

**Sociology 101: Foundations in Sociology**  
**St. Francis Xavier University**  
**Department of Sociology**  
**Fall 2016**

Instructor: Dr. Peter Mallory  
Office Hours: Tues. 12:00-1:00;  
Wed. 2:30-4:30; Thurs. 12:00-1:00  
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**Lecture Schedule**

Q1 and Q2, Tuesday and Thursday 2:15-3:30

**Course Description**

This course introduces you to the most fundamental aspects of the discipline of sociology. We will explore the main theories, methods, and conceptual tools that sociologists use to understand our world. As you will soon discover, sociology is a diverse discipline. Sociologists study a variety of aspects of collective life ranging from broad and abstract processes, like the rise of capitalism and the appearance of bureaucracies, to the most mundane aspects of everyday life, such as embarrassment and practices of gift giving. While one aim of this course is to give you a sampling of the diversity of perspectives and insights in sociology, another is to introduce you to what all sociologists have in common—that they all approach the study of human behaviour *socially*. Our central focus throughout this course will be the question of what it means to think sociologically about the issues of our world.

**Required Text**

A course pack of readings is available at the Campus Store. Be sure the book you purchase is for this section of Sociology 101. Look for my name (P. Mallory) on the cover.

**Course Evaluation**

October Test	25%
Essay	25%
Final Exam	40%
Class Participation	10%

*Essay:*

There will be one short essay assignment, and a handout will be distributed in class. The completed papers will be between 4-5 pages in length (250 words per page, 12 point standard font, double spaced). It will be due on **Thursday, November 24**.

*Tests and Exams:*

There will be a mid-term test on **Thursday, October 13** and a closed-book exam will be held in the December exam period. A study guide for the final exam will be distributed during the final class.

*Class Participation:*

Active participation is an important part of this course. Participation comprises attendance, active listening, giving other students an opportunity to speak, raising and answering questions, and providing relevant comments on the material discussed in lecture. Please bring the readings to class and be prepared to offer your questions and insights.

## **IMPORTANT COURSE INFORMATION AND POLICIES**

**Late Policy**

Late papers submitted without prior permission will incur a late penalty of 5% of the total assignment per day, including weekends.

**Academic Honesty and Plagiarism**

Since this course requires you to complete a written assignment, you should familiarize yourself with standards for proper referencing of all materials cited (i.e. books, journals, newspaper articles, internet resources etc.). Students who attempt to pass off someone else's work as their own (plagiarism) will be dealt with through the university policy on academic honesty. Please ensure that you fully understand this policy (see section 3.8 in the calendar).

**Classroom Technology**

If you use a laptop for note taking, please do so in a way that does not distract others. Audio or video recording of this class is not permitted.

**Special Accommodations**

If you develop a prolonged illness or encounter a personal crisis that will impact your progress in the course, please contact me as soon as the problem becomes apparent. Your best strategy for dealing with anything that may prevent you from completing the course in a way that is satisfactory to you is to discuss your concerns with me as soon as they become apparent so that we can work out a way of responding to them.

**Other Accommodations**

If you are a student with physical, learning, or psychiatric disabilities that require reasonable accommodation in teaching style or evaluation, you should speak with me early in the term so that appropriate arrangements can be made.

*That's all for now – Welcome to the Course!*

## LECTURE SCHEDULE AND READINGS

Sept 6 & 8

### Introductions – What is Sociology? Why Study It?

Mills, C. Wright. 2008 [original. 1959]. “The Promise.” Pp 16-19 in *Rethinking Society*, edited by M. Webber and K. Bezanson. Toronto: Canadian Scholars Press.

Berger, Peter. 1998 [original. 1977]. “Sociology and Freedom.” Pp. 432-3 in *The Meaning of Sociology*, edited by J. Charon. Upper Saddle River, NJ: Prentice Hall.

Sept 13 & 15

### Thinking Socially About “Natural” Disasters

Brym, Robert. 2008. “Hurricane Katrina and the Myth of Natural Disasters.” Pp. 53-78 in *Sociology as a Life or Death Issue*. Toronto: Pearson.

Klinenberg, Eric. 2004. “Denaturalizing Disaster: A Social Autopsy of the 1995 Chicago Heat Wave.” Pp. 308-317 in *Violence in War and Peace: an Anthology*, edited by N. Scheper-Hughes and P. Bourgois. Malden, MA: Blackwell Publishers.

Sept 20 & 22

### Thinking Socially About Emotions

Hochschild, Arlie. 2011 [original 1979]. “Emotion Work and Feeling Rules.” Pp. 51-56 in *Inside Social Life*, edited by S. Cahill and K. Sandstrom. New York: Oxford University Press.

