

The University of British Columbia
Sociology 240A (002)
INTRODUCTION TO SOCIAL INTERACTION
Spring 2017
Chemistry D200
M-W-F: 15:00-15:50

Instructor: Rafael Wainer

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Office Hour: Thursday 11:30-13:00, or by appt.

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Teaching Assistant: Tiffany Eng

Office: ANSO room TBA

Office hour: Monday 13:00-14:00

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COURSE OVERVIEW:

What do Tinder app., fake boyfriends in China, emotional outbursts at the workplace, and phony weddings in South Korea have all in common? They all share the critical sociological problem of how people present themselves, construct their sense of self, and interact with others, and by doing so how we are socialized into a society. That is why we need to examine how people understand, perceive, and perform small social interactions. Introduction to Social Interaction (SOCI 240) is a course that provides a critical examination of contemporary issues and debates pertaining the social and individual dimensions of social interaction. Its main focus is to bring different material to analytically engage students with key questions about diverse forms of social interaction and the ways sociologists have studied it. Throughout the course, students will explore and critically think about the wide variety of social, cultural, institutional, structural, and personal aspects of social interaction. Some of the dimensions of social interactions that we will explore are gender, social class, and health and illness. The course will require students to draw conceptual connections between theoretical literature and empirical historical cases. This course will provide analytical and methodological tools to understand social interactions and, thus, will be useful to students in an array of disciplines (Sociology, Political Sciences, History, Anthropology, Education, Geography, and Family Studies, among others). We will examine in depth modern dating from a symbolic interactionist approach.

COURSE EVALUATION:

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|---|-----|
| 1. In-Class and Online Participation | 10% |
| 2. Small groups | 10% |
| 3. Midterm (Friday of Week 6) | 25% |
| 4. Book Review (Friday of Week 11) | 25% |
| 5. Take Home Exam (Saturday, April 8th at midnight) | 30% |

READINGS:

The required textbook for this course are (both available at UBC Bookstore):

- 1) Sandstrom, K. L., Lively, K.J., Martin, D. D., & Fine, G. A. 2014. *Symbols, selves, and social reality: A symbolic interactionist approach to social psychology and sociology*. 4th Edition. New York: Oxford University Press. (SSSR) [On reserve at KOERNER LIBRARY reserve collection (Floor 3)]
- 2) Ansari, Aziz and Klinenberg, Eric. 2015. *Modern Romance*. Penguin Books. (MR)

Other readings will be posted on Connect and must be completed prior to the assigned due date. Completing the required readings on time will significantly improve your chances of receiving a high grade in the course.

Grading Guidelines: <http://www.calendar.ubc.ca/vancouver/index.cfm?tree=3,42,96,0>

90-100% = A+	76-79% = B+	64-67% = C+	50-54% = D
85-89% = A	72-75% = B	60-63% = C	00-49% = F
80-84% = A-	68-71% = B-	55-59% = C-	

Scaling of Grades: Faculties, departments, and schools reserve the right to scale grades in order to maintain equity among sections and conformity to university, faculty, department or school norms. Students should, therefore, note that an unofficial grade given by an instructor might be changed by the faculty, department or school. Grades are not official until they appear on a student's academic record.

1. In-Class and Online Participation (10%):

This part of your grade will evaluate the *quality* of your engagements in the course lectures and discussions. Participation includes a demonstration of effective preparation for the class as well as active and thoughtful engagement with the ideas of the instructor, TA, and other students. Effective preparation for the class includes completing a thorough reading of the assigned texts **prior to class** as well as taking note of questions you have about the readings and examples that could illustrate the concepts being articulated. **Marks will not be assigned for simply being present in class.** Participation also includes sharing your ideas about the course material with the instructor, your TA, and other students. As part of your participation, you will also have to submit **one reflection question and answer/comment another student's question** about each week readings over the course of the term (**due Thursday at midnight**). Because these questions are intended to give the instructor some sense of what and how you are thinking about the course material, they can ask for clarification about a particular concept or passage of a reading or advance a more open-ended discussion about each class' theme.

2. Small Groups (10%):

From the third week, you will be randomly assigned to a group. During the term, there will be several instances in which groups will discuss particular questions and write a report. These reports will be submitted in class. This part of the grade will be equal to all the members of the group present on the day of the assignment/report (if you miss the class, you miss the grade).

3. Midterm Exam (25%):

The midterm test will be on **Friday of Week 6**. The test will be worth 25% of your grade and will require answering 4 mid-range questions, and 1 essay of material up until the class before the midterm.

4. Book Review (25%):

You will have to write a book review of Ansari, Aziz and Klinenberg, Eric. (2015) *Modern Romance*. Penguin Books (1,200 words [+/- 10%], double-spaced, Times New Roman, font 12, 1-inch margins). You will be penalized if you go below or beyond the word limit. Add the exact word count at the end of the paper. You should review the book from a symbolic interactionist approach but stick to the format of a book review (I will give you more information later during

the term on how to write it).

