

SOCIOLOGY 1100-005: Introduction to Sociology

"Looking at life from a different perspective makes you realize that it's not the deer that is crossing the road, rather it's the road that is crossing the forest."

— Muhammad Ali



Course Description

This course provides an introduction to the discipline of sociology. Topics include classical and contemporary sociological theory, quantitative and qualitative methodologies, and the foundational concepts of social structure, culture, and socialization. (NOTE: Not all topics listed here may be covered.)

Course Logistics

- Instructor: Bill Kirkpatrick, billkirkp@gmail.com (preferred) or b.kirkpatrick@uwinnipeg.ca. Please do **not** use Nexus to email me—I can only keep up with so many inboxes!
- Office: 2RC34 (in the Richardson building; see map below)
- Drop-In Hours: Wednesdays and Thursdays, 2:30-3:30 p.m., or by appointment. The location is always TBD; to see where I will be for office hours on any given day, click here.
- Schedule: The class meets Tue./Thu., 1:00-2:15 p.m. The first day of class is Sep. 6, 2022 and the last is Dec. 6. The last day to drop the course for a full refund is Sep. 19, 2022. The final date to withdraw without academic penalty is Nov. 16, 2022.
- Format: The class will meet in person. Should health restrictions require it, the class may move to a synchronous-online format. A permitted or necessary change in mode of delivery may require adjustments to important aspects of course outlines, like class schedule and the number, nature, and weighting of assignments and/or exams.

Learning Goals

By the end of this class, you should:

- Understand what makes Sociology distinctive from other ways of studying human beings and societies.
- Begin to develop the "sociological imagination" and understand its relevance to your own contexts and concerns.
- Become familiar with some of the most important thinkers, approaches, and concepts in Sociology, as well as the differences between quantitative and qualitative methodologies.
- Understand and be able to explain ideas like social construction, social structure, culture, and socialization.
- Be able to think productively about structure, power, and agency within contemporary Canadian society.
- Be able to analyze social phenomena using intellectual frameworks and disciplinary vocabularies from Sociology.

Required Materials

This course will use a free, online textbook: [Little, William. 2016. Introduction to Sociology. 2nd Canadian Ed. OpenStax College.](#) All other readings will be linked on the course outline.

Assignments

All assignments must be completed in order to pass the course. Late assignments are penalized 1/2-grade/day (e.g., B+ to B).

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| Group project (due Oct. 9) | 30% |
| Midterm Exam (Oct. 20) | 30% |
| Reflection assignment (due Nov. 25) | 10% |
| Final Exam (Date TBA) | 30% |

Daily Schedule

Readings/screenings should be completed by that day's class, and you should come prepared to discuss them.

Please don't work too far ahead: obviously you need to manage your workload effectively, but we should be ready for more changes than usual to the schedule this year. Therefore, we may not get to all the topics listed on this course outline.

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| Sep. 6 | Introduction to the Course | |
| Sep. 8 | What is Sociology? | <u>Read:</u> Little, Chapter 1: Intro and Unit 1.1. <u>Watch:</u> "Crash Course Sociology Preview" and "What is Sociology?" |
| Sep. 13 | The Sociological Imagination I | <u>Read:</u> Mills, "The Sociological Imagination" |
| Sep. 15 | The Sociological Imagination II | <u>Read:</u> Criado Perez, "Can Snow-Clearing Be Sexist?" (pp. 22-26; stop at "If we really want") <u>Listen:</u> Frontburner, "The Myth Behind 'Nobody Wants to Work Anymore'" <u>Know:</u> Sep. 19 = final day to drop for a full refund |
| Sep. 20 | Durkheim | <u>Read:</u> Little, Chapter 1: unit 1.2., section on Durkheim (including "Making Connections") <u>Watch:</u> "Émile Durkheim on Suicide & Society" |

