

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

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Spring Semester: 2015
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Meeting with students: If you are on-campus or would like to converse by telephone please send me an email and we will find a convenient time to meet.

Required Texts

The textbook for this class is *Principles of Sociology Canadian Perspectives* and is edited by Tepperman, Albanese, and Curtis. The edition we are using is 2014.

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 and 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 read the textbook and online modules (lectures), read the material in the links found in the modules, watch the videos listed in the online modules, and participate actively in their online group.

The due dates for your assignments are listed below.

<u>Evaluation</u>	<u>Marks</u>	<u>Due Dates</u>
Midterm Examination	25%	May 21, 2015
Assignments	30%	See Below
Final Examination	25%	June 18, 2015
Participation	<u>20%</u>	Throughout the course
	100%	

Examinations

The midterm and final examinations will be held at 6.00 in the evening (Thunder Bay time). Please note these times on your calendar as they are the only time the examinations are available. The examinations will be online. These are individual examinations; you are to answer the questions without the aid of your course material and you are not to answer examination

questions with another person. You can enhance your chances of doing well by reading the textbook, the articles in the modules, watching the videos, engaging in active online discussion with your group, and understanding the material.

Participation

Your participation mark is based on your contribution to group discussions and your input to assignments. This entails fulsome responses to group discussions, stating “I agree” or “I disagree” without adding why you agree or disagree is not considered a fulsome discussion.

Participation will be graded weekly.

Assignments

The assignments are detailed in the online modules and are worth 5 % each.

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.

Plagiarism

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

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

Class Schedule

Week One: May 04

Module 1: Theory and Methodology – Group Assignment

Module 2: Culture and Culture Change

Group Discussion for these modules is due by 9.00 am on Monday, May 11, 2015.

Week Two: May 11

Module 3: Being Social – Group Assignment

Module 4: Social Organization

Module 5: Deviance

Group Discussion for these modules is due by 9.00 am on Monday, May 18, 2015

Week Three: May 18

Module 6: Class, Status, and Social Inequality – Group Assignment

Module 7: Gender and Sexuality

Midterm Thursday May, 21, 2015

Group Discussion for these modules is due by 9.00 am on Monday, May 25, 2015.

Week Four: May 25

Module 8: Ethnic and Race Relations

Module 9: Families and Personal Life – Group Assignment

Module 10: Education

Group Discussion for these modules is due by 9.00 am on Monday, June 01, 2015.

Week Five: June 01

Module 11: Work and the Economy

Module 12: Health Issues – Group Assignment

Module 13: Religion in Canada

Group Discussion for these modules is due by 9.00 am on Monday, June 08, 2015.

Week Six: June 08

Module 14: Politics and Social Movements

Module 16: Population, Urbanization, and the Environment – Group Assignment

Group Discussion for these modules is due by 9.00 am on Monday, June 15, 2015.

Assignment Due Dates

Assignment #1 due by 9.00 am on Monday, May 11, 2015

Assignment #2 due by 9.00 am on Monday, May 18, 2015

Assignment #3 due by 9.00 am on Monday, May 25, 2015

Assignment #4 due by 9.00 am on Monday, June 01, 2015

Assignment #5 due by 9.00 am on Monday, June 08, 2015

Assignment #6 due by 9.00 am on Monday, June 15, 2015

Welcome to Introduction to Sociology

While this is an online course it has been designed to be interactive. You live in the social world we are discussing and have much to contribute. There are group discussion questions that will allow you to engage with the material as you develop your *sociological imagination*.

I enjoyed designing the modules for this class and have included numerous interesting articles and videos. The subject matter sociologists can study is endless, from the family to the recent case of the Surrey, B.C. high school students who were suspended for sharing online photographs, to the NHL (National Hockey League) lawsuits by players who suffered concussions. Sociologists can examine the social world from a macro or micro perspective. In reality, the world is our laboratory. I hope you enjoy the material as you begin your journey into sociology. As you engage with the material and find interesting articles and videos please forward them to me; I am always delighted to know what students are interested in.

Helpful hints as we begin our journey exploring the fundamentals of sociology:

- 1) At the beginning of each chapter, in the textbook, highlights are listed telling you what the chapter focuses on. Use these highlights to direct your reading.
- 2) Additional readings are listed in the online lecture, with links to the internet. As well, there are video links for you to watch. It is expected you will read the articles and watch the video links.
- 3) Each of you has been assigned to a group and is expected to engage in online discussion with your group members. Your participation mark is based on your contribution to each discussion question. These questions can be found throughout the module for each chapter.
- 4) For each discussion question you are to prepare a brief summary of your discussion, which will be posted for the entire class to read. This summary can be in point form, if you so choose. It is expected you will take turns doing the summary of group discussions. To be clear, each module identifies Group Discussion questions, each member of the group is expected to partake in each group discussion question, as a group you will discuss/debate these questions and determine what is important and should be included in your group report. Your report is the detailed answer your group has determined to the questions posed. These reports are to be no more than a page in length. Your participation mark is based on your contribution to these questions. Post the group response to these questions before 9.00 am Monday, for the week they are assigned. The dates are listed above. **Please post the group discussions in the General Course Questions so everyone in the class can read the various postings.**
- 5) There are 6 short assignments that are identified in specific modules. The group is to work as a whole to answer these assignments. Lack of contribution to working on these assignments will impact on your individual mark. There is to be a fair contribution by each member. **Please post your assignments to the Dropbox folder for your group. The Dropboxes are secure folders and access is only for group members. The marked assignments will be posted in the dropbox.**

6) Dates for assignments and timelines for group discussions are set and will close at specific times, please be sure to post your contribution to the discussion, your group reports, and assignments.

7) It is recommended you jump in and begin your discussion questions and send me the first one you have completed, so I can look it over and provide feedback on your group discussion and report.

8) Introduce yourself to your group members and begin your sociological journey.

I will be checking the discussion board and my email on a regular basis.

Please email me or post any questions you have on the discussion board.

I look forward to working with you this semester.

My Best Regards,
Dr. Laurie