

*SOCI 334: Sociology of Anne of Green Gables*

*Dr. Lynda Harling Stalker*

AX111B

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*Mondays 12:45pm and Wednesdays 11:15am*

SCHWZ 290

*Office Hours: Mondays 9-10:30am; Wednesdays 9-10am*

The Sociology of *Anne of Green Gables* (AGG) sets out to explore the realm of cultural theory through the lens of the iconic novel *Anne of Green Gables*. We will start by learning what the classical social theorists had to say and then move our way through the likes of the Frankfurt School, mass culturalism, postmodernism, social geography and feminisms. This course is not one that you can breeze through; there will be much reading, much thinking and hopefully a little bit of amusement. At the end of the course, students will have a broad grasp of cultural theory, will have worked on organising a mock special journal issue, and written a short academic article. Oh yes, students will also understand why Anne Shirley is a Canadian icon!

### **Texts**

This course has two texts that students are required to have and read:

Montgomery, L.M. *Anne of Green Gables*. The Broadview Edition is available at the Campus Store. This edition is highly recommended as it provides insights into the novel. That being said, if students wish to use a different edition they may do so.

Course Pack. All the required readings (except for AGG) are found in the course pack. Copies are available at the Campus Store. Students will need to have this to participate and be successful in this course.

### **Course Format**

In a rough way, each week we will explore a different cultural theory and then relate it to AGG. It is imperative that students come to class prepared – this means that assigned readings have been read before class, questions about the reading(s) are prepared, and thoughts/critiques/insights have been formulated. Students need to be prepared to be active in this class. As such, it is expected that cell phones will remain silent, text messages/snap chat streaks/ insta-worthy pictures will be ignored during class time. Please inform your contacts in advance that Dr. Harling Stalker is a very mean professor and you will have to get back to them when class ends.

## **Classroom Environment**

Engagement and debate with the material is actively encouraged. It is expected that class members will respect one another. This means that informed opinions are presented and it is ideas that are debated – not personalities. Decorum and polite behaviour will be maintained.

## **Evaluations**

Along with the readings, there will be a significant amount of writing expected of students.

*Postcard assignment (5%).* Using the card provided in class, students are expected to write a postcard that talks about their favourite quote from AGG. You are expected to provide the quote, the page it is found upon, the context of the quote, and why you think this is the best moment in the novel. This is due JANUARY 18.

*Midterm test (25%).* This test is held FEBRUARY 15 and will cover all course material to that point.

*Mock special journal edition (40%).* In groups of 4-5, students will be tasked to create a mock special edition of *Journal of Cultural Sociology*. The groups will randomly be given a theme (related to cultural theory and AGG). The group will then have to assign each member with a topic within that theme. Each group member will then be required to write an 8-10 page academic article on that topic. The group will then need to collectively write a two-page introduction that demonstrates what the theme is and how all the papers are tied together. The papers and introduction must all be handed in together on MARCH 20. There is a 5% penalty each day the assignment is late. The breakdown of the assignment is 10% on the group work, and 30% on the individual paper. The group mark includes the introduction and peer evaluations.

*Final test (30%).* This test will be scheduled by the registrar's office, so please don't buy a plane ticket until the exam schedule is posted. It will focus primarily on the second half of the term with an overarching essay that will require students to draw upon first term information.

## **Special requirements**

If there are students who have special requirements, please speak with Dr. Harling Stalker as soon as possible.

## Reading Schedule

January 4	Gerson and Atwood	
9	Aldous and Marx	
11	Weber and Rubio	
16	Lacan	
18	Slater	POSTCARD DUE
23	Adorno and Hockheimer	
25	Sheckels	
30	MacDonald	
February 1	Lefebvre	
6	Williams and Reimer	
8	Barthes	
13	Matthews David and Wahl	
15	MIDTERM	
27	Baudrillard	
March 1	Lefebvre	
6	Bourdieu	
8	Siourbes	
13	Anderson	
15	Devereux	
20	Urry and Larsen	PAPERS DUE
22	Gothie	
27	McQullan, Cormier, and Devereaux	
29	Simmel and White	
3	Devereux	
5	Akamatsu	