SOCI 100B – Introduction to Sociology: Understanding Contemporary Society

Instructor Dr. Bruce Ravelli

Calendar Course Description
Introduction to the study of contemporary society through the sociological lens. Topics may include gender, families, religion, ethnicity, education, social media, social determinants of health and environmental sociology.

Course Pre/Co-requisites
Students may take SOCI 100A/B at the same time; however, whenever possible students should take 100A before 100B.

Required Materials

Student Assessment (option 1)
- Midterm 1 10%
- Midterm 2 25%
- Final Exam 35%
- Chapter quizzes 20%
- Tutorial Participation 10%

Student Assessment (option 2)
Any student who wishes to offer an alternative assessment strategy to option 1 may do so by submitting a proposal to me.
What is the course like?
Each week we will meet for 3, 1-hour lectures. The lectures are where I review sociological theories, concepts, and methods. While there are many students in the lectures, you will learn that I welcome student interaction and engagement. Then, once a week (for 8 weeks) you will meet for 1-hour in tutorials (20-25 students) led by a Teaching Assistant (who is a graduate student in sociology). The tutorials will introduce you to material not covered in lectures and is also where we help prepare you for exams.

What are the exams like?
Exams are based on essay questions that I provide in advance. For both midterms four (4) essay questions will be circulated and you will be required to answer my choice of two (2) of them. For the final I will circulate seven (7) questions and you will be required to write on four (4) that I choose. Each answer is limited to one single-spaced page (note: there are no other questions on the exams).

Why should you take this course?
Many of you will have taken 100A last semester – this course continues where we left off by investigating topics like gender, racialization, families, religion, health, and education.

For some examples of what sociologists find interesting, visit www.makingsociologymatter.com

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1 This online outline is only intended to give an overall sense of the course. Detailed course outlines will be made available for all registered students on the first day of class. Only those outlines are to be considered official.
2 Textbook royalties for sales at UVic are donated to the local not-for-profit, Out of the Rain.
3 The course uses an electronic version of the text (price is $79.99 and that includes BOTH SOCI 100A and 100B). A printed copy of the text is available, on reserve, in the library.