

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

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Fall and Winter Semesters: 2017-2018
Class Times: Tuesday 7.00 to 10.00
Classes are held in: AT 2001
Office Hours: Monday and Wednesday 1.00-2.00

Required Texts

Henslin, James, M., Glenday, Dan, Pupo, Norene, and Ann Duffy. *Sociology A Down-to-Earth Approach*. 6th 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 final examination is posted by the registrar and the schedule for this can be found online.

The due dates for mid-term examinations and assignments are listed below. Assignments are due at the beginning of class.

<u>Evaluation</u>	<u>Marks</u>	<u>Due Dates</u>
Mid-Term Examination	15%	October 17, 2017
Assignment #1	5%	October 31, 2017
Mid-Term Examination	15%	November 21, 2017
Mid-Term Examination	15%	February 13, 2018
Assignment #2	20%	March 20, 2018
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 signed 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.

Helpful hint: set a timeframe for individual group members to submit their portion of the assignment. Having everyone proof the assignment and agree to changes and the final version is also very helpful.

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 group assignment will be handed in with the names of those who fully contributed to the assignment on the title page. Assignments are due at the beginning of class on October 31, 2017.

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.

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 is the purpose of the article/magazine article/newspaper article/documentary?
- outline the arguments the author is presenting
- what types of evidence does the author use (eyewitness testimony/the works of others/experts in the field/etc.)
- has the author used original ideas expressing himself/herself?
- does the author's evidence support their argument?
- is the author opinionated or has the author taken a neutral stance? Here you are considering if the author is value-free or are they expressing a biased viewpoint.
- has the author omitted to discuss alternative sources of evidence to support their argument?
- is the article/magazine article/newspaper article/documentary clearly presented?
- is article/magazine article/newspaper article/documentary interesting?
- is there material presented that requires 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.

In this assignment you will learn to critically analyze two different types of material, pick out important aspects of the documents, filter out what is unimportant or biased, and write an article review.

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.

NO ASSIGNMENTS WILL BE HANDED IN ELECTRONICALLY. One hardcopy of the assignment will be handed in along with copies of the articles you are discussing. Assignments are due at the beginning of class.

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.

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. If these times conflict with your schedule we can find an alternative time to meet.

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 and am happy to meet to discuss grades.

Tentative Reading Schedule Fall Semester**1. Tuesday, September 5**

Welcome to Introduction to Sociology 1100YA

Introductions

Course Outline

Let's get started on our journey into the world of Sociology!

Lecture: The Sociological Perspective

2. Tuesday, September 12

Lecture: The Sociological Perspective

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

Reading: Life in Society Chapter 1

3. Tuesday, September 19

Lecture: What Do Sociologists Do?

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

Reading: Life in Society Chapter 5

4. Tuesday, September 26

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 3

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 10 is during reading week and there are no classes held during this timeframe. Enjoy your reading week!

6. Tuesday, October 17

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 24

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

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

Reading: Life in Society Chapter 4

8. Tuesday, October 31

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

Lecture: A Sociological Look at Halloween

Reading: Life in Society Chapter 6

Assignment #1 is due

9. Tuesday, November 7

Lecture: Inequalities of Gender

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

Reading: Life in Society Chapter 11

10. Tuesday, November 14

Lecture: Bureaucracy and Corporation

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

Reading: Life in Society Chapter 7

11. Tuesday, November 21

Midterm Examination First Half of the Class

Lecture: Inequalities of Age

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

Reading: Life in Society Chapter 13

12. Tuesday, November 28

Lecture: Finish Inequalities of Age

Lecture: Population, Urbanization, and the Environment

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

Reading: Life in Society Chapter 20

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

Tentative Reading Schedule Winter Semester

13. Tuesday, January 9

Happy New Year and Welcome Back!

Lecture: Population, Urbanization, and the Environment, if the lecture was not completed in 2017!

Lecture: Inequalities of Race and Ethnicity

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

14. Tuesday, January 16

Lecture: Inequalities of Race and Ethnicity

Reading: Life in Society Chapter 12

15. Tuesday, January 23

Lecture: The Economy and Work

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

Reading: Reading: Life in Society Chapters 10 and 14

16. Tuesday, January 30

Lecture: Politics: Power and Authority

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

Reading: Life in Society Chapter 15

17. Tuesday, February 6

Lecture: The Family: Doorway to Society

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

Reading: Life in Society Chapter 16

18. Tuesday, February 13

Midterm first half of the class

Lecture: Education and Religion

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

Reading: Life in Society Chapter 17

Tuesday, February 20 is in the middle of reading week and there are no classes. Enjoy your reading week!

19. Tuesday, February 27

Lecture: Education and Religion

Reading: Life in Society Chapter 18

20. Tuesday, March 6

Lecture: Medicine: Health and Illness in Canada

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

Reading: Life in Society Chapter 19

21. Tuesday, March 13

Lecture: Crime and Social Deviance

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

Reading: Life in Society Chapter 8

22. Tuesday, March 20

Lecture: Crime and Social Deviance

Reading: No Reading Assignment

Assignment #2 is due

23. Tuesday, March 27

Lecture: Social Movements and Social Change

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

Reading: Life in Society 21

24. Tuesday, April 3

Lecture: Social Movements and Social Change

Reading: Life in Society Chapter 22

This is our last class!

Please note: If you lose or misplace your course outline or the dog/cat/pet bird eat it you can find one online by going to the A to Z index, click on Sociology, once on the website click on courses and scroll down until you find this course.