



PRAIRIE COLLEGE

SS 220 Introduction to Sociology (Online Education)

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Instructor: Kevin Peters

Phone: 403-443-5511 ext. 3539

Email: kevin.peters@prairie.edu

I. COURSE RATIONALE

Human society is a divine concept. It is God's plan, from the decrees of His council "from before the creation of the world" (Ephesians 1:3-6; Jeremiah 29:11; Psalm 40:4-5) that people live together! And God has plans for how people ought to live in society – godly society. The message of reconciliation is first to God and then it is to be born out in the lives of God's people, the relationships in their homes, communities, places of work, and places of worship. God gives the task of communicating and demonstrating the life-giving message of reconciliation through Christ to His people, calling them to commit to what Scripture calls a "*ministry of reconciliation*" (2 Corinthians 5:19-20). Christians must be in the world in order to influence society for good and for the gospel. It is therefore important to understand society in its context in order to relate effectively to people. The study of how people live and function in social settings in society provides us with an opportunity to integrate anthropological, psychological and sociological understandings, values and relationships in a holistic and biblical worldview.

II. COURSE DESCRIPTION

As this is an introductory course, it is an overview of the study of sociology. The foundations of the field of sociology (scientific, interpretive and critical orientations of the discipline) will be explored. Foundations of social life including culture and cultural diversity will be examined through models for understanding the structure and dynamics of social organization. Background will be given to understand the ideas of key and representative thinkers in the field (Durkheim, Marx, Weber and Lenski). Social inequality, social institutions and global social change will also be addressed.

III. COURSE GOALS & OBJECTIVES

A. GENERAL COURSE GOALS

As a result of the studies in this course you will . . .

1. Understand the influence of the major sociological theorists.
2. Define sociology and understand basic components of a sociological perspective.
3. Recognize that sociological enquiry can aid in extracting meaning from human relationships.
4. Investigate sociological concepts in a context of a biblical worldview.
5. Apply sociological enquiry to aspects of cross-cultural understanding.
6. Consider the implications of sociological perspectives for you as a person in relationship with others, as a member of a church, and as an agent of "reconciliation" (II Corinthians 5:16 – 21).

IV. COURSE TEXT

Macionis, John J and Linda M. Gerber. (2018) *Sociology 9th Canadian ed.*
Don Mills, ON: Pearson Canada. ISBN: 9780134308043.

V. COURSE REQUIREMENTS

To successfully complete this course and receive a grade, the following requirements must be met:

1. CHAPTER TESTS (30%)

You will have access to **open book** chapter tests that are to be done individually. The chapter tests can be accessed on Prairie's e-learning site. You are allowed 1 attempt at a chapter test. If you do not complete a test in one sitting be sure to save it but do not submit it unless you have completed the test. Not all the chapters in the textbook are tested.

- Chapter tests 1, 3 – 10 and 12 will be followed by a mid-course exam on those chapters.
- Chapter tests 14 – 24 will be followed by an end-course exam, which will only include the content of chapters 14 – 24.

You will be given instruction and access to this site through the Online Education Coordinator, Mrs. Connie Nyman (online.ed@prairie.edu). The chapter tests are automatically graded and available for you to view for study for the exams.

2. INDIVIDUAL PRESENTATION (10%)

You will be required to submit a presentation that is derived from principles, concepts or major ideas from the textbook chapters. The presentation may be chosen from one of the chapters of 10, 12, or 13 – 23. This presentation may be done anytime during the course. However, it is suggested that you first choose the desired chapter, and then do the presentation at the same time that the chapter test for your choice chapter is being done. This way you will be dealing with the subject matter for the test and the presentation at the same time. See the document "Individual Presentation Grading Rubric" for an idea of the grading emphasis.

The presentation:

- should be 10 - 12 minutes in length.
- should adequately cover and explain the content of the principle, concept or major idea taken from the material of the chosen chapter.
- should use presentation software (e.g. Powerpoint). The script for the presentation may be included within the note pages for the presentation slides or may be submitted in a separate document. The presentation should be submitted as a Powerpoint (pptx) document. If attaching a separate "notes" document please submit it in a Word (docx) format.
- Needs to:
 - Explain one or two major concepts in the chosen chapter
 - From the major theoretical approaches of structural-functional, social-conflict, and symbolic-interaction, compare and contrast 2 of those approaches (see text ch.1, p.20) as they apply to the main chapter theme (e.g. – how would the structural-functional approach understand the main

- principle, concept, or idea that you have chosen from that chapter, and how would that compare or contrast with the social-conflict approach?).
- Illustrate one of the major concepts in the chosen chapter by choosing an issue from a non-North American country. A news source such as BBC News or Al Jazeera News may be helpful in finding an appropriate illustration.
 - Relate or illustrate the chapter theme or the country illustration to a biblical narrative or teaching.

