

THE UNIVERSITY OF BRITISH COLUMBIA
Department of Sociology

Sociology 310 (Section 202)
Canadian Society

Winter 2020 – Term 2 (January - April 2021)

Instructor: Dr. Debra Pentecost

Office: **Online through Collaborate Ultra**

Office hours: Wednesday, 2:30 – 4:00 pm - or by appointment

Email: Debra.Pentecost@ubc.ca

TA: Areej Fatima

Email: areejzaf1@gmail.com

Lectures: Monday & Wednesday, 5:00 - 6:30 pm – **Online Simultaneous Delivery** -Collaborate Ultra
(Lectures recorded as well)

Location: Online

Course Description

The course examines selected features of the social organization of Canadian society, applying a critical sociological lens to the society in which we live. It does so through examining social, political, economic, and cultural issues important to the analysis of the past, present and future directions of Canadian society. We will investigate how contemporary social relations are organized through various social institutions and processes. In doing so we will examine central processes shaping Canadian society, including colonialism, racism, mass and social media, the welfare state, globalization and economic restructuring. In addition, the production and maintenance of power, privilege and inequality will be highlighted with attention to their intersection with different axes, including ethnicity, racialization, class and gender.

In order to further develop and enhance critical thinking, students will work on integrating key theoretical perspectives in Sociology with an examination of the empirical evidence regarding the pressing social issues facing Canadian society.

Organization

The course will be organized as a combination of synchronously-delivered lectures (or “live” lectures), class discussions and videos. Attendance is an essential component of the course, whether through “attending” the lectures in regularly-scheduled time periods or through listening to recorded lectures at an alternate time (particularly important for those in alternate time zones). Students are expected to read all assigned readings and to come to class prepared to *actively* participate both in the large lecture format and in small groups. Lectures will introduce material to provide context for, or supplement, required reading material. Group activities, such as discussions, video viewing and problem solving, will reinforce and assess understanding of both required reading and lecture material.

Required Readings

- **Textbook:** Antony, Wayne, Jessica Antony, and Les Samuelson (eds). 2017. *Power and Resistance: Critical Thinking about Canadian Social Issues. Sixth edition.* Winnipeg: Fernwood Publishing.
- **Additional Course Readings:** Will be posted to our course Canvas site.

COURSE EVALUATION

- **Midterm Exam (Take Home)** 25% (Due: Week 7 – Mar 1st)
Distributed Week 6 (Feb 24th)
- **Social Issue Film Assignments** (2 submissions)
 - 1st submission: (1750 -2300 words) 25% (Week 11 – Mar 29th)
 - 2nd submission: (1750 - 2300 words) 25 % (Week 13 – April 14th)
- **Final Exam (Take Home)** 15%
 - Distributed Online – Distributed 1 week after classes end.
- **Class attendance/Participation** 10% (**Lecture log** optional)
 - Includes small group discussions

Lecture Log: Comprised of journal entries where you write down comments/questions that arise for you during our class time. Many students will not be avid contributors to class discussion and the lecture log is a place to keep track of your **responses** to lecture material.

Please note: The lecture log **is not** comprised of your lecture notes.

**** The lecture log is strongly recommended for those unable to attend synchronous lectures. ****

UNIVERSITY POLICIES

UBC provides resources to support student learning and to maintain healthy lifestyles but recognizes that sometimes crises arise and so there are additional resources to access including those for survivors of sexual violence. UBC values respect for the person and ideas of all members of the academic community. Harassment and discrimination are not tolerated nor is suppression of academic freedom. UBC provides appropriate accommodation for students with disabilities and for religious observances. UBC values academic honesty and students are expected to acknowledge the ideas generated by others and to uphold the highest academic standards in all of their actions.

Details of the policies and how to access supports are available on the UBC Senate website.

COURSE POLICIES

Attendance

Following UBC regulations, regular attendance is expected of students. Students who neglect their academic work and assignments may be excluded from final examinations. Students who are unavoidably absent because of illness or disability should report to their instructor on return to classes.

