

St. Francis Xavier University
Department of Sociology

INTRODUCTION TO SOCIOLOGY II (SOC1 102.24)

Winter 2023

Lecture Room: MULH 2034

Monday: 12:45 – 2:00pm; Wednesday 11:15 – 12:30pm

Instructor: Stephen Marmura

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Office Hours (NT 603): Tuesdays 10:00am – 12:00pm; Thursdays 12:00pm – 3:00pm; Fridays 1:00pm – 2:00pm
(or by appointment)

COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course builds upon the foundations established in SOCI 101, by introducing students to some of the discipline's major sub-fields and areas of ongoing research. We will consider a range of diverse and intriguing areas of sociological investigation including religion, deviance, mass media, social inequality, social movements, race and ethnicity, and processes of globalization. Students are encouraged to think critically about these and related areas of the social world, while gaining greater insight with respect to the forces and circumstances shaping their own beliefs, attitudes, motivations and values.

Prerequisite: SOCI 101

Required Course Material

Johnson, Allan. *The Forest and the Trees: Sociology as Life, Practice, and Promise*. 3rd edition, Temple, 2014.

John J. Macionis, Nijole V. Benokraitis and Peter Urmetzer. *Classic, Contemporary, and Cross-Cultural Readings in Sociology*. 4th Canadian Edition. Pearson, 2014.

Evaluation

Tests (2 X 20%) = 40%

Response Paper = 20%

Final Exam = 40%

Final drop date for this course: March 10, 2023

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

Attendance and Class Participation:

While there is no specific grade for class participation in this course, students are expected to attend class regularly and repeated absences will be noted. Keep in mind that lectures and course readings are meant to *complement* one another, and I will often refer to ideas and examples in class which are not drawn directly from the readings. You will find that the term moves quickly and that lectures are critical for gaining a better appreciation and understanding of the various perspectives provided in your readings. You are expected to be familiar with *all* course material. In addition, a considerable amount of class time will be devoted to discussion. This is an important way for students to more fully digest course material and gain deeper insight with respect to both readings and lecture material.

You alone are responsible for keeping your own course notes. I do not provide these online and I do not email them to students. If you have missed a class for a legitimate reason (e.g. a documented absence due to medical concerns) and want to go over what was covered during the lecture in question, then please come and visit me during my office hours.

Test 1: 20% of final grade

Date: Feb. 6 (in class)

Test 2: 20% of final grade

Date: Mar. 20 (in class)

Critical Response Paper: 20% of final grade

Due: Feb. 15 (in class)

Note: A general outline for the response paper is provided at the back of this syllabus.

Final Exam: 40% of final grade

Date: TBA

Please note: For reasons of both security and practicality *I do not email individual grades* on tests, papers or exams to students. Such requests will not be responded to. If you were absent when a test or paper was handed back, want to look over a final exam (these are not handed back) or want to discuss a grade, then please come and see me during my office hours.

COURSE OUTLINE

All chapters referred to below by number correspond to those in *The Forest and the Trees* (Johnson 2014). All other readings listed are taken from the reader, *Seeing Ourselves* (Macionis, Benokraitis & Urmetzer 2014). Additional readings will be provided though web links and/or email attachments.

Jan. (4) Introduction: Review and New Directions

Begin first (posted) reading listed for next week*

Jan. (9, 11); (16, 18) Review cont.: Deviance and Social Control

**Abu-Ghraib and Insaniyat*

Arshin Adib-Moghaddam (on Moodle page)

The Functions of Crime

Emile Durkheim (122-124)

Johnson pp. 70-74 (*The Personal and the Structural*)

Moral Panics: Who Benefits from Public Fear? (posted on Moodle page)

Scott A. Bonn Ph.D.

