

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

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**Fall and Winter Semesters: 2016-2017**  
**Class Times: Tuesday 7.00 to 10.00**  
**Classes are held in: UC 0050**  
**Office Hours: Monday 10.00 – 12.00**

**Required Texts**

Henslin, James, M., Glenday, Dan, Pupo, Norene, and Ann Duffy. *Sociology A Down-to-Earth Approach*. 6<sup>th</sup> Canadian Edition.

Henslin, James. *Life in Society*. (Bundled with the textbook)

**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. Of importance, will be an analysis of how sociologists conduct research. 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 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.  
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  
Enjoy the material!

**Course Requirements**

Students are expected to attend class regularly 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. It is your responsibility to ensure you know the dates and times of all examinations. In-class midterm examinations are listed below and are held in class, during regularly scheduled classes. The December and Final examinations are posted by the registrar and the schedule for these can be found online.

The due date for your assignment is listed below. Assignments are due at the beginning of class.

<b><u>Evaluation</u></b>	<b><u>Marks</u></b>	<b><u>Due Dates</u></b>
Mid-Term Examination	15%	Oct. 18, 2016
Assignment #1	5%	November 1, 2016
December Examination	20%	Set by the Registrar
Mid-Term Examination	15%	Feb. 7, 2017
Assignment #2	15%	March 14, 2017
Final Examination	20%	Set by the Registrar
Participation	<u>10%</u>	Throughout the course
	100%	

**Examinations**

Examinations will incorporate lectures, class discussions, films and assigned readings.

**Participation**

Your participation mark is based on your contribution to class discussions. This entails engaging in meaningful discussion and handing in group reports. Should you choose to chat with your fellow classmates, play games, check your emails, etc. and not to be part of your group discussion you will forfeit your participation marks for the class.

**Assignment #1**

**This is a group assignment.**

One member of your discussion group is to open a Google Doc and invite all group members and me to join. The group will write a group assignment using the Google Doc.

This assignment is designed to use your sociological imagination and critical skills to analyze a television reality show. The group is to choose a television reality show and each group member will watch an episode of the show. Once you have viewed the show, using Google Docs, you will complete a critical analysis of the show. You will include a brief description of the show and discuss the theoretical or sociological concepts you deem are found in the program. For example, if you watched *My Big Fat Gypsy Wedding*, you might note culture, gender, family, socialization, rites of passage, minority/majority group relations, and mass media. As a group, you are to choose the program you wish to view (only one program per group) and determine how the paper is to be structured. Your contributions are noted in the Google Doc. Lack of full participation will affect an individual's mark and not the entire group.

This assignment is to be 2 to 3 pages in length, written in Times Numeral, 12 font, double-spaced, have a title page and reference page.

In this assignment you will develop skills through teamwork and using critical analysis.

**NO ASSIGNMENTS WILL BE HANDED IN ELECTRONICALLY.** One hardcopy of the assignment will be handed in with the names of those who fully contributed to the assignment on the title page.

### **Assignment #2**

**This is an individual assignment.**

You will critically analyze an academic article and an article, on the same topic, from the popular media. You will then compare and contrast the two articles. You will choose your academic article from a **Sociological Journal**, with refereed articles (for example, Canadian Journal of

Sociology). From the popular media you can choose a newspaper or magazine article.

Alternatively, you can use a television documentary on the topic, instead of an article from the popular media. You will include a copy of the articles you use, attach them to the assignment you hand in. Should you use a television program, you will need to provide detailed notes on what was covered in the program to be included as an attachment to the paper you hand in; these notes are not part of the 6 to 7 pages required of the assignment.

You are to briefly summarize each article (or article and television documentary). Next, you are to analyze each work you are examining.

Some things you might consider in your analysis:

- what are the main arguments presented?
- does the author make assumptions in presenting the material? If so, what kind of assumptions does he/she make?
- what kind of evidence does the author use?
- what is the source of this evidence? (I.e. does the author rely heavily on the work of others?)
- how well does the evidence support the arguments? (I.e. is the author presenting his/her own opinion?)
- does the author leave out alternative sources of evidence?
- does the author leave out alternative arguments?
- is the article written clearly?
- is the article interesting to read?
- are there issues raised in the article that require further explanation?
- what is the sociological relevance of the article\television documentary?

You are then to compare and contrast the two works you are discussing.

By critical, I do not mean you have to focus on finding fault. Rather, you are to carefully analyze and evaluate the article. Critical analysis includes both positive and negative aspects.

You must include a bibliography. The assignment is to be 6 to 7 pages in length, written in Times Numeral, 12 font, double-spaced, have a title page and reference page.

Late assignments will be penalized at a loss of 5 marks per day. This includes weekends and holidays. No Assignments will be accepted 7 days after the due date.

**NO ASSIGNMENTS WILL BE HANDED IN ELECTRONICALLY.**

**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. Type in 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.

**Grades**

Midterms and your assignment will be returned in class. You have two weeks, after the day midterms and the assignments are handed back in class, to come and discuss your grade.

**Medical or Compassionate Consideration**

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

**Office Hours**

There are two regularly scheduled office hours each week. Office hours are set to provide students the opportunity to stop by if they have questions, concerns, or would just like to say hello.

**Discussion**

Discussion is an important part of academia. Discussions in this class will be based on principles of respectfulness for diversity, gender, gender identity, gender expression, ancestry, colour, race, citizenship, ethnic origin, place of origin, creed, disability, family status, and socio-economic status. Please refer to the Lakehead University Code of Student Behaviour.

**Technology**

The use of phones during class is prohibited. Please turn your phone off and put it away during class. Use of computers is fine, as long as they are used for class work and not to play games, check emails, look at photographs, etc. Should you choose to use computers or other electronic devices for purposes other than taking lecture notes your use of such devices will be curtailed and paper and pen/pencil will be the means to take lecture notes.