3. **MID COURSE EXAM:** (15%)

(NOTE: MID COURSE EXAM ON CHAPTERS 1, 3-10 AND 12)

The content of this exam includes Chapters 1, 3 - 10, and 12. This exam is **NOT** open book. Exams must be completed in the presence of a proctor, i.e. an exam supervisor. The proctor must be a responsible adult with a position such as a pastor, chaplain, church leader, administrator, schoolteacher, or college professor. The proctor cannot be another student, the spouse of a student or related to you. Send the name, position, and email address of your proposed proctor to the Online Education office (online.ed@prairie.edu) **one week** before you wish to write your exam. After your proctor is approved, he or she will be sent instructions and the exam password.

Graded exams are not available for review; only exam grades will be available to students. If you have specific questions about your grade you are welcome to contact your instructor or the Online Education office.

4. **COUNTRY OF THE WORLD PAPER:** (20%)

You have the exciting opportunity to do a sociological study on one of the countries of the world. You may choose any country of the world to do this study on, however it should not be a country in which you have spent the majority of your years and neither can it be North American. The country you select will need to be approved by the instructor (please contact the instructor at kevin.peters@prairie.edu). Selection and development of the topic may be an ongoing discussion. There are a lot of countries that may be fascinating to you, however consider making the choice of country based on the sociological issue and how the church in that country is meeting that issue. See the document "Country Project Grading Form" to get an idea of the grading emphasis.

The paper will contain the following components. Please use the outline in your paper!

I. Introduction - an introduction to the general geography, demographics and general cultural elements (see Ch.3) of the country. (approximately 1 page)

II. Sociological Commentary - on each of the following categories of sociological investigation: (approximately 2 - 3 pages)

- social stratification (including class, gender, race/ethnicity)
- economy
- government,
- religion
- education
- healthcare.

III. Sociological Issue - commentary and description of a particular critical issue that is being faced by the country as a whole or by a significant portion of that population. For example you might deal with a specific issue that would come under the category of deviance, sexuality, aging, etc. In developing the description of this issue you should include if applicable, aspects such as culture, sociological paradigm (theoretical approach), status, role, group organization, social stratification, social change or societal institutional factors. (approximately 2 - 3 pages)

IV. Ministry Response - in addition, you should make a significant comment on how the church or particular ministry that is resident in that country is taking a specific role in addressing and ministering to this particular sociological issue as described in the previous section. (approximately 1 page)

V. Summary - a conclusion that summarizes your overall impression of the sociological issue and the state of the country. (approximately ½ page)

The paper must:

- have a title page and a reference page separate from the body of the text.
- double spaced; using Times New Roman 12 pt. font; with page numbers
- be 7 to 10 pages long (not including title page and reference/bibliography page)
- use the APA format for Bow Valley College students; other students may use the format of their choice.
- use correct citing format for all citations.
- use at least five sources plus the text (6 sources or more). Sources must be no earlier than 10 years old.
- have a Reference/Bibliography page in correct format with appropriate data.
- NOT include any direct quotes from your sources. In other words, it all needs to be paraphrased in your own words but you must always acknowledge that the thoughts are not your own and must be accurately cited.

Please refer to the document “Hints on Searching for Resources” to assist you in allocating appropriate sources and information for your paper.

5. ONLINE FORUM RESPONSES: (10%)

You will be required to respond to four forum questions. Two of the questions are based on the course content that is previous to the mid-course exam and must be completed before you can take the mid-course exam. The other two questions are on the content from the remaining chapters of the text and must be completed previous to your taking of the end-course exam. These questions involve the integration of course content with your understanding of biblical perspectives and require a response of at least 150 words for each one.

When you construct your answers to the forum questions, it would be advisable to do so in a word processing program, then copy and paste it into the available forum posting. You may construct your response in the online forum posting, however you only have 30 minutes to construct, edit, and submit before the your response is automatically posted.

6. END COURSE EXAM: (15%)

(NOTE: End Course Exam on chapters 14 – 24 of your text)

The content of this exam includes Chapters 14 - 24. This exam is **NOT** open book. Exams must be completed in the presence of a proctor, i.e. an exam supervisor. The proctor must be a responsible adult with a position such as a pastor, chaplain, church leader, administrator, schoolteacher, or college professor. The proctor cannot be another student, the spouse of a student or related to you. Send the name, position, and email address of your proposed proctor to the Online Education office (online.ed@prairie.edu) **one week** before you wish to write your exam. After your proctor is approved, he or she will be sent instructions and the exam password.

Graded exams are not available for review; only exam grades will be available to students. If you have specific questions about your grade you are welcome to contact your instructor or the Online Education office.

VI. COURSE GRADE

Subject to the policies in the Prairie College Academic Guide, final grades will be determined as follows:

Chapter Tests	30%
Individual Presentation	10%
Mid-Term Exam	15%
Country Paper	20%
Online Forum Responses	10%
Final Exam	<u>15%</u>
Total	100%

If you are on a Bow Valley College (BVC) program, BVC will transfer this course to meet the program's requirements. You must get a minimum grade of C in this course to transfer it; if you do not, BVC will require you to retake the course until you achieve the minimum.

