SOCIOLOGY 100 (A)  
“Introduction to Sociology”  
Department of Sociology  
Trent University/(2005-06)

LECTURES:  
Friday, 11am – 1:50 pm  
Wenjack Theatre (OC 101.2)

INSTRUCTOR:  
Professor Deborah Parnis  
Office: OC 167 (748-1011 ext.1065)  
Email: dparnis@trentu.ca  

Office Hours: (by appointment)  
Tuesday, 11am – 12:30 pm  
Friday, 2 pm – 3pm

COURSE ASSISTANT:  
David Willis  
Office: OC 161 (748-1011 ext.1547)  
Email: davidwillis@trentu.ca  
Office Hours: Wednesday, 1pm–2pm, Friday, 10am-11am

SECRETARY:  
Marisa Haensel  
Office: OC 154 (Sociology Office) (748-1011 ext.1537)  
Email: mhaensel@trentu.ca

GENERAL OVERVIEW

This course is designed to introduce you to the dynamic field of Sociology and its approaches to understanding contemporary society. We will survey some of the key theorists, concepts, and methods used by sociologists in their studies of social structures and processes in the settings of everyday life (e.g., home, school, workplace) and in the broader patterns characteristic of whole societies (capitalism, bureaucratization, inequality). In doing so, some of the topics we will explore include: education; religion; health & medicine; crime & deviance; ‘the family’; the economy and work; social inequality across categories of class, race and gender; popular culture, the media & advertising; science & technology and; social movements. As a student in Introductory Sociology, your objective should be to develop a general understanding of the central approaches and subjects involved in sociological analysis. And, because there are differing perspectives within the discipline of sociology, and because it is at times challenging to come up with a single clear picture of this field, my goal in this course is to try to create for you a cohesive sense of what sociological inquiry is about, and most importantly, to introduce you to a critical view on social life.
REQUIRED READINGS

*These readings are available at the Trent University Bookstore on the Symons Campus


*Pearson Publishers offers a cash prize for the two top students in Sociology 100A at Trent

In addition, there will be a small selection of 'hand-out' readings that will be no cost to you.

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EVALUATIONS

There will be four examinations based on lectures, assigned readings and audio-visual materials. The two mid-term tests will consist of true/false and multiple-choice questions, and the mid-year and final exams will include true/false, multiple-choice and written answer questions.

Fall Mid-term Test (in class)
Friday, Nov. 4, 2005 ..........................................................………………………………20%

Mid-Year Exam
Scheduled during University exam period - Dec. 10-20, 2005 ....................25%

Winter Mid-term Test (in class)
Friday, Mar. 3, 2006 ..........................................................................................25%

Final Exam
Scheduled during University exam period - Apr. 12-29, 2006 ..................... 30%

*PLEASE TAKE NOTE: Only medical documentation (or grounds of compassion) will be accepted for missed tests and exams. Do not make travel plans or other commitments for test and exam dates. University policy dictates that you must write your exams at the scheduled time. This is a firm policy.
Some Suggestions & Guidelines for Sociology 100A

- **Email** is a very effective tool for transmitting brief comments, asking questions suitable for short reply, identifying issues that are puzzling you, or arranging specific appointments. I encourage you to communicate with us through email when you think it may be useful.

- If you are having difficulty understanding the course material (lectures, readings, videos), please do feel free to contact David or myself before the problem gets out of hand. We are more than happy and willing to work through any questions you may have and to help you with interpreting any course content you may not understand (assuming you have done the readings and have been attending classes). We encourage you to come and talk to us in person or call or email us with any such difficulties. And, it is very important that you see us earlier, rather than later, in the year, when we still have a chance to help you to improve your performance on upcoming tests. We can’t do anything once course tests/exams are completed (that is, we don’t do ‘make-up tests or give extra assignments to improve grades). So, do please come and see us as soon as you feel you are having difficulties that we might be able to help you with.

- Please remember also the very valuable services provided by the Academic Skills Centre (for help with things such as studying techniques, approaches to writing true/false and multiple choice tests, etc.). Keep in mind also that Student Counselling is available to you for problems of a more personal nature.

- Attendance at lectures is a crucial part of the success of this course. While I will refer to and overlap with the readings at various points, the lectures are designed to provide material that gives a broader picture of the topic being discussed. That is, much of the content of the lectures will not be found in the readings. All materials used in the course (lectures, text and reader readings, handout readings and videos/film) will be drawn upon for tests and examinations.

- **PLEASE NOTE:** Plagiarism and cheating on tests and examinations are serious academic offences and carry penalties ranging from failure on a test to debarment from the University. On September 1, 2003, Trent University instituted an “Academic Dishonesty Policy” which is printed in the Calendar Supplement. Please read this to familiarize yourself with the expectations of the University with respect to academic honesty.
COURSE SCHEDULE
SOCILOGY 100 (A)/TRENT UNIVERSITY
2005-06

*Note: M,B&R refers to the “Seeing Ourselves” Reader by Macionis, Benokraitis & Ravelli

