

Professor: Dr. Norine Verberg  
Phone/voice mail: 867-5077  
Office location: Annex 111A  
E-mail: [nverberg@stfx.ca](mailto:nverberg@stfx.ca)

Class time:  
Tuesdays, 8:15-9:30  
Fridays, 9:45-11:00

Office hours:  
Tuesdays, 1:30-3:30;  
Thursdays, 9:00-12:00;  
and by appointment

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### Calendar Course Description

This course introduces students to the origins and development of sociological thinking and research, beginning with the foundations of the discipline in the 19th century. Students are then introduced to the concepts and methods within sociology. The objective is to explore the extent and limits of our capacity to change the social world by reference to sociological research in both a Canadian and global context.

### Required Textbook

Steckley, Robert. 2017. *Elements of Sociology: A Critical Canadian Introduction, 4<sup>th</sup> Edition*. Toronto: Oxford University Press.

### Optional Reference Book

Ostergard, Robert L. Jr. and Stacy B. Fisher. 2017. *Kickstarting Your Academic Career: Skills to Succeed in the Social Sciences*. Toronto: University of Toronto Press.

### Grading Scheme

- Participation - 10%
- October exam - 30% *Tuesday, October 17*
- Term paper - 20% *Friday, November 17 at 9:45 (in class)*
- Final exam - 40% (date set by the Registrar's Office)

### Class Attendance and Participation

You are required to attend class and attendance will be taken. If you must miss a class, *you are responsible to find out what you missed* (e.g., lectures, videos, announcements, presentations). If you wish to notify me about an unavoidable class absence, please do so through the Dean's Office or in person in the class prior to or after the missed class ...

**\*\*Please do not email me about class absences\*\*** unless requiring follow-up.

### Exams

The exams cover the readings, lectures, and any other material introduced in class. There will be multiple choice, short answer, and essay questions. A study guide will be provided.

- Note that, except in the case of medically documented illness or death/serious illness in the immediate family, *absolutely no* make-up exam will be offered.

- If you *registered* to use the Tramble Rooms, please let me know within a few weeks of class starting and provide a reminder 1 week prior to the exams.

### **Term paper**

The term paper will be introduced in class, and instructions will be posted on Moodle.

### **Academic Integrity**

Please familiarize yourself with the Academic Integrity Policy spelled out in the university calendar. [http://sites.stfx.ca/registrars\\_office/academic\\_integrity](http://sites.stfx.ca/registrars_office/academic_integrity)

### **Electronics**

Use of cell phones and laptops is not permitted during class.

### **Office Hours and Communication Regarding Course Work**

*You are encouraged to see me during office hours* to discuss any aspect of the course. If my office hours conflict with your schedule, please ask for an appointment.

### **Email Communication**

Important notices are posted on Moodle and/or sent to your StFX email address only. It is your responsibility to check your StFX account regularly to ensure that it is not full.

Given the number of students I have, I do not reply to emails about the following:

- questions that could easily be answered by referring to this syllabus or information posted on Moodle.
- inquiries about course work: see me in office hours for assistance with content.
- missing a class ~ expect to report exceptional circumstances requiring follow-up.

Please tell me in person in class either prior to or after a class absence.

When you do email a professor, you are encouraged to use proper email etiquette, note the topic noted in the subject line, and provide your name and course number.

### **Communication Regarding Equity and Diversity**

“Everyone learns more effectively in a respectful, safe and equitable learning environment, free from discrimination and harassment. I invite you to work with me to create a classroom space – both real and virtual – that fosters and promotes values of human dignity, equity, non-discrimination and respect for diversity. Please feel free to talk with me about your questions or concerns about equity in our classroom or in the STFX community in general. 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. Please note that a Human Rights and Equity Advisor will soon be appointed. In the meantime, students, faculty, or staff may also contact the Director of Human Resources at [hr@stfx.ca](mailto:hr@stfx.ca) or the Office of the AVP&P”.

## Schedule of Readings\*

Date	Chapter	Chapter Topics
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September 5/8	1	<u>Foundations of Sociology</u>
Sept 12/15	2	Introduction to Sociology Social Research Methods
<u>Social Structures</u>		
Sept 19/22	3	Culture
Sept. 26/29	4	Socialization
Sept. 29/Oct 3	5	Social roles, interactions and organizations
<i>Friday, Oct. 6</i>	--	<i>No Class – Fall Study Day</i>
Oct 10/13	6	Deviance
<b>Tuesday, Oct. 17</b>	--	<b>Midterm exam (Chapters 1-6 plus lectures)</b>
<u>Social Difference</u>		
Oct. 20/24	7	Social Inequality
Oct. 24/27	8	Race and Ethnicity
Oct. 31/Nov. 3	9	Gender and Sexuality
<u>Social Institutions</u>		
Nov 3/7	10	Family life
Nov 10	11	Religion
<b>Friday, Nov. 17</b>	--	<b>Term paper due today at 9:45 –beginning of class</b>
Nov 17	12	Education
Nov 20/24	13	Health and Medicine
Nov 24/28	14	Environment
Dec. 1	15	Social Change

\* The professor reserves the right to make minor alterations to the dates material will be covered. Any changes will be made in consultation with the class and in response to the need for further time to cover topics, view films, or invite guests.