VII. ACADEMIC POLICIES

Plagiarism is an academic offence in which a student presents another person's work as their own. There are penalties outlined in Prairie's Academic Guide found at <https://prairie.edu/current-students/registrars-office/>.

Prairie College's timeline for grading and assignment feedback is 7-10 days. The instructor will endeavor to respond to student communications within 2 days, excluding weekends, holidays, and vacation time.

Prairie College Grading Scale

Letter Grade	Number Grade	Rating	Point Value
A+	90-100		4.0
A	85-89	Excellent	4.0
A-	80-84		3.7
B+	77-79		3.3
B	73-76	Good	3.0
B-	70-72		2.7
C+	67-69		2.3
C	63-66	Satisfactory	2.0
C-	60-62		1.7
D+	55-59		1.3
D	50-54	Poor	1.0
F	0-49	Failure	0.0
P	-----	Pass	
AU	-----	Audit	
I	-----	Incomplete	
W	-----	Withdrew	

Numerical course grades are not rounded.

VIII. COURSE OUTLINE

You will find it helpful to establish completion goals for each segment of the course. Doing this will assist as reminders of progress and processing deadlines. Place your anticipated dates of completion in the blank spaces provided and check them off as you progress. Envision each activity as one more action toward final completion of the course.

TASK	DATE	READING	ASSIGNMENT DUE
1		Syllabus	Review Introductory Materials
2		Ch.1 – Sociological Perspective	Chapter 1 Test
3		Ch. 3 – Culture	Chapter 3 Test
4		Ch. 4 – Society	Chapter 4 Test
5		Ch. 5 - Socialization	Chapter 5 Test
6		Ch. 6 – Social Interaction	Chapter 6 Test
7		Ch. 7 – Groups and Organizations	Chapter 7 Test
8		Ch. 8 – Sexuality and Society	Chapter 8 Test
9		Ch. 9 – Deviance	Chapter 9 Test
10		Ch. 10 – Social Stratification	Ch. 10 Test
12		Ch. 12 – Global Stratification	Ch. 12 Test
13			Online Forum Response #1

14			Online Forum Response #2
15		Mid-Term Exam	Mid-Term Exam
16		Ch. 14 – Race & Ethnicity	Chapter 14 Test
17		Ch. 15 – Aging & the Elderly	Chapter 15 Test
18		Ch. 16 – The Economy & Work	Chapter 16 Test
19		Ch. 17 – Politics & Government	Chapter 17 Test
20		Ch. 18 – Family	Chapter 18 Test
21		Ch. 19 – Religion	Chapter 19 Test
22		Ch. 20 – Education	Chapter 20 Test
23		Ch. 21 – Health & Medicine	Chapter 21 Test
24		Ch. 22- Population, Urbanization and Environment	Chapter 22 Test
25		Ch.23-Collective Behavior & Social Movements	Chapter 23 Test
26		Ch. 24 – Social Change: Traditional, Modern, and Postmodern Societies	Chapter 24 Test
27			Online Forum Response #3
28			Online Forum Response #4
29		Final Exam	Final Exam
30		Individual Presentation (done anytime during the course – see syllabus note)	Individual Presentation
31		Country of the World Paper	Country of the World Paper

IX. Appendices

Online Forum Grading Rubric

Grade	Criteria
/10	Integration with course content (10 points)
/10	Integration with biblical perspectives (10 points)
/10	Personalization and depth of response (10 points)
/10	Format – grammar, spelling (10 points)
/40	Total

Individual Presentation Grading Rubric

Excellent	Good	Satisfactory	Fair	Poor
5/5	4/5	3/5	2/5	1/5
10/10	8/10	6/10	4/10	2/10

Rating	Criteria
/5	...gave an interesting introduction; captured attention
/5	...gave an introductory overview/outline of material to be covered
/10	...presented explanation of major chapter concepts
/10	...presented comparison of 2 major sociological theory approaches as related to chapter theme
/10	...illustrated a concept from chapter with non-North American issue
/10	...related chapter theme to biblical teaching or narrative
/5	...offered a concluding summary and review
/5	...audio/visuals were functional and appropriate
/5	...presentation was creative and organized
/5	...presentation material was clear and well written
/5	Timing: presentation was... -less than 8 minutes (1 pt) -between 8 to 10 minutes (3 pts) -within the 10 to 12 minute limit (5 pts) -between 12 to 14 minutes (3 pts) -more than 14 minutes (1 pt)
/75	= Total

Country of the World Paper Grading Rubric

- I. Introduction (geography, demographics and cultural aspects) (15 points)
- II. Sociological Commentary (5 pts ea.; 30 points)
 - Social Stratification
 - Economy
 - Government
 - Religion
 - Education
 - Healthcare
- III. Sociological Issue (30 points)
- IV. Ministry Response (20 points)
- V. Summary (10 points)
- VI. Paper Format (30 points)
 - outline, grammar, spelling, mechanics (sentence and paragraph structure)

Total _____/135