



# SOCI 101: 13

## Introduction to Sociology



### **Instructor:**

Dr. Joel Z. Garrod  
jgarrod@stfx.ca

### **Location:**

MULH 2034:45  
W4/W5

### **Office Hours:**

Online, by appointment

This course is intended to be an introduction to the discipline of sociology, however, there is no easy way to answer the question, "What is sociology?" The traditional definition is that sociology is the study of society; but that obscures more than it reveals. What constitutes society? And how might we go about studying it? As we will see, answers to those questions have varied immensely through time, making the discipline less of an accumulative science, and more of a perspectival one.

As such, this course will guide you through an introduction to the discipline that will encompass: sociology's history; the major paradigms of social thought; common research methods; and popular areas of sociological study. The main goal of the course will be the development of what C. Wright Mills called, 'the sociological imagination'—the ability to understand how history impacts biography. The course will conclude by reflecting on why sociology matters, and how it can help orient us toward an alternative future.

# Course Objectives & Textbook

By the end of this course, you should have:

- A broad grasp of the history and development of sociology
- Knowledge of the main sociological paradigms
- Knowledge of common sociological methods
- The ability to understand how history impacts biography



*Introducing Sociology: A Critical Approach* (5th edition), by Murray Knuttila and André Magnan (2012)

All other readings can be found on moodle

I truly believe that this course is relevant to your lives. If, at any time during this course, you feel that what we're learning isn't useful, I urge you to ask me: "Why should I give a damn?"

I'll gladly take time to explain why I believe what we're learning is important for you to know. And if I can't explain why, I'll amend that section of the course.



# Requirements

**Attendance** is absolutely vital to this course, and will likely be a necessary part of getting a good grade. In return for attending, I promise to make the course interesting, and worthwhile. If you are unable to attend regularly, please talk to me about possible accommodations.

The **Biography Paper** is intended to get you to start thinking sociologically. Following from the concept of the sociological imagination, you will be asked to write a short paper about how history has had an impact on your biography/life story. **Due September 30**

The **Film Review** will assess your ability to review and critique a film while still drawing on course materials and concepts. Your review is due two classes after the date of the film listed on the syllabus. **Multiple due dates**

The **Final Paper** will assess your understanding of the course material from the entire term. In a short paper, you will be asked to answer the following questions: What is the sociological imagination? And, what must one know in order to develop this capacity? **Due November 30**

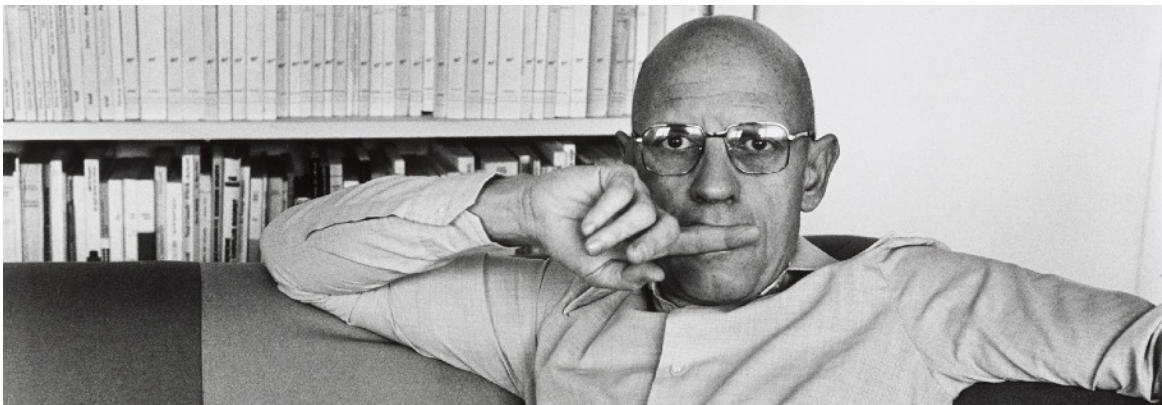
## Grading

✓ Attendance:	10%
✓ Biography Paper:	20%
✓ Film Review:	30%
✓ Final Paper:	40%

All citations in  
APA Style

Double-spaced,  
12 point, Times  
New Roman font

Late items lose 5  
marks per day



# Class Schedule

Date	Topic	Readings
Sept 14	Introduction	Syllabus
Sept 16	Understanding Human Behaviour	Knuttila & Magnon, Chapter 1 C. Wright Mills, "The promise"
Sept 21	Homo Sapiens: Biology and Culture	Knuttila & Magnon, Chapter 2 Harari, "The tree of knowledge"
Sept 23	Social Structure and the Language of Sociology	Knuttila & Magnon, Chapter 3 Bruce & Yearley, "Social structure," "Social institution," "Role," "Institutionalization," "Status," "Norms," "Values."
Sept 28	Socialization	Knuttila & Magnon, Chapter 4 Milgram, "The dilemma of obedience" Mason, "Making people aware of their implicit biases doesn't usually change minds"
Sept 30	The Sex and Gender Puzzle: Biology is Not Destiny <b>Biography Paper due</b>	Knuttila & Magnon, Chapter 6 Butler, "Performative acts and gender constitution"
Oct 5	Science, Theory, and the Origins of Sociology	Knuttila & Magnon, Chapter 7 Durkheim, "Introduction," and "Individual forms of different types of suicide"

