

Sociology 102: Contemporary Sociology
St. Francis Xavier University
Department of Sociology
Winter 2018

Instructor: Dr. Peter Mallory
Office Hours: Tues. 12:00-1:00;
Wed. 12:00-3:00; Thurs. 11:00-1:00
Office: Annex 9D
Email: pmallory@stfx.ca
Phone: 902-867-2445

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. 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. The course builds on the foundations developed in Sociology 101.

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 102. Look for my name (P. Mallory) on the cover.

Course Evaluation

Midterm 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. It will be due on Tuesday, March 6.

Tests and Exams:

There will be a mid-term test on Thursday, February 15 and a final exam will be held in the April exam period.

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. 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 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

- Jan 4** **Introductions – What is Sociology? Why Study It?**
- Jan 9 & 11** **Social Interaction**
- Kivisto, Peter and Dan Pittman. 2008. “Goffman’s Dramaturgical Sociology: Personal Sales and Service in a Commodified World.” Pp. 271-291 in *Illuminating Social Life: Classical and Contemporary Theory Revisited*, edited by Peter Kivisto. Los Angeles: Pine Forge Press.
- Goffman, Erving. 1959. *The Presentation of Self in Everyday Life*. Toronto: Doubleday. Pages: 1-16.
- Jan 16 & 18** **Goffman on Stigma**
- Goffman, Erving. 1963. “Stigma and Social Identity.” Pp. 1-19 in *Stigma: Notes on the Management of Spoiled Identity*. Englewood Cliffs, NJ: Prentice Hall.
- Goffman, Irving. 1963. “Civil Inattention.” Pp. 83-88 in *Behaviour in Public Places: Notes on the Social Organization of Gatherings*. New York: The Free Press.
- Jan 23 & 25** **Respect, Disrespect, and Inequality**
- Hochschild, Arlie. 2016. “Special Report: I Spent 5 Years with Some of Trump’s Biggest Fans. Here’s What They Won’t Tell You.” *Mother Jones*, September/October Issue.
- Gardner, Carole Brooks. 1980. “Passing By: Street Remarks, Address Rights and the Urban Female.” *Sociological Inquiry*, 50: 328-356.
- Jan 30 & Feb 1** **Respect, Disrespect, and Inequality**
- Gans, Herbert. 1972. “The Positive Functions of Poverty.” *American Journal of Sociology* 78(2): 275-289.
- Desmond, Matthew. 2016. “Forced Out: For Many Poor Americans, Eviction Never Ends.” *The New Yorker*, February 8 and 15.
- Feb 6 & 8** **Race and Racism**
- Du Bois, W. E. B. 2007 [original 1903]. “Of Our Spiritual Strivings.” Pp. 7-14 in *The Souls of Black Folks*. New York: Oxford.

Stewart, Anthony. 2009. "Reflections of a Tenured Black Sheep, or How the University Looks at Me." Pp. 25-50 in *You Must be a Basketball Player*. Halifax, NS: Fernwood.

Feb 13 & 15

Midterm Test

Review Class – Tuesday, February 13
Midterm Test – Thursday, February 15

Feb 20 & 22

Winter Study Break

Enjoy!

Feb 27* & Mar 1

Education and the Meaning of the University

Gadamer, Hans Georg. 1992. "The Idea of the University: Yesterday, Today, Tomorrow." Pp. 47-59 in *Hans-Georg Gadamer On Education, Poetry, and History: Applied Hermeneutics*. Albany, NY: State University of New York Press.

Newson, Janice. 2010. "Recovering the University as a Collective Project." Pp. 250-258 in *Academic Callings The University We Have Had, Now Have and Could Have*, edited by J. Newson and C. Polster. Toronto: Canadian Scholars Press.

*Last day drop course, Wednesday, February 28

Mar 6* & 8

Sex and Gender

Hochschild, Arlie. 1992. "The Second Shift: Working Parents and the Revolution at Home." Pp. 568-580 in *Inequality and Society: Social Science Perspectives on Social Stratification*, edited by J. Manza and M. Sauder. New York: W.W. Norton & Company.

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

*Essay due in class, Tuesday, March 6

Mar 13 & 15

Sex and Gender

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.

Mar 20 & 22 Sexualities

Alexander, Jeffrey, Kenneth Thompson, and Laura Desfor Edles. 2011. "Sexuality." Pp. 180-213 in *A Contemporary Introduction to Sociology: Culture and Society in Transition*, 2nd Edition. New York: Routledge.

Mar 27, 29, & Apr 3 Personal Relationships

Hochschild, Arlie. 2003. "The Economy of Gratitude." Pp. 104-118 in *The Commercialization of Intimate Life*. Berkeley, CA: University of California Press.

Cherlin, Andrew. 2004. "The Deinstitutionalization of American Marriage." *Journal of Marriage and Family* 66(4): 848–61.

April 5 Review Class