**Please Note: I do try to answer email in a timely fashion. I do guarantee a response during my regularly scheduled office hours. I do not discuss marks through email.**

**Tentative Reading Schedule Fall Semester****1. Tuesday, September 6**

Welcome to Introduction to Sociology 1100YC

Introductions

Course Outline

**Lecture:** The Sociological Perspective

**2. Tuesday, September 13**

**Lecture:** The Sociological Perspective

**Reading:** Sociology A Down-to-Earth Approach – Chapter 1

**Reading:** Life in Society Chapter 1

**3. Tuesday, September 20**

**Lecture:** What Do Sociologists Do?

**Reading:** Sociology A Down-to-Earth Approach – Chapter 2

**Reading:** Life in Society Chapter 5

**4. Tuesday, September 27**

**Lecture:** Finish What Do Sociologists Do?

**Lecture:** Culture

**Reading:** Sociology A Down-to-Earth Approach – Chapter 3

**Reading:** Miner, Horace. 2007. "Body Ritual Among the Nacirema." Pp. 18-21 in *Classic Readings in Sociology*, edited by E. L. Howard. Belmont, CA: Thomson Wadsworth. On Reserve in the Library.

**Reading:** Life in Society Chapter 2

**5. Tuesday, October 4**

**Lecture:** Socialization

**Reading:** Sociology A Down-to-Earth Approach – Chapter 4

**Reading:** Pines, Maya. 2005. "The Civilizing of Genie." Pp. 61-67. in *Images of Society: Readings That Inspire and Inform Sociology*, edited by M. Carroll & J. P. White. United States: Thomson Nelson. On Reserve in the Library.

**Reading:** Life in Society Chapter 3

**Note: Tuesday October 11 is during reading week and there are no classes held during this timeframe. Enjoy your reading week!**

**6. Tuesday, October 18**

**Midterm for the First Half of the Class**

**Lecture:** Globalization

**Reading:** Sociology A Down-to-Earth Approach – Chapter 5

**Reading:** Life in Society Chapter 9

**7. Tuesday, October 25**

**Lecture:** Social Inequality: The Canadian Experience in a Global Context

**Lecture:** A Sociological Look at Halloween

**Reading:** Sociology A Down-to-Earth Approach – Chapter 6

**Reading:** Life in Society Chapter 4

**8. Tuesday, November 1**

**Lecture:** Social Inequality: The Canadian Experience in a Global Context

**Reading:** Life in Society Chapter 6

**Assignment #1 is due**

**9. Tuesday, November 8**

**Lecture:** Inequalities of Gender

**Reading:** Sociology A Down-to-Earth Approach – Chapter 7

**Reading:** Life in Society Chapter 11

**10. Tuesday, November 15**

**Lecture:** Inequalities of Race and Ethnicity

**Reading:** Sociology A Down-to-Earth Approach – Chapter 8

**11. Tuesday, November 22**

**Lecture:** Inequalities of Race and Ethnicity

**Reading:** Life in Society Chapter 12

**12. Tuesday, November 29**

**Lecture:** Inequalities of Age

**Reading:** Sociology A Down-to-Earth Approach – Chapter 9

**Reading:** Life in Society Chapter 13

**This is the last class for the semester. We are halfway through the course!**

**Tentative Reading Schedule Winter Semester**

**13. Tuesday, January 10**

**Happy New Year and Welcome back!**

**Lecture:** Bureaucracy and Corporation

**Reading:** Sociology A Down-to-Earth Approach – Chapter 10

**Reading:** Life in Society Chapter 7

**14. Tuesday, January 17**

**Lecture:** The Economy and Work

**Reading:** Sociology A Down-to-Earth Approach – Chapter 11

**Reading:** Life in Society Chapters 10 and 14

**15. Tuesday, January 24**

**Lecture:** Politics: Power and Authority

**Reading:** Sociology A Down-to-Earth Approach – Chapter 12

**Reading:** Life in Society Chapter 15

**16. Tuesday, January 31**

**Lecture:** The Family: Doorway to Society

**Reading:** Sociology A Down-to-Earth Approach – Chapter 13

**Reading:** Life in Society Chapter 16

**17. Tuesday, February 7**

**Midterm first half of the class**

**Lecture:** Education and Religion

**Reading:** Life in Society Chapter 17

**18. Tuesday, February 14**

**Lecture:** Education and Religion

**Reading:** Sociology A Down-to-Earth Approach – Chapter 14

**Reading:** Life in Society Chapter 18

**Tuesday, February 21 is in the middle of reading week and there are no classes. Enjoy the reading week**

**19. Tuesday, February 28**

**Lecture:** Medicine: Health and Illness in Canada

**Reading:** Sociology A Down-to-Earth Approach – Chapter 15

**Reading:** Life in Society Chapter 19

**20. Tuesday, March 7**

**Lecture:** Crime and Social Deviance

**Reading:** Sociology A Down-to-Earth Approach – Chapter 16

**Reading:** Life in Society Chapter 8

**21. Tuesday, March 14**

**Lecture:** Crime and Social Deviance

**Reading: No Reading Assignment**

**Assignment #2 is due**

**22. Tuesday, March 21**

**Lecture:** Population, Urbanization, and the Environment

**Reading:** Sociology A Down-to-Earth Approach – Chapter 17

**Reading:** Life in Society Chapter 20

**23. Tuesday, March 28**

**Lecture:** Social Movements and Social Change

**Reading:** Sociology A Down-to-Earth Approach – Chapter 18

**Reading:** Reading Life in Society Chapter 21

**24. Tuesday, April 4**

**Lecture:** Social Movements and Social Change

**Reading:** Life in Society Chapter 22