

SOCI 102: Introduction to Sociology II
St. Francis Xavier University
Department of Sociology
Winter 2020

Instructor: Dr. Peter Mallory

Email: pmallory@stfx.ca

Phone: 902-867-2445

Office: Nicholson Tower 610

Office Hours: Tuesday 1:00 to 2:00; Thursday 10:00-11:00

Lecture Schedule

Z7/Z8 Tuesday 3:45-5:00; Thursday 2:15-3:30; MULH 2070

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. Sociology is a diverse discipline, and one aim of this course is to give you a sampling of the diversity of perspectives and insights in sociology. At the same time, we will also discuss 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 issues of our contemporary world.

Required Texts

There is no required textbook for this course. Course readings will be either available on Moodle or on reserve at the library. Check Moodle for details. Make sure to print or copy the readings and bring them with you to class.

Course Evaluation

Mid-term Test	25%
Essay	25%
Final Exam	40%
Class Participation	10%

Mid-term Test

There will be an in-class test on Thursday, February 13. The purpose of the test is to give you feedback on your progress in the course. The test will consist mainly of short answer and multiple-choice style questions. If you are travelling over the winter break, make sure your plans will not conflict with the date of the test.

Essay:

There will be one short essay assignment, and a handout will be distributed in class in mid-February. The essay will be due on Tuesday, March 31.

Exam:

An exam will be scheduled during the regular examination period. It will be closed-book and will consist mainly of short answer and multiple-choice style questions, covering everything from the assigned readings and lectures from the first day of the course. Please do not book travel or let family members book it for you until the final exam schedule is announced on January 31 by the registrar.

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.

COURSE INFORMATION AND POLICIES

A Note on Course Content

We will deal with difficult and sometimes upsetting topics in this course, for example, suicide, physical violence, and sexual violence. I invite you to work with me to create a classroom where we can engage with serious issues of justice and injustice in a way that is sensitive to people's experiences. We will approach all topics in a way that uncovers what sociologists have to offer in understanding them. As such, this course may challenge your view of the world.

Attendance

Attending all classes is the best way to ensure you do well in the course. Please let me know if you will be absent for two or more classes in a row.

If you are unable to attend our class because of a requirement for another course (such as a mandatory class, public lecture, quiz, exam, or class project that is scheduled outside normal class hours), then please contact me.

Classroom Technology

If you use a laptop for note taking, please do so in a way that does not distract others. If you are distracted by your own laptop or phone, consider installing a content blocker and using it for the duration of the class. Audio or video recording of this class is not permitted.

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. 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 (see section 3.8 in the calendar). If you have questions about plagiarism or how to reference sources, you can speak with me before or after class, or during my office hours.

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. If you contact me early, we will have a better chance of developing a plan to help you complete the course in a way that is satisfactory to you.

Other Accommodations

If you are a student with physical, learning, or psychiatric disabilities that require reasonable accommodation in teaching style or evaluation, you should either speak with me or contact The Tramble Centre for Accessible Learning so that appropriate arrangements can be made.

LECTURE SCHEDULE AND READINGS

January 7 & 9 The Sociological Imagination

Mills, C. Wright. 1959. "The Promise." Pp. 3-24 in *The Sociological Imagination*. New York: Oxford University Press.

Gross, Neil. 2019. "Why do the Democrats keep saying 'structural?'" New York Times, July 31.

Skeggs, Beverley. 2017. "A Crisis in Humanity." *The Sociological Review: Private Troubles, Public Issues Blog*.

January 14 & 16 Social Class and Social Inequality

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.

Appiah, Anthony Kwame. 2018. "The myth of meritocracy: who really gets what they deserve?" *The Guardian*, October 19.

January 21 & 23 The Hidden Injuries of Class

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

Gans, Herbert. 1972. "The Positive Functions of Poverty." *American Journal of Sociology* 78(2): 275-289.

January 28 & 30 Selves and Solidarity: How society gets into us (and us into it)

Durkheim, Émile. 1982 [original 1895]. "What is a Social Fact?" Pp. 50-59 in *The Rules of Sociological Method*. New York: The Free Press.

Durkheim, Emile. 1973. "The Elements of Morality: Attachment to Social Groups"(excerpt). Pp. 71-3 in *Moral Education*. NY: Free Press.

Cooley, Charles Horton. 1901. "The Looking Glass Self" Pp. 184-186 in *Human Nature and the Social Order*. New York: Scribner. pp. 184-186.

Mead, George Herbert. 1934. "The 'I' and the 'me'." Pp. 173-178 in *Mind Self and Society*. Chicago: University of Chicago.

February 4 & 6 Gifts and Reciprocity

Caplow, Theodore. 1984. "Rule Enforcement without Visible Means: Christmas Gift Giving in Middletown." *The American Journal of Sociology* 89(6): 1306-1323.

Bauman, Zygmunt and Tim May. 2001. "Making it Happen: Gifts, Exchange and Intimacy in Relationships." Pp. 78-92 in *Thinking Sociologically*. Malden, MA: Blackwell.

February 11 & 13 Review and Midterm Test

Catch up and Review Class – Tuesday, February 11
Bring your questions about the course material to class

Midterm Test – Thursday, February 13

Feb 18 & 20 Winter Study Break

Enjoy!

February 25 & 27 Stigma and Social Interaction

Goffman, Erving. 1963. “Stigma and Social Identity.” Pp. 1-19 in *Stigma: Notes on the Management of Spoiled Identity*. Englewood Cliffs, NJ: Prentice Hall.

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

Goffman, Erving. 1963. “Civil Inattention.” Pp. 83-88 in *Behaviour in Public Places: Notes on the Social Organization of Gatherings*. New York: The Free Press.

March 3 & 5 Race and Racism

DuBois, W. E. B. 2007 [original 1903]. “Of Our Spiritual Strivings.” Pp. 7-14 in *The Souls of Black Folk*. New York: Oxford.

Anderson, Elijah. 2015. “The White Space.” *Sociology of Race and Ethnicity* 1(1): 10–21.

*March 6 – last day to drop winter-term courses without an academic penalty

March 10 & 12 Gender and Sexuality

Smith, Dorothy. 1987. “The Authority of the Male Voice.” Pp. 29-34 in *The Everyday World as Problematic*. Boston: Northeastern University Press.

Gardner, Carol Brooks. 1990. “Safe Conduct: Women, Crime, and Self in Public Places.” *Social Problems* 37(3):311–28.

Rottenberg, Catherine. 2018. “How neoliberalism colonised feminism – and what you can do about it.” *The Conversation*, May 23.

March 17 & 19 Gender and Sexual Violence

Armstrong, Elizabeth A., Laura Hamilton, and Brian Sweeney. 2006. "Sexual Assault on Campus: A Multilevel, Integrative Approach to Party Rape." *Social Problems* 53 (4): 483–99.

March 24, 26, & 31 Love and Friendship: Seeing the social in our intimate relationships

Allan, Graham. 1989. *Friendship: Developing a Sociological Perspective*. San Francisco, CA: Westview Press. Pp: 13-29.

Cronin, Anne M. 2015. "Gendering Friendship: Couple Culture, Heteronormativity and the Production of Gender." *Sociology* 49(6):1167–82.

Essays due in class, Tuesday, March 31

April 2 Conclusion to the Course

No readings. Come to class prepared to talk about what you learned in the course.