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| Sep. 22 | Marx | <u>Read:</u> Little, Chapter 1: unit 1.2., section on Marx & Engels, excerpt from The German Ideology <u>Watch:</u> "Karl Marx & Conflict Theory" <u>Know:</u> Group project assignment handed out, due Oct. 9 |
| Sep. 27 | Weber | <u>Read:</u> Little, Chapter 1: unit 1.2., section on Weber Little, Chapter 4.2: just the "Making Connections" section on Max Weber and the Protestant Work Ethic <u>Watch:</u> "Max Weber and Modernity" |
| Sep. 29 | Paradigms and Theories | <u>Read:</u> Little, Chapter 1: Unit 1.3 (may skip the "Making Connections" sections) Little, Chapter 4: Unit 4.2 (may skip the "Making Connections" sections) <u>Watch:</u> "Major Sociological Paradigms" |
| Oct. 4 | Methodologies | <u>Read:</u> Little, Chapter 2: Unit 2.2 <u>Watch:</u> "Sociology Research Methods" |
| Oct. 6 | No class: extra time to work on your projects | <u>Know:</u> Group project assignment due by 5:00 p.m. on Sun., Oct. 9 |

— **READING PERIOD: OCT. 10-14** —

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| Oct. 18 | Review | <u>Watch:</u> "Classical Sociological Theory - Marx, Weber, Durkheim" |
| Oct. 20 | Midterm exam (online) | |
| Oct. 25 | What is Culture? | <u>Read:</u> Little, Chapter 3: Intro and Unit 3.1 (including all of the "Making Connections" sections) <u>Watch:</u> "Cultures, Subcultures, and Countercultures" |
| Oct. 27 | Elements of Culture | <u>Read:</u> Little, Chapter 3: unit 3.2 <u>Watch:</u> "Symbols, Values & Norms" |
| Nov. 1 | Ideology | <u>Read:</u> Becker, "Ideology" |
| Nov. 3 | Socialization | <u>Read:</u> Little, Chapter 5: intro and unit 5.1 <u>Watch:</u> "Social Development" "Socialization" |
| Nov. 8 | Race I | <u>Read:</u> Little, Chapter 11: intro and units 11.3 and 11.5 <u>Know:</u> Reflection assignment handed out, due Nov. 23 |
| Nov. 10 | Race II | <u>Read:</u> Ducey, "At Least We Don't Have Trump" |
| Nov. 15 | Deviance and Social Control | <u>Read:</u> Little, Chapter 7: intro and units 7.1-2 <u>Know:</u> Nov. 16 = final day to withdraw without academic penalty |
| Nov. 17 | Sex and Gender I | <u>Read:</u> Little, Chapter 12: intro and units 12.1 and 12.2 <u>Watch:</u> "Sex & Sexuality" |
| Nov. 22 | Sex and Gender II | <u>Watch:</u> "Gender Stratification" Trudeau-Brzeau Fight <u>Read:</u> Maiolino, "Political Pugilists" |

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| Nov. 24 | No class | <u>Know:</u> | Reflection assignment due by 5:00 p.m. on Fri., Nov. 25 |
| Nov. 29 | Social/Cultural/Economic Capital | <u>Watch:</u> | "Social Stratification" Celine Dion, "My Heart Will Go On" (2017) |
| | | <u>Read:</u> | Wilson, "Let's Talk About Bad Taste" |
| Dec. 1 | Nationhood | <u>Read:</u> | Andersen, "The Métis Nation: A People, a Shared History," pp. 91-109 and pp. 130-132 |

Final Exam: December 22, 1:30-4:30

Policies and Expectations

Your Attendance: Attendance is highly encouraged and will greatly enhance your own and others' class experience; it is also a major component of your "class engagement" grade.

My Attendance: When it is necessary for me to cancel a class due to exceptional circumstances, I will make every effort to inform students via Nexus and email as soon as possible.

Participation/Engagement: The main responsibilities of creating a productive and enjoyable class rest with you, and that is why class engagement is part of your final course grade (10%). Your active contributions affect not only what you get out of the course but also what your classmates get out of the course.