Book Review is due on **Friday of Week 11** during the class. If you cannot submit it during the class, you can submit it at the ANSO Dpt. Assignment Submission Box no later than 18:00 that day (**time-stamp it before submission**). Submission after this day will require a medical note and/or Undergrad Advisor's note and it will be penalized 5p per day (after 3 days it will NOT be marked).

5. Take Home Exam (30%):

The final exam will consist of a take home exam of 4 mid-range questions, and 1 essay that address content introduced throughout the course. Mid-range questions will cover material AFTER the midterm and essay questions will focus on all the material discussed THROUGHOUT the course, it will include material discussed in lectures, required readings, and films. I will post the exam on Connect the last day of class and students will have to upload their responses on **Saturday, April 8th at midnight (deadline)**.

Extra-credit: Applying Symbolic Interactionism on a Theatre Play:

Write a reflection about the play "Love and Information" by Caryl Churchill (UBC Theatre, January 19 until February 4). You should reflect on issues discussed in this class such as construction of the self, backstage and front, dating, etc. The essay will value up to 3 points (depending on the quality of it). To receive the extra credits, you need to submit 1) photo proof of your ticket and 2) a hardcopy 1-page essay (single spaced, Times New Roman, 11-font, 1-inch margins). Complete your work into a booklet and submit it on the last day of class. We will not accept booklets after this date. Only hardcopies will be accepted.

Disability Accommodation

Academic accommodations are available for students who have a documented disability. Please, notify me during the first week of class of any accommodations that are required for the course. Late notification may cause the requested accommodations to be unavailable. All accommodations must be approved through the Disability Resource Centre.

Academic Integrity

Plagiarism sometimes happens when students panic or feel overwhelmed. As your instructor, I am here to support your learning. Please, contact me to discuss your situation **PRIOR** to reaching the point where you feel yourself in a panic situation. Students are encouraged to review the publication Plagiarism Avoided on the UBC Faculty of Arts website, which includes helpful examples of, and practical strategies to avoid plagiarism. <http://www.arts.ubc.ca/faculty-mpstaff/resources/academic-integrity/resources/plagiarism-avoided.html>.

Students must abide by the academic integrity rules of the Faculty of Arts. The overarching theme of academic integrity is that your work must be, in fact, your own work. All students assume full responsibility for the content of the academic work that they submit. Plagiarism, using notes during a test, or copying from another student will result in a failed grade for the course. The UBC library maintains an excellent web-based resource on Academic Integrity and students should review the web site: <http://www.library.ubc.ca/clc/airc.html> (www.students.ubc.ca/access).

Student Needs: This course welcomes and seeks to accommodate students with physical or learning disabilities or chronic illnesses. If you require any assistance or adaptation of teaching or evaluation, please feel free to discuss your needs with us. The Disability Resource Centre in Brock Hall is available for further consultation and resource provision.

Exam Revisions: If you want to ask for a revision of the grading of your exam we require you make a written letter pointing to the parts you consider need reconsideration and stating why. We will not make changes on the spot but will take the exam and the letter and re-read your work. A final joint decision from the TA that marked your exam and the instructor will be given one week later. Note that when you ask for a revision your mark may remain the same, drop or get increased.

Late Submissions:

Paper submitted late will receive a penalty/deduction of 5 points per day (beyond 5 days they will not be marked and thus will receive 0 points).

OTHER MISCELLANEOUS REQUESTS:

1. If you have any questions or concerns about the course material or course requirements, please, contact me. I am here to act as a resource to guide you through the difficult terrain of sociology and help you improve your critical reading, thinking, and writing abilities.
2. Please, follow proper professional etiquette in all email communications. For instance, begin all email communication with a proper salutation.
3. Please, arrive to class on time and, whenever possible, limit the number of times you exit and re-enter the room during lectures.
4. Computers should only be used in the classroom for typing notes or, when necessary, accessing online reference information. The use of email, entertainment, and social networking websites during class are prohibited. **I reserve the right to ban the use of computers in the classroom should this rule be repeatedly ignored.**
5. Emailing to the instructor and TA: Feel free to contact Rafael or Tiffany via email with questions or concerns throughout the term (reserve the email for important questions/matters). We will respond within 24 hours during the M-F work week. The day before an exam, we will make ourselves more available. During this extended period, we will respond to all emails we receive before 8 PM as promptly as we can. We will also hold office hours weekly.
6. If you miss a class, please contact another student for the lecture notes. Below is space for you to collect the email addresses of three of your classmates who will be able to provide you with the lecture notes.

