

Sociology 1010 [A3]
CANADIAN SOCIETY

Winter Semester, 2008
Grande Prairie Regional College
Tuesday; Thursday 10:00 – 11:20 hrs.

Instructor: René R. Gadacz, Ph.D
Phone: 539-2831; Office: C216
E-Mail: rgadacz@gprc.ab.ca

COURSE OVERVIEW AND OBJECTIVES

The aim of this course is to provide a critical understanding and appreciation of the issues, debates and controversies surrounding the origins, nature, and dynamics of Canadian society and culture. A range of explanations and analyses of Quebec nationalism, Aboriginal self-determination, ethnic revitalization and diversity, North-South and East-West regionalism, Canada-USA relations, etc., will be presented with specific reference to Canada's historical development, our country's modernization and industrialization, and our experience with contemporary globalization. This course is organized around a historical macro-sociological approach, with a focus on inter-group dynamics and human rights within a highly charged and uncertain context of diversity and structural transformations.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS AND GRADING

Mid-Term Exam (25 points).....	February 28
Final Exam (25 points).....	Final Exam Period
Weekly Group Current Events Presentations (20 points).....	<i>starts</i> January 15
Semester Project (total of 50 points):	
⇒ Proposal & Annotated Bibliography (25 points).....	February 7
⇒ Presentation & Class Handout (25 points).....	<i>starts</i> March 4

[Total points are 120; your total points will be converted to a percent (%) grade to determine your letter grade. For example, 100/120 = 83% = A-]

REQUIRED TEXTS

[other materials will be distributed on an as-needed basis]

Harry Hiller, 2006 (5th ed.), Canadian Society: A Macro Analysis. Pearson-Prentice Hall: Toronto.

You are of course encouraged to read beyond the assigned course book(s). Check out popular magazines, academic books and journals and other sources for coverage of topics discussed in this course: such materials are available in the GPRC library, on the world-wide web, through inter-library loans, and elsewhere.

SEMESTER TESTS, EXAMS, AND ASSIGNMENTS

Exams may consist of a combination of multiple choice questions, true/false, glossary terms/concepts to define, and/or short answer questions -- based on all lecture and text materials.

PLEASE NOTE:

- ☛ **Missed Exams (2 @ 25 points = 50 points of your course grade) unfortunately will not be accommodated - *unless* the situation is an unexpected personal or family emergency. No make-up exams unless it's an emergency.**
- ⇒ **What the course assignments entail (70 points of your course grade) will be discussed in detail as classes get underway and as the course progresses. *You will be provided with instructions and relevant information with plenty of lead time.***
- ♥ **For the course assignment(s), students will work in teams of 2, and both students will share the mark for their work.**

(1) The **WEEKLY GROUP CURRENT EVENTS PRESENTATION** is an opportunity for each group of 2 students in the course to focus and elaborate on a particular Canadian *current events* item. Each group will present on **two** such events over the course of the semester. The presentation, about 15-20 minutes, will identify the event, explain the larger issue(s), and provide relevant background. You should print off the current events article from the source (newspaper; web) and provide the class with copy: you can photocopy and distribute and/or prepare the article as an overhead and simply show on screen! CTV, CBC, MSN Sympatico, etc. are all excellent on-line resources; The *Globe and Mail* and the *National Post* are Canada's two best national newspapers.

(2) The **PROPOSAL** and **ANNOTATED BIBLIOGRAPHY** should be a clear statement (2-3 pages) of a topic of your own choice OR *assigned by me*, the instructor [*topics will be discussed in class*] and related issue(s), drawing from your text. The bibliography will consist of up to 15 [minimum 10] *current* books and/or articles that you intend to use to research your chosen topic. Many references can be obtained by searching the Web (with the usual *caveats*) and/or using full-text library subscription services.

You may follow *any* standard style format for essays, papers and articles -- in regards to layout, punctuation, referencing and source citations, footnotes, etc.

