

	<b>SOCIOLOGY 2240: CANADIAN SOCIETY AND CULTURE</b> <b>DEPARTMENT OF SOCIOLOGY</b> <b>MEMORIAL UNIVERSITY</b> <b>WINTER 2015</b>
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Instructor: Dr. James (Jamie) Baker E-mail: <a href="mailto:jbaker@mun.ca">jbaker@mun.ca</a> (please use <b>SOC2240</b> in subject line) Office Location: A4075	Class Times: MWF 12:00-12:50 Office Hours: M 3:30-5:30; By appointment Classroom: A2065
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**TEXTBOOK:**

Tepperman, Lorne & Josh Curtis. 2011. *Social Problems: A Canadian Perspective*. Third Edition. Toronto: Oxford University Press. \$114.95 - in the MUN Bookstore. (Used copies may be available.) One copy of the text will be available on **2 hour** reserve at the QEII Library (Reserve area, 1<sup>st</sup> Floor).

**TopHat®** Interactive Learning System: \$22 on-line or at the Bookstore (Semester Subscription).

Course information, content, grades, slides, etc. can be found on **Desire2Learn** - <http://online.mun.ca>. Please login and check the course regularly on D2L as it provides important information regarding the course.

<u>EVALUATION</u>	<u>PERCENTAGE</u>	<u>DATE</u>
QUIZ #1	5% or 0%*	Friday 30 January 2015
TERM EXAM #1	25%	Friday 6 February 2015
QUIZ #2	5% or 0%*	Friday 27 February 2015
TERM EXAM #2	25%	Friday 6 March 2015
FINAL EXAM	35%	TBD by Registrar's Office
PARTICIPATION	10%**	Throughout the semester

\*For the quiz: I will take the best mark between the two quizzes. If you miss one of the quizzes, I automatically take the other. If you miss both quizzes, the 5% will be added to your final.

\*\*This will be calculated using TopHat® so purchasing it is a necessity.

**COURSE DESCRIPTION:**

Poverty, racism, drug addiction, and unemployment are a few of the many social problems facing Canada in the twenty-first century. In this course, emphasis will be on analyzing, discussing, and debating some of the various social challenges that exist within contemporary Canadian society. The course is organized around lectures, videos, guest presentations, assigned readings, and discussions, all of which may appear in some form on the quizzes, term, and final exams. Class discussion is encouraged and expected. **Class attendance will be taken.**

**COURSE OVERVIEW:\*\***

WEEK 1: January 5 - 9	COURSE OVERVIEW Chapter 1: What are social problems?
WEEK 2: January 12 - 16	Chapter 7: Crime and violence
WEEK 3: January 19 - 23	Chapter 8: Addictions Important Dates:* - Last day to <b>add</b> courses - Winter Semester (19 January) - Last day to <b>drop</b> courses to receive 100% refund (19 January)
WEEK 4: January 26 - 30	<b>QUIZ #1: Friday 30 January 2015 (Chapters 1, 7, 8)</b> Chapter 10: War and Terrorism Important Dates:* Last day to <b>drop</b> courses to receive 50% refund (26 January)
WEEK 5: February 2 - 6	<b>TERM EXAM #1: Friday 6 February 2015 (Chapters 1, 7, 8, 10)</b> Chapter 2: Class, Poverty, and Economic Inequality Important Dates:* - Last day to <b>drop</b> courses to receive 25% refund (2 February) - <b>No refund</b> for courses dropped after 2 February
WEEK 6: February 9 - 13	Chapter 3: Race and Ethnic Relations
WEEK 7: February 16 - 20	<b>MIDTERM BREAK: Classes resume - Thursday 19 February</b> <b>Guest Lecture: Diversity Presentation - Friday 20 February</b>
WEEK 8: February 23 - 27	Chapter 4: Gender Relations
WEEK 9: March 2 - 6	<b>QUIZ #2: Friday 6 March 2015 (Chapters 2-4, Diversity)</b> Chapter 5: Sexualities
WEEK 10: March 9 - 13	<b>TERM EXAM #2: Friday 13 March 2015 (Chapters 2-5, Diversity)</b> Chapter 11: Families
WEEK 11: March 16 - 20	Chapter 12: Workplaces
WEEK 12: March 23 - 27	Chapter 13: Schools
WEEK 13: March 30 - April 1	Chapter 14: Populations, Cities, and Neighborhoods <b>FINAL EXAM REVIEW</b>
EXAM PERIOD: April 8 - 17	<b>FINAL EXAM : TBD (Chapters 11, 12, 13, and 14)</b>

\*While all attempts have been made to ensure the accuracy of these dates, students should consult the Registrar's Office or visit <http://www.mun.ca/regoff/calendar/sectionNo=GENINFO-0086> for advice, information, appropriate dates for adding or dropping courses and course refunds.