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____

Outline of topics and readings – (I reserve the right to make modifications)
COURSE SCHEDULE:

Week 1 Course Introduction

Discussion of the Syllabus and introduction to the course.

Required reading:

- (W) Discussion of the Syllabus and class expectations.
- (F) SSSR. Chapter 1: The Meaning of Symbolic Interactionism.

Week 2 Symbolic Interaction Theory

Discussion of symbolic interactionism as a theory.

Required readings:

- (M) SSSR. Chapter 1: The Meaning of Symbolic Interactionism.
- (W) Goffman, Erving. 1956. The Presentation of the Self in Everyday Life. Chapter 1. [Connect]
- (F) Movie: Generation Like (PBS).

Week 3 The Interactionist Toolkit

Introduction to symbolic interactionism methodologies.

Required readings:

- (M) SSSR. Chapter 2: The Interactionist Toolkit: Methods, Strategies, and Relevant Perspectives.
- (W) Goffman, Erving. 1972. On Face-Work. In Interaction Ritual: Essays on Face-to-Face Behavior. London: Penguin Books. [Connect]
- (F) MR. Chapter 1: Searching for your Soul Mate.

Week 4 Social Interactionism and Language

Role of language in the construction of reality.

Required readings:

- (M) SSSR. Chapter 3: People as Symbol Makers and Users: Language and the Creation of Social Reality.
- (W) MR. Chapter 2: The Initial Ask.
- (F) ***Small Groups I on “face inflation” (renting professional wedding guests in South Korea)***

Week 5 Socialization

Socialization, meaning and identity.

Required readings:

- (M) SSSR. Chapter 4: Socialization: The Creation of Meaning and Identity.
- (W) Shulman, D. 2017. The Internet: Society’s Newest Stage. *In* The Presentation of the Self in Contemporary Social Life. Thousands Oak, CA: Sage. [Connect]

(F) MR. Chapter 3: Online Dating.

Week 6 The Self

Social interaction and creation of the Self.

Required readings:

(M) SSSR. Chapter 5: The Nature and Significance of the Self.

(W) *****Small Groups II on social media and being raised on the Internet*****

(F) *MIDTERM EXAM*****

Week 7 Social Roles: Gender and Sex

Creation of social roles in relation to gender and sex.

Required readings:

(M) Family Day – No Class.

(W) SSSR. Chapter 4: Socialization: The Creation of Meaning and Identity.

(F) *Small Groups III on gender expectations (marriage before career for women in China)*****

*****Feb 20-24 Reading Break – No Classes*****

Week 8 Social Roles: Role Taking and Role Making

Social roles taking/making and formation of conduct.

Required readings:

(M) SSSR. Chapter 6: Role Taking, Role Making, and the Coordination of Action

(W) MR. Chapter 4: Choice and Options.

(F) *Small Groups IV on “phone self” V. “real-world self”*****

Week 9 Role of Emotions

Role of emotions in everyday life.

Required readings:

(M) SSSR. Chapter 7: Emotions in Everyday Life.

(W) MR. Chapter 5: International Investigation of Love.

(F) *Small Group V on emotions at workplace*****

Week 10 Social Deviation

Social interaction and social deviation.

Required readings:

(M) SSSR. Chapter 8: The Politics of Social Reality: Constructing and Negotiating Deviance.

(W) MR. Chapter 6: Old Issues, New Forms: Sexting, Cheating, Snooping, and Breaking Up.

(F) *Small Groups VI on deviance (skateboarding as the "devil's toy" in 1960s Montreal)*****

Week 11 Social Movements

Collective behavior and social movements.

Required readings:

(M) SSSR. Chapter 9: Collective Behavior and Social Movements.

(W) Schneider, C. J., & Trottier, D. 2012. The 2011 Vancouver Riot and the Role of Facebook in Crowd-Sourced Policing. *BC Studies: The British Columbian Quarterly*, 0(175), 57–72.

(F) MR. Chapter 7: Settling Down.

*****MR BOOK REVIEW DUE*****

Week 12 Social Interaction, Illness and Health

The impact of illness on social, family and personal life.

Required readings:

(M) Charmaz, K., & Belgrave, L. L. 2013. Modern Symbolic Interaction Theory and Health. *In* W. C. Cockerham (Ed.), *Medical Sociology on the Move* (pp. 11–39). Springer Netherlands.

(W) Goffman, Erving. 1986. Chapter 1: Stigma and Social Identity. *In* STIGMA – Notes on the Management of Spoiled Identity. New York: Simon and Schuster/Touchstone Books. [Connect]

(F) *****Small Groups VII on illness and stigma*****

Week 13 Wrapping Up Course

(M) Wrapping up Goffman and MR.

(W) Wrapping Course. Final Take Home Exam Review.

*****FINAL TAKE HOME EXAM Posted on Connect: April 8th at midnight deadline*****