

Introduction to Sociology (S)

Sociology and Anthropology 150

Section: D100

Term: 2005 Fall

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Discussion Topics: The authors of your textbook define Sociology as "the systematic study of human society." What does this mean? I'll try to answer this question over the semester but to give you a head start here are a few examples of the questions a sociologist might ask:

Why are most classrooms designed with all the seats for students facing the front of the room? Why are the seats bolted down in so many classrooms?

Why do men on average earn more than women on average?

Why are some sexual practices considered normal while others are considered less so?

Why do some people talk so much in social situations while others talk so little?

Why are some countries relatively wealthy while other countries are relatively poor?

Why is a joke funny?

Why are some features (race, gender, sexual orientation) so important in assigning wealth, power and authority? Do these features represent natural differences between people? Different sociologists ask different questions just as the questions that appeal to you while studying Sociology will not be identical to those of your classmates. During the semester we'll spend some time focusing on two of my favourite sociological questions:

1. Will/Should sex segregation (the practice of separating the sexes) in sport be eliminated?
2. Are new information technologies increasing or decreasing social inequality?

Grading: In-class Exams: 4 X 20%

Take-Home Final Exam: 20% of final grade.

All the assignments in this course must be completed for a final grade to be assigned. The Department of Sociology and Anthropology follows SFU policy in relation to grading practices,

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grade appeals (Policy T 20.01) and academic dishonesty and misconduct procedures (Policy T 10.03). It is the responsibility of students to inform themselves of the content of these policies (available on the SFU website under Administration, SFU Policies & Procedures).\211

Required Texts: Macionis, John J. and L.M. Gerber. Sociology, Fifth Canadian Edition. Pearson.

Recommended Texts: None

Materials/Supplies: None

Prerequisite/Corequisite: None

Notes: All students are expected to read and understand SFU\202s policies with regard to academic dishonesty (T 10.02 and T 10.03). These policies are available at the following web addresses: <http://www.sfu.ca/policies/teaching/t10-02.htm> and <http://www.sfu.ca/policies/teaching/t10-03.htm>

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