Hochschild, Arlie. 1992. “The Managed Heart: Commercialization of Human Feeling.” Pp. 136-148 in *Social Interaction: Readings in Sociology*, edited by C. Clark and H. Robboy. New York: St. Martin’s Press.

Sept 27 & 29

### Classical Sociological Theory: Emile Durkheim

Durkheim, Émile. 1982 [original 1895]. “What is a Social Fact?” Pp. 51-59 in *The Rules of Sociological Method*. New York: The Free Press.

Durkheim, Émile. 1951 [original 1897]. *Suicide*. New York: The Free Press. Pages 246-254

**Oct 4 & 6**

**Culture, Symbols, and Meaning**

White, Leslie A. 2007 [original 1949]. "Symbol: The Basic Element of Culture." Pp. 33-37 in *Seeing Ourselves: Classic, Contemporary, and Cross-Cultural Readings in Sociology*, edited by J. Macionis et al., 2<sup>nd</sup> Canadian Edition. Toronto: Pearson.

Becker, Howard. 2002. "Culture: A Sociological View." Pp. 238-243 in *The Meaning of Sociology*. Upper Saddle River, NJ: Prentice Hall.

Miner, Horace. 1956. "Body Ritual among the Nacirema." *American Anthropologist* 58(3): 503-507.

**Oct 11 & 13\***

**Self and Socialization**

Bauman, Zygmunt. 1990. "Freedom and Dependence." In *Thinking Sociologically*. Oxford: Blackwell Publishers.

Mead, George Herbert. 2001 [orig. 1934]. "The Self" Pp. 71-78 in *Seeing Ourselves: Classic, Contemporary, and Cross-Cultural Readings in Sociology*, edited by J. Macionis and N. Benokraitis. Toronto: Pearson.

\*Test – Thursday October 13

**Oct 18 & 20**

**Total Institutions**

Rosenhan, D.L. 1973. "On Being Sane in Insane Places." *Science* 179: 250-258.

Goffman, Erving. 1997 [original 1961]. "The Mortified Self." Pp. 55-71 in *The Goffman Reader*, edited by C. Lemert and A. Branaman. Malden, MA: Blackwell.

**Oct 25 & 27**

**Obedience and Authority**

Milgram, Stanley. 1973. "The Perils of Obedience." *Harper's Magazine*, December: 62-77.

Kelman, Herbert and Lee Hamilton. 2002. "The My Lai Massacres: Crimes of Obedience and Sanctioned Massacres." Pp. 195-222 in *Corporate and Governmental Deviance*, edited by M. Ermann and R. Lundman. New York: Oxford University Press.

Nov 1 &amp; 3

**Classical Sociological Theory: Max Weber**

Weber, Max. 1987 [original 1920]. "What is Social Action?" Pp. 44 in *The Meaning of Sociology*, edited by J. Charon. Englewood Cliffs, NJ: Prentice Hall.

Hale, Sylvia. 2011. "Max Weber and Rationality in Western Culture." Pp. 402-415 in *Contested Sociology*. Toronto: Pearson.

Ritzer, George. 2002. "The McDonaldization of Society." Pp. 625-33 in *Mapping the Social Landscape*, edited by S. Ferguson. Toronto: McGraw Hill.

Nov 8 &amp; 10

**Classical Sociological Theory: Karl Marx**

Marx, Karl and Friedrich Engels. 1978 [original 1848]. "The Communist Manifesto [selection]." Pp. 473-483 in *The Marx-Engels Reader*, edited by R. Tucker. New York: Norton.

Nov 15 &amp; 17

**Class, Culture, and Social Inequality**

Bourgois, Philippe. 2009. "Poverty at Work: Office Employment and the Crack Alternative." Pp. 227-239 in *Conformity and Conflict*, edited by J. Spradley and D. McCurdy. Upper Saddle River, NJ: Pearson.

Sennett, Richard and Jonathan Cobb. 1981. "Some Hidden Injuries of Class." Pp. 223-233 in *Down to Earth Sociology*, edited by J. M. Henslin. New York: The Free Press.

Nov 22 &amp; 24\*

**Class and Culture in Universities**

Lehmann, Wolfgang. 2009. "Becoming Middle Class: How Working-Class University Students Draw and Transgress Moral Class Boundaries." *Sociology* 43(4): 631-647.

Hamilton, Laura and Elizabeth Armstrong. 2012. "The (Mis)Education of Monica and Karen." *Contexts* 11(4): 22-7.

Valenti, Jessica. 2014. "How to End the College Class War", *The Guardian*, May 27.

\*Essay Due in Class

**Dec 29**

**Objectivity and Bias in Social Research**

Becker, Howard. 1967. "Whose Side are We On?"  
*Social Problems* 14(3): 239-247.

**Dec 1**

**Conclusion to the Course**