UNIT 1: INTRODUCTION TO SOCIOLOGY

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<tr>
<th>DATE</th>
<th>LECTURE</th>
<th>READING</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>SEPT. 16</td>
<td>Introduction to the Course</td>
<td>Begin Chapter 1 of Sociology</td>
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<tr>
<td>SEPT. 23</td>
<td>What is Sociology? (Key Concepts/Perspectives)</td>
<td>Finish Chapter 1 of Sociology</td>
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<td>M,B&amp;R: Ch. 1 (Mills), 2 (Berger), 3 (Ravelli), 4 (Miner)</td>
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<tr>
<td>SEPT. 30</td>
<td>Doing Sociology: Sociological Investigation Approaches</td>
<td>Chapter 2 of Sociology (only pages 27-41)</td>
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<td>M,B&amp;R: Ch. 5 (Weber), 6 (Babbie)</td>
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<tr>
<td>OCT. 7</td>
<td>Social Research Methods: Possibilities &amp; Limitations</td>
<td>Chapter 2 of Sociology (pages 40-53)</td>
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<td>M,B&amp;R: Ch. 7 (Altorki)</td>
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<td>OCT. 14</td>
<td>Conceptualizing ‘Society’: The Classical Tradition</td>
<td>Chapter 4 &amp; Ch 7 (only pages 155-170) of Sociology</td>
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<td>M,B&amp;R: Ch. 22 (Weber), 14 (Hostettler)</td>
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<td>[Ch. 61 (Simmel) is optional]</td>
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<td>OCT. 21</td>
<td>Self, Society &amp; Socialization (plus review for Mid-term Test)</td>
<td>Chapter 5 Sociology (pages 107-122) &amp; Ch 6 (pages 131-146)</td>
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<td>M,B&amp;R: Ch. 15 (Mead), 19 (Goffman)</td>
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<td>OCT. 28</td>
<td>Reading Week (no class)</td>
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<td>NOV. 4</td>
<td>Mid-Term Test (to be written in class)</td>
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PART 2: SOCIAL STRUCTURE & SOCIAL INSTITUTIONS

NOV. 11  LECTURE:  Part 1: The Sociology of Education  
Part 2: The Sociology of Religion  
READING:  Chapter 20 in Sociology (only pgs 495-508) & Ch. 19  
M,B&R: Ch. 55 (Bowles & Gintis), 52 (Weber) 
[Chs. 53 (Sargeant), 54 (Smith), 56 (Hookimaw-Witt) are optional]

NOV. 18  LECTURE:  The Sociology of Health & Medicine  
READING:  Chapter 21 in Sociology  
M,B&R: Ch. 58 (Parsons), 59 (Beagan) 40 (Butler)

NOV. 25  LECTURE:  Crime & Deviance  
READING:  Chapter 9 in Sociology  
M,B&R: Ch. 25 (Durkheim), 26 (Wolf), 27 (Anderson)

DEC. 2  LECTURE:  The Family - A Sociological Perspective  
READING:  Chapter 18 in Sociology  
M,B&R: Ch. 51(Ingoldsby), 18(Heath) 16(Boyes, Ogden & Hornick)

DEC. 9  LECTURE:  Economic Life & Work (plus review for Mid-year Exam)  
READING:  Chapter 16 in Sociology, and pages 175-176, 411-413  
M,B&R: Ch. 43 (Marx), 23 (Ritzer)

(University scheduled Mid-Year Examination - between December 10 - 22)
### PART 3: SOCIAL STRATIFICATION & INEQUALITY

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<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Lecture</th>
<th>Reading</th>
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<tr>
<td>JAN. 13</td>
<td><strong>Power, Stratification &amp; Inequality</strong></td>
<td>Chapter 10 in Sociology</td>
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<td>M,B&amp;R: Ch. 31 (Porter), 32 (Lian &amp; Matthews), 33 (Eglitis)</td>
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<td>JAN. 20</td>
<td><strong>Film for discussion: “The Big One”</strong></td>
<td>Handout – “Why Are People Unequal” by Joel Charon</td>
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<td>JAN. 27</td>
<td><strong>Social Class in Modern Society</strong></td>
<td>Chapter 11 in Sociology</td>
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<td>M,B&amp;R: Ch. 12 (Marx &amp; Engels) 46 (Mills)</td>
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<td>FEB. 3</td>
<td><strong>Race &amp; Ethnicity</strong></td>
<td>Chapter 14 in Sociology</td>
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<td>M,B&amp;R: Ch. 37 (DuBois), 38 (Resoutle), 62 (Clairmont &amp; Magill)</td>
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<tr>
<td>FEB. 10</td>
<td><strong>Gender Stratification</strong></td>
<td>Chapter 13 in Sociology</td>
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<td>M,B&amp;R: Ch. 34 (Mead), 35 (Krauchek &amp; Ranson), 36 (S.T.C.)</td>
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<td>FEB. 17</td>
<td><strong>Gender Relations (plus review for Mid-term Test)</strong></td>
<td>No reading in Sociology this week</td>
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<td>M,B&amp;R: Ch. 49 (Bernard) 20 (Matthews), 28(Kinsey), 30 (Carrier)</td>
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<td>FEB. 24</td>
<td><strong>Reading Week</strong> (no class)</td>
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<td>MAR. 3</td>
<td><strong>Mid-term Test</strong> (to be written in class)</td>
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PART 4: CULTURE: THE ROLE OF THE SYMBOLIC IN SOCIAL LIFE

MAR. 10  LECTURE:  Culture, Meaning & ‘the Popular’ in Consumer Society
READING:  Chapter 3 in Sociology
M,B&R: Ch. 8 (White), 9 (Lipset), 10 (Ravelli) 11(Harris)

*Special Sociology Workshop (to be held following class)

MAR. 17  LECTURE:  Advertising, The Media & Everyday Life
READING:  No reading from Sociology
M,B&R: Ch. 17 (Kilbourne)
Handout reading: “Mass Media” by Graham Knight

MAR. 24  LECTURE:  The Culture of Science & Technology
READING:  Chapter 24 in Sociology
M,B&R: Ch. 70 (Weber), 13 (Horrigan) 71 (Hedley)

MAR. 31  LECTURE:  Social Movements & Social Change
READING:  Chapter 23 in Sociology
M,B&R: Ch. 67 (Freeman), 68 (Saku & Bone)

April 7  Term Review and Discussion of Final Exam (Last Class!)

(University scheduled Final Examination - between April 12 & 29)