

Sociology 100: Introduction to Sociology
St. Francis Xavier University
Department of Sociology
Fall & Winter 2011-2012

Instructor: Dr. Peter Mallory

Office Hours (Fall Term): Tues. 11:00-12:00;
Wed. 1:00-3:00; Thurs. 11:00-12:00

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Lecture Schedule

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 which sociologists use to understand our world. As you will soon discover, sociology is a diverse discipline. Sociologists study a variety of aspects of collective life ranging from broad and abstract processes, like the rise of capitalism and the appearance of bureaucracies, to the most mundane aspects of everyday life, such as embarrassment and practices of gift giving. Not only are the topics diverse, but so are the theories and perspectives which sociologists use to understand our world. As a complex discipline with many perspectives, there is much disagreement, controversy and lively debate among sociologists. These debates and controversies make sociology an intellectually rewarding and exciting discipline to study. You are welcome to engage with these controversies, make use of them in your own way, criticize them, and see if they stand up to your own intellectual scrutiny. While one aim of this course is to give you a sampling of the diversity of perspectives and insights in sociology, another is to introduce you to 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 socially.”

Required Text

A course pack of readings is available at the Campus Store. Be sure the book you purchase is for this course. Look for my name (P. Mallory) on the cover.

Course Evaluation

| | |
|-----------------------|-----|
| October In-Class Test | 10% |
| December Exam | 25% |
| Winter Term Essay | 20% |
| March In-Class Test | 10% |
| April Exam | 25% |
| Class Participation | 10% |

Essay:

There will be one short essay assignment in the Winter Term. A choice of topics will be distributed in lecture. The completed papers will be no longer than 7-8 pages in length (250 words per page, 12 point standard font, double spaced). It will be due no later than **Thursday, Feb. 16th**.

Tests and Exams:

There will be two in-class tests, one on **Tuesday, Oct. 18th** and one on **Tuesday, March 6th**. There will also be two closed book exams to be held in the regular December and April exam periods. A study guide for the December and April exams will be given out during the last class of each term.

Class Participation:

A high level of participation is a requirement for this class. Your grade for participation will take into account attendance, demonstrated grasp of the weekly readings, as well as participation in lectures and class discussions. Please bring the readings to class, and be prepared to offer your questions and insights.

IMPORTANT COURSE INFORMATION AND POLICIES

Late Policy

Papers will be considered late if they are not handed in at the start of the lecture on the day they are due. If you must submit a late paper, please speak to the course instructor ahead of time. Late papers submitted without prior permission will incur a **late penalty of 5%** of the total assignment **per day**, including weekends.

Plagiarism (Or the easiest way to fail the course)

Since this course requires you to complete written assignments, 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. Our job is not solely to help you to learn, but also to maintain the integrity of your degree. Please ensure that you fully understand this policy (see section 3.8 in the Academic Calendar).

Students should keep all rough work (notes, draft, etc.) until their final marks have been officially recorded by the Registrar's Office.

Changes in Schedule and Syllabus

Changes in the course schedule, if any, will be announced in class. You are responsible for keeping in touch with the progress of the course through regular attendance at lectures. If you miss a class, you should check with the instructor about whether any changes have been announced.

Class Attendance

Attending class is a requirement of this course. The university also has a policy on class attendance which is outlined in the Academic Calendar (section 3.7) which you should review.

Classroom Technology

If you must use a laptop, please sit in the back rows of the classroom, so as not to distract others. Please note that 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 participation in the course, please contact your professor **as soon as the problem becomes apparent**. Your best strategy for dealing with anything that may prevent you from completing the course in a way that is satisfactory to you is to discuss your concerns as soon as possible with your professor so that we can together work out a way of responding to them.

Other Accommodations

If you are student with physical, learning, or psychiatric disabilities that require reasonable accommodation in teaching style or evaluation, you should speak with the course director early in the term so that appropriate arrangements can be made.

That's all for now – Welcome to the Course!

LECTURE SCHEDULE AND READINGS

Sept 8 Introductions – What is Sociology? Why Study it?

Overview the course and syllabus

Sept 13 & 15 The Sociological Imagination

Mills, C. Wright. 2008 [original. 1959]. "The Promise." Pp 16-19 in *Rethinking Society*, edited by M. Webber and K. Bezanson. Toronto: Canadian Scholars Press.

McLaughlin, Neil. 2008. "The Sociological Imagination in Canada." Pp. 19-25 in *Society in Question*, edited by R. Brym. Toronto: Nelson.

Farmer, Paul. 2004. "On Suffering and Structural Violence: A View From Below." Pp. 281-289 in *Violence in War and Peace: an Anthology*, edited by N. Scheper-Hughes and P. Bourgois. Malden, MA: Blackwell Publishers.

Sept 20 & 22 Sociology as a Way of Seeing

Berger, Peter. 2009 [original. 1963]. "Sociology as a Passion to Understand." Pp. 2-8 in *The Meaning of Sociology*, edited by J. Charon. Englewood Cliffs, NJ: Prentice Hall.