Jan. (23, 25, 30) Media and Democracy: Critical Concerns

The Public Sphere (posted on Moodle page)

Jurgen Habermas

Propaganda and the Ethics of WikiLeaks (posted on Moodle page)

Randall Marlin

Feb. (6) **Test 20%**

Feb. (8, 13, 15*) Religion

The Protestant Ethic and the Spirit of Capitalism

Max Weber (287-292)

Canada's Mythical Religious Mosaic: Some Census Findings

Reginald W. Bibby (293-297)

*response paper due in class

Feb. (20, 22) **Reading Week**

Feb. (27); Mar. (6, 8) Social Inequality

Johnson Ch. 6 *Things Are Not What They Seem*

Experiences of Social Class: Learning from Occupational Therapy Students
Brenda Beagan (227-233)

The Economy and Society
Jim Stanford (234-239)

Mar. (13, 15) Race and Ethnicity

Johnson Ch. 7 *Sociology as Worldview: Where White Privilege Came From*

Mar. (20) **Test 20%**

Mar. (22, 27, 29) Political Power and Social Movements

The Power Elite
C Wright Mills (240-245)

Why Social Movements Occur: Theories of Social Movements
Sen & Avci (posted on Moodle page)

On the Origins of Social Movements
Jo Freeman (404-416)

Apr. (3, 5) Globalization, Population and Environment

Johnson Ch. 4 *Population and Human Ecology: People, Space and Place*

Is Biotechnology the Answer? The Evidence from NAFTA
Gerardo & Pechlaner (253-259)

"Let's Reduce Global Population!"
J. Kenneth Smail (384-388)

Fool's Paradise
Ronald Wright (393-397)

Critical Response Paper

Value: 20% of your final grade

Length: 4 – 6 pages (double-spaced; 12 pt. font)

Due Date: Fe. 15 (in class)

During your undergraduate studies you will frequently be required to provide 'critiques' or critical appraisals of specific articles, essays or books. The main purpose is for you to demonstrate your capacity to think analytically and logically, while drawing upon both your own creative insights, and relevant sociological concepts and frameworks. For the purposes of this assignment you are expected to write a response to the article, *Abu Ghraib and Insaniyat* by Arshin Adib-Moghaddam. This article, which is also an assigned reading for the second week of class, is posted on Moodle and is also available at the following Web address: <https://monthlyreview.org/2007/12/01/abu-ghraib-and-insaniyat/>

General Guidelines:

Your responses are to take the form of short essays. Because space is limited, avoid spending too much time summarizing content. Instead, try to succinctly convey a general sense of what the article is about, while providing the necessary context for the specific points and arguments you wish to raise in the course of your critique. Keep in mind that writing a strong paper requires the development of a clear thesis statement in your introduction. This provides the reader with a sense of the position you are taking, while allowing you to tie your points and arguments together in a coherent manner. You should also refer to any ideas that you feel are relevant taken from readings and/or raised in class as this will make for a stronger paper. You may consult journal articles or other academic resources if you wish, although this is not required. Any sources which you cite should be listed in a reference section at the end of your paper.

The questions below may serve as useful points of reference in terms of what to consider when writing your response papers. Please note that this is a general guideline only – i.e. do not answer these questions in an overt, step-by-step manner. They are intended as prompts to help you keep on track, and you will likely find yourself thinking along these or similar lines intuitively.

- What is the author's central argument or objective in writing this article?
- What other arguments or evidence is offered in support of this (central) argument or objective?
- What is the significance of the author's position in terms of its larger sociological implications?

- How does the author's position clash or overlap with some of the sociological perspectives considered in this course?
- What other conclusions might be drawn from the same evidence presented by the author and/or what counterarguments or objections could be raised from a different perspective?
- How convincing or important do you find the author's argument(s) overall?

Citing and Referencing Sources:

The Sociology Department page of the StFX Web site provides citation and reference style guidelines for the American Sociological Association (ASA). Look under the 'Current Students' heading to find this. You may use another citation style if you wish (e.g. Chicago style, American Psychological Association – APA). My main concern is that you are consistent with whichever style you choose.

Please Note: Students are expected to be familiar with the academic integrity policy concerning plagiarism as set out in the StFX Academic Calendar.