Assessment Criteria For Participation: Merely showing up class and taking notes is not enough for your success in this class: I'll be looking for evidence of preparedness (e.g., referencing the readings), ability to make connections to other readings/discussions, effort to listen to and build on your classmates' comments, and willingness to engage in critical thinking and dialog. In particular, in a large lecture class like this, *participation on the discussion boards in Nexus will be a key way that I will be measuring engagement.* You can also demonstrate class engagement in other ways (e.g., sending me your thoughts via email; coming to office hours to talk about ideas, not just exam prep; sending me relevant links and items of interest; etc.). A rubric for class participation is on Nexus and will give you additional information about expectations and criteria. In drop-in hours, I am happy to provide feedback on your engagement grade so that you can make adjustments as necessary.

Preparation: The course outline will always state clearly what you should read prior to each class, which assignments you should hand in, and what else you must do or bring for a given day. Late assignments will be penalized by a half-grade for each 24 hours of lateness (e.g., from B+ to B). If you know that you will have difficulty completing an assignment on time, let me know before the deadline and I will work with you to the extent possible.

Marks: All assignments must be completed in order to receive a passing grade. The calculation of your grade will be based on a 1,000-point scale, and the weight of each assignment is listed above. If you are concerned about your mark, please come talk to me as early as possible. I will use the following scale:

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| A+ | 97-100% | EXCEPTIONAL. Demonstrated exceptional mastery of course material, together with exceptional skill and/or great originality in using knowledge and concepts from the course. |
| A | 93-96.9% | EXCELLENT. Demonstrated thorough understanding of course material, together with very high degree of skill and/or considerable originality in using knowledge and concepts from the course. |
| A- | 90-92.9% | OUTSTANDING. Demonstrated very high level of understanding of course material, together with high degree of skill and/or originality in using knowledge and concepts from the course. |
| B+ | 87-89.9% | VERY GOOD. Demonstrated high level of understanding of course material, together with reasonably high degree of skill and/or originality in using knowledge and concepts from the course. |
| B | 80-86.9% | GOOD. Demonstrated above-average level of facility with course material, together with reasonable skill and/or originality in using knowledge and concepts from the course. |
| C+ | 77-79.9% | COMPETENT. Demonstrated acceptable level of facility with course material, together with fair skill and/or originality in using knowledge and concepts from the course. |
| C | 70-76.9% | FAIRLY COMPETENT. Demonstrated acceptable familiarity with course material, together with adequate skill and/or originality in using knowledge and concepts from the course. |
| D | 60-69.9% | PASSING. Demonstrated minimal grasp of course material, together with minimal skill and/or originality in using knowledge and concepts from the course. |

F 0-59.9% FAILING. Did not demonstrate sufficient knowledge of course material, together with inadequate skill and/or originality in using knowledge and concepts from the course.

Communication Policy: I will regularly use email and/or Nexus to send out announcements, changes in the schedule, reminders about due dates, etc. It is your responsibility to check your email regularly to keep up-to-date with these announcements. Except in rare cases of personal or family emergency, I promise to answer all email from students within 24 hours (36 hours on weekends) and will hold you responsible for announcements made via email within 24 hours of the announced change (36 hours on weekends). Please keep in mind that more involved questions should be asked in drop-in hours, not over email. I prefer billkirkp@gmail.com but b.kirkpatrick@uwinnipeg.ca will work too.

Exams: The course has two in-class, closed-book, timed exams consisting of a mix of multiple-choice and short-answer questions. The final exam will be cumulative. If you know that you will be unable to be in class on a test day, you must let me know **immediately**. Make-up exams will only be offered in cases of verified emergency. Proper certification includes: notes from licensed medical professionals; evidence of legal responsibility (e.g., compulsion to testify in legal proceedings); and notes from the U. of Winnipeg Counseling Services Office. In case of bereavement or other personal events of a tragic nature, please provide documentation from any of those three sources, including that person's contact information. In case of a health issue, your note need not give any specific medical information but must attest to the legitimacy of the absence.

Absences for Religious Observance: Students may choose not to attend classes or write examinations on holy days of their religion, but they must notify me at least two weeks in advance to arrange an alternate date if necessary. A list of university-recognized religious holidays can be found at <http://uwinnipeg.ca/academics/calendar/docs/important-notes.pdf>.