- The University accommodates students with disabilities who have registered with the Disability Resource Centre.
- The University accommodates students whose religious obligations conflict with attendance, submitting assignments, or completing scheduled tests and exams.
- Please let Debra Pentecost know in advance, preferably in the first week of class, if you will require any accommodation on these grounds.
- Students who plan to be absent for varsity athletics, family obligations, or other similar commitments, cannot assume that they will be accommodated, and should discuss their commitments with the instructor before the drop date.

Graded Work

Students should **retain a copy of all submitted assignments** (in case of loss) and **all marked assignments** in case they wish to apply for a Review of Assigned Standing. Students have the right to view their marked final exams with their instructor, providing they apply to do so within a month of receiving their final grades. This review is for pedagogic purposes. The exam remains the property of the university and will not be returned to the student.

Lateness and Extensions Policy

Assignments must be handed in electronically at the BEGINNING of the scheduled class on the due date. A **1.5% penalty** will be applied if an assignment is submitted after the lecture, through to midnight of that first day.

There will be a **3% penalty per day** for late assignments – **unless there is a valid emergency or health reason for the delay. As detailed below, verification of this will be required.**

Missed exams

You are expected to complete exams in the appropriate time frame provided unless there is a valid emergency or health reason for not doing so. You should always email as soon as you know you are unable to complete an exam. You will be expected to provide written, formal proof of the problem you experienced (e.g.: doctor's note, service station bills, towage fees, obituaries etc.). In all cases, it is your responsibility to contact Debra Pentecost **PRIOR TO** the scheduled exam, unless an emergency precludes this, and accommodations will be made.

Arts Academic Advising

If medical, emotional or personal problems affect your attendance or academic performance, please contact the Faculty of **Arts Academic Advising** Office, Buchanan D111.

<https://www.arts.ubc.ca/student-support/academic-support/academic-advising/>

Early Alert:

During the term I will do my best to reach out and offer support if I am concerned about your academic performance or wellbeing. You are also encouraged to speak with me should you need assistance.

In addition to the services provided by Arts Academic Advising, the university has launched a website, “**Early Alert**,” designed to aid students who are facing difficulties. Faculty may identify concerns that we have about students using “Early Alert.” The program allows academic, financial, or mental health concerns to be identified sooner and responded to in a more coordinated way. This will provide students with the earliest possible connection to resources like academic advising, financial advising, counseling, or other resources and support to help you get back on track.

The information will be treated confidentially and would be sent because faculty care about student academic success and wellbeing. For more information, please visit: <https://facultystaff.students.ubc.ca/systems-tools/early-alert>

Respectful Learning Environments

I will work to maintain the highest standards of respect inside the SOCI 310 classroom.

I am here to support your academic learning and welcome opportunities outside of official class time for students to review course material. This support can take place during official office hours or by appointment. **Email** is generally not a good place to discuss substantive questions or engage in debates concerning course material.

Academic Integrity

Academic Integrity is an integral part of all universities, and violations of academic integrity will not be tolerated, even when they are unintentional. This means that it is important for you to take the time to review and familiarize yourself with relevant UBC policies.

Plagiarism is the use of another author's research, ideas or language without proper attribution. There are many ways to do plagiarism. Plagiarism is a serious form of academic misconduct. Please review the UBC Calendar "Academic regulations" for the university policy of cheating, plagiarism, and other forms of academic dishonesty.

For detailed information, visit the Faculty of Arts Academic Integrity website.

<http://learningcommons.ubc.ca/academic-integrity/>

Also useful: "Tips for Avoiding Plagiarism" plus other resources available at:

<https://learningcommons.ubc.ca/resource-guides/understand-academic-integrity/>

UBC Library Sociology Research Guide:

