

GRANDE PRAIRIE REGIONAL COLLEGE
DEPARTMENT OF HUMANITIES AND SOCIAL SCIENCES

FALL, 1991

COURSE OUTLINE: SOCIOLOGY 200

COURSE: Sociology 200 G2, Mondays 6:30 PM to 9:20 PM

INSTRUCTOR: Sheri Anderson
Phone: TBA
Office Hours: C-402 Tuesday 1:30 - 2:30 PM
Wednesday 2:30 - 3:30 PM
Thursday 9:00 - 10:00 AM

REQUIRED TEXT: Spencer, Metta. FOUNDATIONS OF MODERN SOCIOLOGY.
Canadian Fifth Edition. Prentice-Hall, 1990
(Available in GPRC bookstore).

NATURE AND PURPOSE OF THE COURSE:

This course is designed to be an introduction to the main concepts, theories, theorists, and methodologies of sociology. We will examine how individuals are shaped and modified by social processes and institutions and yet how they also act in ways that shape the societies in which they live. The importance of the model of scientific inquiry and the assumptions underlying sociological theory will be emphasized. Current and classical debates within the discipline will be highlighted throughout the course. Through a variety of course materials and a cross-disciplinary approach, students will be introduced to **WHAT** sociologists do, how they approach social issues and problems, and the **WAY** that they do it.

OBJECTIVES OF THE COURSE:

1. Students will develop a basic sociological vocabulary that will permit and support further sociological study.
2. Students will attain a **knowledge base** of the major sociological perspectives, theorists and methodologies in the discipline.
3. Students will demonstrate an understanding of the **main subject areas** of sociology, and an enriched appreciation of the **complexities** of social life, particularly in **Canadian society**.
4. Students will be encouraged to examine the **linkages** that connect their **personal lives** with broader social issues and trends and to develop the ability to think **critically** about these issues.
5. Students will have an opportunity to strengthen their oral and writing skills through class exercises.

EVALUATION METHODS:

This course will use a variety of evaluation methods including two examinations, eight to ten quizzes, a sociological biography of several chapters, and class discussions. Each is described below:

1. **Examinations:** Examinations will be multiple-choice and will cover the assigned material from the text, class lectures, discussions, and audio visual materials. The final examination will cover the entire course, but with the emphasis on the final portion of the course.

2. **Quizzes:** Quizzes will be primarily definitions of sociological terms involving short answer, true/false, fill-in-the-blank, or matching formats. The number of quizzes will depend on class time available, but it would be wise for students to prepare to write one for each segment of readings assigned for a class. Given the evening-class format, this means students must have prepared for each class by doing the readings assigned before the class they will be discussed in.

3. **Biography:** Students will write "chapters" for their sociological biography by answering questions posed by the instructor for certain chapters in the text. Each "chapter" should be no longer than two pages in length. Students will be expected to utilize at least five sociological concepts from the relevant part of the text in each of their chapters.

The emphasis will be on demonstrating an understanding of the concepts, theories, and methodologies relevant for each section and how they manifest themselves in each person's social and personal life. This is a chance for some critical thinking and personal reflection by the student.

Students will also be expected to share their biographies with the class through short (10-15 minute), informal presentations of their analyses and opinions and to ask questions regarding other presentations.

4. **Class Participation:** Although students are expected to attend class, a portion of their mark will be determined by the extent to which they have attended class and participated in class assignments, completed the other elements of evaluation, and presented their chapter biographies to the class. This, in "prison" terminology, is basically credit for good behavior.

GRADING SYSTEM:

<u>GRADE</u>	<u>INTERPRETATION</u>	<u>PERCENTAGEEQUIVALENT</u>
9		90+
8	Excellent	80-89
7		72-79
6	Good	65-71
5		57-64
4	Pass	50-56
3	Fail	45-49
2		26-44
1		0-25

MARKS:

Midterm Examination:	25%
Final Examination:	30%
Quizzes:	25%
Biography:	15%
Class Participation:	5%

OTHER:

Attendance at all classes is expected of students but please let me know if you know in advance that you will not be there.

All biographies must be turned in by the date given. Late assignments will not be accepted.

Students must be present in class to write the quizzes, no make-ups will be allowed.

Students who have an excused absence from the midterm examination will have the percentage weight of that exam transferred to the final examination. Please see the instructor with the appropriate documentation (e.g. note from your physician, etc.). Students are expected to be available until the last day of the examination period in December, as the final is confirmed for this period by the Registrar. No exceptions will be permitted.

Please see me if you are having problems in the course as soon as you can. It may be something we can work out. Also, feel free to come and talk about issues in the course, or about other sociology courses you may be interested in, or careers with a major in sociology. I think society needs more sociology grads.

Note: the calendar states that November 01, 1991 is the last day for withdrawing with permission from, or changing registration status in courses that terminate in December.

COURSE SCHEDULE

September 09	Introduction What is Sociology? Dominant Perspectives	Spencer, pp.3-23
September 16	Dominant Perspectives Methods of Sociological Research	Spencer, pp.3-47
September 23	Culture	Spencer, pp.51-76
September 30	Social Interaction	Spencer, pp.79-98
October 07	Socialization	Spencer, pp.101-127
October 14	Thanksgiving Day! Give thanks, NO CLASS	I suggest you read Spencer, pp. 129-150 to prepare for midterm on Oct. 21.
October 21	Self and the stages of Life	Spencer, pp.129-150
	MID TERM EXAMINATION in last part of class.	
October 28	Social Stratification incl.factors of ethnicity, race, gender, age, religion, and education	Spencer, pp.209-239 242-248 252-254 284-296 139-140 341-342 375-378
November 04	Social Institutions incl. the Family Religion Organizations Education	Spencer, pp.303-331 334-340 164-174 358-366
November 11	Remembrance Day No Class	
November 18	Social Change and Social Movements	Spencer, pp.593-612 574-580
November 25	Deviance, Social Control and the Law	Spencer, pp.179-203 414-421

December 02	Canadian Society	Spencer, pp. 461-493
December 09	Ethnicity	254-265
	Religion	346-349
	Legal system	421-430
	Education	366-371
	Military	522-524
December 09	Canadian Society and Summary of Course	see above
December 12-20	Final Examination to be scheduled by Registrar's Office	

Note: In order to prepare for the quizzes, students should preread the text materials for each topic, and pay attention to the important concepts, theories, methodologies, and theorists. Use the **Key Terms** and **Summary** sections for each cited topic in the text to assist you.