\*\*If material cannot be covered due to cancelled classes, students will still be responsible for the material.

## PRE-EXAM QUIZZES

The pre-exam quizzes are slated to be held on Friday, 30 January 2015 and Friday, 27 February, 2015. If the university is closed due to inclement weather or class is cancelled due to unforeseen circumstances or if you miss one of the quizzes, the five percent will automatically be taken from the other quiz. If you miss both quizzes or, in the unlikely event class is cancelled for both quizzes, I will add the five percent to the final. In other words, the quiz(zes) will not be rescheduled. While the quizzes are short (10 Multiple Choice (M/C), they are designed to help you prepare for the term exams.

## TERM EXAMS

The two term exams are slated to be held on Friday, 6 February 2015 and Friday, 6 March 2015. If the university is closed due to inclement weather, the term exam(s) will be held on the next regularly scheduled class. Each exam will consist of four sections (A, B, C & D) and will be graded out of 50 points. Section A will consist of 20 multiple-choice (M/C) worth 1 mark each while section B will consist of 4 short answer each worth 5 marks each. Owing to different learning styles, students will have the opportunity to complete either section A or B – **BUT NOT BOTH**. If a student completes both sections, only section A (M/C section) will be graded.

All students will complete Sections C and D. Section C will consist of 10 True/False questions worth 1 mark each while Section D will consist of one (1) long answer question worth 20 marks. One week prior to the exam, you will be provided with a list of **EIGHT** questions. **Two** of those questions will appear on the exam and you must answer **one**. If you are ill or have another documented reason for missing a term exam (e.g., bereavement), then I will provide a make-up exam. Make-up exams will only be scheduled at a time following the term exam – they cannot be written prior to the scheduled date.

## FINAL EXAM

The final exam will be scheduled by the Registrar's Office. It will cover material after the second term exam, so it **WILL NOT** be a comprehensive exam. The final exam will follow a similar format as the term exams. Section A will consist of 30 multiple-choice (M/C) worth 1 mark each while section B will consist of 6 short answer questions each worth 5 marks each. Owing to different learning styles, students will have the opportunity to complete either section A or B – **BUT NOT BOTH**. If a student completes both sections, only section A (M/C section) will be graded. All students will complete Sections C and D. Section C will consist of 10 True/False questions worth 1 mark each while Section D will consist of three (3) long answer questions worth 20 marks each.

At the last class, you will be provided with a list of **twelve** questions of which five will appear on the final. You will answer **3** out of the 5 questions. The final exam will have four sections (A: Multiple Choice; B: Short-Answer; C: True/False; D: Questions Post Second Term Exam). You are to complete (A OR B) AND C AND D. If you complete both A and B, only section A will be graded.

However, if you so choose, you may write a comprehensive final exam. If you choose to write this exam, your final exam grade will be worth 90 percent of your final (the other ten percent will come from your participation grade). I will provide an additional **five** questions (in addition to the 12) that will be chosen **prior** to the second term exam. One question will appear on the final and you must answer that question. The comprehensive final exam will have five sections (A: Multiple Choice; B: Short-Answer;

C: True/False; D: Questions Post-Term Exam Two; E: Questions Pre-Term Exam Two). You are to complete (A OR B) AND C AND D AND E. If you complete both A and B, only section A will be graded.

If you are required by university regulation to defer an exam or are ill (with documentation), or have another documented reason for missing a term exam (e.g., bereavement), then I will provide a make-up final exam. A make-up final exam will only be scheduled following the final exam – it cannot be written prior to the scheduled date. Alternatively, it can be written in the first week of the following semester at date and time determined by the Department of Sociology.

## PARTICIPATION\*

Throughout the course, we will use the classroom interactive learning system **TopHat**<sup>®</sup> that allows immediate feedback to aid and assess understanding of course material. TopHat<sup>®</sup> is \$22 per term for students using their own personal devices such as a laptop, netbook, iPad, smartphone or cellphone. Purchase on-line or at the bookstore, and register at [www.tophat.com](http://www.tophat.com), click the Student Signup button, enter the school and the course code. Use of TopHat will begin on January 12 (to give students time to become familiar with the technology) but for grading purposes, will not begin until January 18 (as this is the last date to add courses). I will use this to determine your participation at the end of the term. Your grade will be based on question participation (5%) and question accuracy (5%).