(3) The **PRESENTATION** and **CLASS HANDOUT** involves a 30-40 minute ‘formal’ class presentation based on your chosen issue or topic. You will also be required to prepare a 1-2 page sheet summarizing your presented topic, to be distributed to your classmates. The sheet should include relevant facts, statistics (if applicable), and several ‘recommended’ readings.

Please note that plagiarism detection software may be used in this course, and students may be required, individually or collectively, to submit key assignments/components in electronic form.

It is your responsibility to ensure that all your work is at a level appropriate to your year in college/university studies. Always spell- and grammar-check your work; always keep a hard copy or disk copy of your work as back-up. There is writing help on campus, and if in doubt you are always welcome to ask me, your instructor, for clarification. Poor spelling, grammar and organization always interferes with the clear communication of ideas and you *will* lose marks if your over-all communication is ineffective.

Attendance at lectures is strongly encouraged; the same applies to your participation in class discussions. ***Be an active participant in your education!***

Late assignments (or any assignment/course components) will result in an automatic loss of 5 marks (of the value of the work) PER DAY, up to and including the day of a late submission, unless immediate or prior arrangements, based on exceptional circumstances, have been made. Documented personal or family emergencies, of course, will be accommodated.

***** WEEKLY TEXT/LECTURE SCHEDULE *****

Lectures do not strictly follow the book chapter sequence, and there will be significant material introduced in class that won’t be found in the textbook (eg, social and political theory, some constitutional law).

Please note that I will be using Chapter 7, “The Question of Identity” (the last chapter in the book) as the model/structure for the course. I will take each of the 5 elements of the ‘contradictions in the analysis of Canadian society’ (pgs. 275+) and elaborate on them by referring *back* to other chapters in whole or in part. I will do the same for each of the 6 ‘factors in identity formation’ (pgs. 278+), and so on. **All of this is to say this is a heads up on why it’s important to come to class and to check BlackBoard religiously! Weekly readings will be announced ahead of time both in class and on BB.** This provides us with the flexibility to accommodate presentations, current events, the introduction of ‘outside’ material that enhances textbook/curriculum material, as well as guest speakers.

Points of Departure & Important Dates/Deadlines:

January 3 – Brief organizational meeting; course outline and course requirements

January 8, 10 – Hiller, Chapter 1: The question of what is a human society. Our point of departure...

January **15**, 17 – Class announcement & BB **Current Events Presentations** begin on 15th

January 22, 24 – Class announcement & BB

January 29, 31 – Class announcement & BB

February 5, **7** – **Proposals and Bibliographies** due on the 7th

February 12, 14 – Mid-term exam preparations – *study focus questions provided!*

February 19, 21 – Family Day and Semester Break, no classes!

February 26, **28** – **Mid-Term Exam** on the 28th

March **4**, 6 – **Project Class Presentations** begin on the 4th

March 11, 13 – Class announcement & BB

March 18, 20 – Class announcement & BB

March 25, 27 – Class announcement & BB

April 1, 3 – Class announcement & BB

April 8, 10 – **Wrap-up**; final exam preparations – *study focus questions provided!*

[Classes end April 11; Final Exams begin April 14]

GRADING SYSTEM

Letter Grade	Grade Point Value	Percentage Range	Description
A+	4.0	95 - 100	<i>Outstanding</i>
A	4.0	85 - 94	<i>Excellent</i>
A-	3.7	80 - 84	
B+	3.3	76 - 79	
B	3.0	73 - 75	<i>Good</i>
B-	2.7	70 - 72	
C+	2.3	67 - 69	
C	2.0	64 - 66	<i>Satisfactory</i>
C-	1.7	60 - 63	
D+	1.3	55 - 59	
D	1.0	50 - 54	<i>Minimal Pass</i>
F	0.0	0 - 49	<i>Fail</i>

Six Ways To Make This Course More Valuable:

- 1. Participate, to engage your learning**
- 2. Question, to enhance your learning**
- 3. Read, to expand your learning**
- 4. Reflect, to measure your learning**
- 5. Apply, to transfer your learning**
- 6. Innovate, to adapt your learning**

GENERAL SCHEME OF SOCIETY

“The Social System”