Accessibility and Special Accommodations: I am striving to make the class and my teaching materials as accessible as possible. Access needs will be addressed pre-emptively through the following strategies:

- Captions for in-class videos, and transcripts of audio material, will be provided whenever possible.
- Class discussions may be recorded with advanced notice given to the instructor and the consent of the other students.
- Except for the midterm and final exams, flexible deadlines are possible with advance notice.
- Participation will be evaluated through a variety of modalities: in-class discussion, contributing to Nexus, drop-in hours, etc.

It is important that the course be accessible to all students. Students with documented disabilities, temporary or chronic medical conditions, requiring academic accommodations for tests/exams (e.g., private space) or during lectures/laboratories (e.g., note-takers) are encouraged to contact Accessibility Services (AS) at 204-786-9771 or accessibilityservices@uwinnipeg.ca to discuss appropriate options. All information about a student's disability or medical condition remains confidential <http://www.uwinnipeg.ca/accessibility>. If you need any alternative accommodations in the curriculum, instruction, or evaluation procedures in order for you to be able to participate fully in the course, or if there are any external issues that may affect your work in this course, please contact me privately as soon as possible.

Academic Honesty and Non-Academic Misconduct: Students are encouraged to familiarize themselves with the regulations and policies found in the University of Winnipeg's Academic Calendar [here](#). Particular attention should be given to subsections 8 (Student Discipline), 9 (Senate Appeals), and 10 (Grade Appeals). Please note, in particular, the subsection of Student Discipline pertaining to plagiarism and other forms of cheating. Detailed information can be found at the following:

Academic Misconduct Policy and Procedures: <https://www.uwinnipeg.ca/institutional-analysis/docs/policies/academic-misconduct-policy.pdf> and <https://www.uwinnipeg.ca/institutional-analysis/docs/policies/academic-misconduct-procedures.pdf>

Non-Academic Misconduct Policy and Procedures: <https://www.uwinnipeg.ca/institutional-analysis/docs/student-non-academic-misconduct-policy.pdf> and <https://www.uwinnipeg.ca/institutional-analysis/docs/student-non-academic-misconduct-procedures.pdf>

I also encourage you to view the University of Winnipeg library video tutorial "[Avoiding Plagiarism.](#)"

Misuse of Filesharing Sites: Uploading essays and other assignments to essay vendor or trader sites (filesharing sites that are known providers of essays for use by others who submit them to instructors as their own work) is highly problematic, and students who do this can be charged with Academic Misconduct. I'm happy to have a conversation with you about the ethics of participating on such sites.

Respectful Learning Environment: Students are expected to conduct themselves in a respectful manner on campus and in the learning environment irrespective of platform being used. Behaviour, communication, or acts that are inconsistent with a number of UW policies (e.g., [Respectful Working and Learning Environment Policy](#), [Acceptable Use of Information Technology Policy](#)) could be considered "non-academic" misconduct. Detailed information can be found [here](#) and [here](#).

Privacy: You have rights in relation to the collection of your personal data by the University; see [here](#). There are also protections in place regarding in-class testing/proctoring, so you should also be aware of [policies in that regard](#).

Copyright: The University of Winnipeg requires me to including the following: "Course materials are owned by the instructor who developed them. Examples of such materials are course outlines, assignment descriptions, lecture notes, test questions, and presentation slides. Students who upload these materials to filesharing sites, or in any other way share these materials with others outside the class without prior permission of the instructor/presenter, are in violation of copyright law and University policy. Students must also seek prior permission of the instructor/presenter before photographing or recording slides, presentations, lectures, and notes on the board."

However, it should be noted that, unfortunately, this UW-provided statement is not an entirely accurate invocation of Canadian copyright law. For example, in claiming that prior permission must *a/ways* be sought, the statement fails to acknowledge "fair dealing" exceptions when no prior permission is required. I wish the University would emphasize fair dealing as strongly as it asserts the supposed extent and sanctity of copyright. In any case, in keeping with the University's mission as an educational institution, I encourage you to freely and broadly share my course materials, your class notes, etc.