. 5, 2021.

Week Six: Aug. 6 to Aug. 12, 2021

Lecture 14: Population, Urbanization, and the Environment

Posters are due Friday, August 6, 2021 at 9.00 am.

Discussion questions for these lectures is due by 2.00 pm on Thursday, Aug. 12, 2021.

Please note: as you have all the course material available to you, there will be no reviews. You might want to create your study notes as you go through each unit.