<http://guides.library.ubc.ca/sociology>

COURSE TOPICS & READING SCHEDULE

Course textbook: ***Power & Resistance***

Additional readings: **Posted to Canvas**

- | | |
|--------------------|---|
| 1) Jan 11 | <u>Introduction to Course</u> |
| Wed, Jan 13 | <u>Understanding Social Problems</u>
<i>Power & Resistance</i> : Ch. 1 "Social Problems and Social Power" |
| 2) Jan 18 / 20 | <u>The Role of the State</u>
<i>Power & Resistance</i> : Ch. 2 "Matters of the State Still Matter" |
| 3) Jan 25 / 27 | <u>Economics and Poverty</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• <i>Power & Resistance</i>: Ch 6 "Persistent Poverty: A Matter of Political Will"• <i>Canvas</i>: "Vancouver Homeless Count 2019 Report"• <i>Canvas</i>: "2020 Homeless Count in Metro Vancouver Report" |
| 4) Feb 1 / 3 | <u>Social Determinants of Health</u>
<i>Power & Resistance</i> : Ch. 7 "Embodied Oppression: The Social Determinants of Health" |
| 5) Feb 8 / 10 | <u>Health Care</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• <i>Canvas</i>: Stinson, Jane et. al. "The Pains of Privatization"• <i>Canvas</i>: Armstrong, Pat et. al. "Re-imagining Long Term Residential Care in the COVID-19 Crisis" |
| Feb 15 → 19 | Family Day Holiday + Midterm Break! Yay!! |
| 6) Feb 22 /24 | <u>Universities Inc.</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• <i>Power & Resistance</i>: Ch. 9 "Corporatizing Public Universities" |
| Wed, Feb 24 | ** <u>Take Home Midterm Distributed</u> ** |
| Mon, Mar 1 | ** <u>Take Home Midterm Due</u> ** |
| 7) Mar 1 / 3 | <u>Framing Social Problems</u> |

7) Mar 1 / 3

Framing Social Problems

All week's readings on Canvas:

- Noack, Andrea. "Assembling our Tool Kit: Interrogating Representations and Discourses"
- Gilchrist, Kristen. "Exploring Differences in Canadian Local Press Coverage of Missing/Murdered Aboriginal and White Women"
- Jiwani, Yasmin & Mary Lynn Young. "Missing and Murdered Women: Reproducing Marginality in News Discourse"

8) Mar 8 / 10

Indigenous Lands + Resource Extraction

**** Social Issue Film Assignment #1 distributed ****

- *Power & Resistance*: Ch. 3 "Death by Poverty: The Lethal Impacts of Colonialism."
- *Canvas*: Chapter excerpts – Angus, Charlie. *Children of the Broken Treaty: Canada's Lost Promise and One Girl's Dream*

9) Mar 15 / 17

Indigenous Lands + Resource Extraction (continued)

- *Canvas*: Tarachansky, Lia. "In Their Backyard: Turning Indigenous Lands into Toxic Dumps for Canadian Industry."

10) Mar 22 / 24

The Road Forward: Indigenous Resistance

**** Social Issue Film Assignment #2 distributed ****

- *Canvas*: Chow-White, Peter & Rob McMahon. "Examining the 'dark past' and 'hopeful future' in representations of race and Canada's Truth and Reconciliation Commission."
- *Power & Resistance*: Ch. 16 "'Twitter Revolution' or Human Revolution?: Social Media and Social Justice Activism."

11) Mar 29 / 31

The Road Forward: Indigenous Resistance (Continued)

- *Canvas*: CBC Radio – The Sunday Edition – Interview with Professors Candis Callison and Mary Lynn Young. "Objectivity is 'the view from nowhere' and potentially harmful: expert."
- *Canvas*: *Honouring the Truth, Reconciling for the Future: Summary of the Final Report of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada* (Summary + Introductory chapter)

12) Mon, Apr 5

Easter Monday – Holiday – University Closed

Wed, Apr 7

The Alberta Tar Sands

- *Power & Resistance*: Ch. 10 "Power, Participation and State Legitimacy in the Alberta Tar Sands: The Rise and Fall of a Democratic Mirage."
- *Canvas*: Dorow, Sara & Sara O'Shaughnessy. "Fort McMurray, Wood Buffalo, and the Oil/Tar Sands: Revising the Sociology of "Community"
- *Canvas*: Westman, Clinton. "Cautionary Tales: Making and Breaking Community in the Oil Sands Region."
- *Canvas*: Rees, William. "The earth is telling us we must rethink our growth society."

13) Apr 12 / 14

Crime as a Social Problem

Power & Resistance: Ch. 5 "Crime as a Social Problem: Social Inequality & Justice"

Take Home Final Exam – Online – In Final Exam Period – April 18 – 29th, 2021