For registration help with TopHat<sup>®</sup>, please visit:

<https://s3.amazonaws.com/thm-corporate/Support/Guides/Student+Quick+Start+Guide+-W2014-.pdf>

When registering, you **MUST** include your student number, last and first name, and MUN email (do not use Hotmail, Yahoo, Gmail, etc.)

**SCHOOL: Memorial University of Newfoundland**

**COURSE CODE: 800920**

\*As a reminder, this will be calculated using TopHat<sup>®</sup> so purchasing it is a necessity.

## GENERAL POLICIES

### **Attendance**

While class attendance is not mandatory, it is strongly encouraged. I will take attendance throughout the semester as it allows me to keep track of regular attendees. Attending class regularly is important as it helps facilitate learning of the course material; provides the opportunity to clarify information or ask questions; and may provide the opportunity to receive important hints for the exams.

### **Lecture Notes**

Students who miss class are responsible for ensuring their notes are up-to-date. PowerPoint slides, however, will be available on D2L **each Sunday prior to each week's topic**. By taking your own notes during the lectures, this will allow you to augment the slides.

### **Grades**

While all attempts will be made to have your exams back to you within a week, this may not always be possible. Grades will be available for viewing on D2L (except your final grade which is released by the Registrar's Office).

### **Email and Office Hours**

I check email daily during the week, and will almost always respond within 24 hours (weekends may be delayed). E-mail works best for procedural questions (setting up appointments, etc.) while detailed questions about the course or clarification on course material are usually easier to respond to in class or during office hours.

### **Students with Disabilities**

Students who require physical or academic accommodations are encouraged to speak to me privately so that appropriate accommodations can be made to help ensure your full participation in the course. All conversations will remain confidential. Assistance may be available through the Glenn Roy Blundon Centre (<http://www.mun.ca/blundon>) which serves students whose disabilities involve conditions affecting mobility, vision, hearing, learning disabilities, chronic illness, or mental health. Support is also provided to students with documented temporary illnesses and injuries. If you require assistance during class or require additional supports when writing exams, you need to register with the Blundon Centre. I will gladly sign any documentation from the Blundon Centre for alternate quiz/exam accommodations but please try to have the request **at least two weeks** prior to the scheduled quiz/exam.

### **Respectful Discussions**

Discussion and debate are an important part of any intellectual undertaking. Over the course of the semester, we will likely discuss topics about which you have strong feelings or opinions. You should always feel free to respectfully express your opinion on an issue, whether or not they are shared by other people in the class (including me). I only ask that you speak with good intentions, and assume that others are doing the same. If you are ever made angry or uncomfortable by anything said during a discussion, please feel free to speak up (politely), or to raise your concerns with me privately by email or during office hours. If anyone starts shouting, or make any personal attacks, I will ask them to leave the room. As a note, I have a **zero tolerance policy** for any racist, sexist, ageist, or homophobic remarks.

**Use of Laptops or Accommodating Devices**

Students may use laptops to take notes provided their use does not interfere with the learning of other students. If anyone communicates to me that a student's laptop use is distracting, I may request that it not be used. Students with a documented ailment, and who require the use of a laptop to facilitate their participation should speak to me privately. If I am required to wear a microphone or other accommodating device, please let me know so I can provide you with a positive learning environment.

**Talking at Inappropriate Times or Using Inappropriate Devices**

You are enrolled in this class to learn so it is counterproductive to talk or text at inappropriate times, use the Internet and/or use your cell phone (when not engaged using TopHat®). Students distracted by any such behavior should bring this to my attention privately.

I need not remind you that any electronic device is not to be used during examinations/quizzes. **If you are found to be using them, your exam/quiz will be confiscated and you will receive a zero in the exam/quiz.**

**Course Evaluations**

At some point during the term (usually the second last week of classes), you will be asked to complete a course evaluation form **on-line**. These forms are anonymous and **I will only receive the results well after grades have been submitted**. As an undergraduate and graduate student, I had been involved with the committee since its inception and I consider the course evaluation process to be a key part of my growth as an instructor as well as an indicator of my success in teaching sociology. I encourage everyone to provide me with constructive feedback on my teaching style, the course syllabus, the exams, or anything you feel appropriate that will improve the course.

**Perfume and Cologne**

Given the class size, it is highly likely that there are students who may be sensitive to perfume or cologne. As such, I would request that the classroom remain scent-free.

**I HOPE YOU ENJOY THE COURSE!**