Date	Topic	Readings
Oct 7	Contemporary Sociological Theory	Knuttila & Magnon, Chapter 8  Law, "Notes on the theory of the actor network"
Oct 12	Thanksgiving	No readings
Oct 14	Feminist Theory: Addressing Sociology's Lacuna	Knuttila & Magnon, Chapter 9  Gilman, "The yellow wallpaper"  Gilman, "Why I wrote the yellow wallpaper"
Oct 19	<b>Film: The Great Canadian Tax Dodge</b>	No readings
Oct 21	Ways of Knowing and Research Methods	Knuttila & Magnon, Chapter 10  Mann, "Socio-logic"
Oct 26	Explaining Social Inequality	Knuttila & Magnon, Chapter 11  Marx & Engels, "Bourgeois and proletarians"
Oct 28	The Polity, Political Power, and Social Movements	Knuttila & Magnon, Chapter 12  Miliband, "The state system and the state elite"
Nov 2	Towards a Critical Sociology of Men and Masculinities	Knuttila & Magnon, Chapter 13  Ging, "Alphas, betas, and incels"
Nov 4	<b>Film: Is the Crown at War with Us?</b>	No readings

Date	Topic	Readings
Nov 9	Why are Some People Healthy and Others Not?	Knuttila & Magnon, Chapter 15  Fink, "Deadly choices at Memorial"  OR  Maté, "Dislocation and the social roots of addiction"
Nov 11	Remembrance Day	No readings
Nov 16	Deviance and Social Control	Knuttila & Magnon, Chapter 16  Foucault, "Panopticism"
Nov 18	<b>Film: Last chance</b>	No readings
Nov 23	Race and Ethnicity and Difference	Knuttila & Magnon, Chapter 17  Du Bois, "Strivings of the Negro people"  Ryerson, "Canada and the war against slavery"
Nov 25	<b>Film: What is democracy?</b>	No readings
Nov 30	Globalization  <b>Final Paper due</b>	Knuttila & Magnon, Chapter 18  Robinson, "Reflections on a brave new world"
Dec 2	Postscript: The Sociological Imagination and New Directions in Social Theory	Knuttila & Magnon, Chapter 18  Butler, "A few rules for predicting the future"

# Additional Information

## COVID-19

The 2020–2021 academic year is taking place during an exceptional period of human history. As the COVID-19 pandemic is still ongoing, we may have to adjust the course assessment plan and/or delivery method with little or no notice. You may also have to stay home from class for various reasons related to COVID-19 (such as simply feeling ill). If this happens to you, please contact me so that we can discuss an alternative to your attendance grade for that class. Lastly, it is important that you take care of yourself by getting adequate amounts of sleep, and by taking appropriate mental health breaks. The university website on COVID-19 provides more information and links (<https://www.stfx.ca/coronavirus>).

## Academic Honesty and Plagiarism

As this course involves the production of written work, you should familiarize yourself with the standards for proper referencing of all cited materials, such as books, journal articles, newspaper articles, websites, and so on. Students that attempt to pass off someone else's work as their own (i.e., plagiarism) will be dealt with through the university policy on academic honesty. Please ensure that you fully understand this policy (see section 3.8 of the academic calendar, found at: <https://www2.mystfx.ca/registrars-office/academic-calendars>). Resources for avoiding plagiarism can be found on the library website (<https://www2.mystfx.ca/library/plagiarism>).

## Writing Assistance

Despite the fact that this is a writing-intensive course, we will not be able to spend much time on the craft of writing. If you need assistance with your writing, I recommend booking an appointment with me or visiting the Student Success Centre (<http://www2.mystfx.ca/student-success/>).

## Accommodations

If you have an injury, develop an illness, or encounter a personal crisis that will impact your progress in this course, please email me as soon as you are able. This will ensure that we find a way for you to complete the course. The Health and Counselling Centre is another resource available to you (<http://www2.mystfx.ca/health-and-counselling/>).

If you have any disabilities that require an accommodation in teaching style or evaluation, please speak to me as soon as possible so we can implement those accommodations. You may also want

to contact the Tramble Centre for Accessible Learning (<https://www2.mystfx.ca/accessible-learning/tramble-centre-accessible-learning>).

## **Equity and Discrimination**

Everyone learns more effectively in a respectful, safe, and equitable learning environment free from discrimination or harassment. I invite you to work with me to create a classroom space that fosters and promotes values of human dignity, equity, non-discrimination and respect for diversity. These values and practices are in accord with the StFX Discrimination and Harassment Policy which can be found at (<https://www2.mystfx.ca/equity/policies>). Please feel free to discuss with me any questions or concerns you have about equity in our classroom or in the StFX community. If I cannot answer your questions or help you address your concerns, I encourage you to talk to the Chair/Coordinator of the Department/Program or the Human Rights and Equity Advisor.

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## **Grade Scale**

A+ = 90-100	B+ = 77-79	C+ = 67-69	D+ = 57-59
A = 85-89	B = 73-76	C = 63-66	D = 53-56
A - = 80-84	B - = 70-72	C - = 60-62	D - = 50-52
F = Below 50			