Berger, Peter. 1998 [original. 1977]. "Sociology and Freedom." Pp. 432-3 in *The Meaning of Sociology*, edited by J. Charon. Upper Saddle River, NJ: Prentice Hall.

Collins, Randall. 1998. "The Sociological Eye and its Blinders." *Contemporary Sociology* 27(1): 2-7.

Sept 27 & 29 The Sociological Imagination at Work: The Social Shaping of Disaster

Brym, Robert. 2008. "Hurricane Katrina and the Myth of Natural Disasters." Pp. 53-78 in *Sociology as a Life or Death Issue*. Toronto: Pearson Allyn and Bacon.

Klineberg, Eric. 2004. "Denaturalizing Disaster: A Social Autopsy of the 1995 Chicago Heat Wave." Pp. 308-317 in *Violence in War and Peace: an Anthology*, edited by N.

Scheper-Hughes and P. Bourgois. Malden, MA: Blackwell Publishers.

Oct 4 & 6 The Sociological Imagination at Work: Suicide as a Social Fact

Durkheim, Émile. 1982 [org. 1895]. "What is a Social Fact?" Pp. 51-59 in *The Rules of Sociological Method*. New York: The Free Press.

Durkheim, Émile. 2008 [org. 1897]. "Egoistic and Anomic Suicide." Pp. 64-72 in *Readings in Social Theory: The Classic Tradition to Post-Modernism*, edited by J. Farganis. Toronto: McGraw Hill.

Oct 11 & 13 The Sociological Imagination at Work: Thinking Socially About Emotions

Hochschild, Arlie. 2011 [original 1979]. "Emotion Work and Feeling Rules." Pp. 51-56 in *Inside Social Life*, edited by S. Cahill and K. Sandstrom. New York: Oxford University Press.

Hochschild, Arlie. 1992. "The Managed Heart: Commercialization of Human Feeling." Pp. 136-148 in *Social Interaction: Readings in Sociology*, edited by C. Clark and H. Robboy. New York: St. Martin's Press.

Oct 18 & 20 Culture, Symbols and Meaning

White, Leslie A. 2007 [org. 1949]. "Symbol: The Basic Element of Culture." Pp. 33-37 in *Seeing Ourselves: Classic, Contemporary, and Cross-Cultural Readings in Sociology*, edited by J. Macionis et al., 2nd Canadian Edition. Toronto: Pearson.

Merton, Robert K. 1968. "The Self-Fulfilling Prophecy." Pp. 475-480 in *Social Theory and Social Structure*. New York: The Free Press.

Miner, Horace. 1956. "Body Ritual among the Nacirema." *American Anthropologist* 58(3): 503-507.

****Quiz—Tuesday, October 18th****

Oct 25 & 27 Self and Socialization

Bauman, Zygmunt. 1990. "Freedom and Dependence." In *Thinking Sociologically*. Oxford: Blackwell Publishers.

Mead, George Herbert. 2001 [org. 1934]. "The Self" Pp. 71-78 in *Seeing Ourselves: Classic, Contemporary, and Cross-Cultural Readings in Sociology*, edited by J. Macionis and N. Benokraitis. Toronto: Pearson.

Nov 1 & 3 Obedience and Authority

Milgram, Stanley. 1973. "The Perils of Obedience." *Harper's Magazine*, December: 62-77.

Kelman, Herbert and Lee Hamilton. 2002. "The My Lai Massacres: Crimes of Obedience and Sanctioned Massacres." Pp. 195-222 in *Corporate and Governmental Deviance*, edited by M. Ermann and R. Lundman. New York: Oxford University Press.

Nov 8 & 10 Classical Sociological Theory: Karl Marx

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.

Marx, Karl and Friedrich Engels. 2007 [original 1846]. "The German Ideology [selection]." Pp 46-47 in *Social Theory: Continuity and Confrontation*. Peterborough, ON: Broadview Press.

Nov 15 & 17 Class and Social Inequality

Davis, Kingsley and Wilbert. E. Moore. 1945. "Some Principles of Stratification." *American Sociological Review*, 10:242-49.

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

**Nov 22,
24 & 29**

Class, Culture and Social Inequality

Sennett, Richard and Jonathan Cobb. 1981. "Some Hidden Injuries of Class." Pp. 223-233 in *Down to Earth Sociology*, edited by J. M. Henslin. New York: The Free Press.

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

Gladwell, Malcolm. 2008. "The Matthew Effect." Pp. 15-34 in *Outliers: The Story of Success*. New York: Little, Brown and Company.

Dec 1

Review

Study Guide Distributed for Exam

SECOND TERM LECTURE SCHEDULE AND READINGS

**Jan 5,
10 & 12**

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.

Armstrong, Elizabeth, Laura Hamilton and Brian Sweeney. 2006. "Sexual Assault on Campus: A Multilevel, Integrative Approach to Party Rape." *Social Problems* 53(4): 483-499.

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

****Wednesday, January 11th – Last Day to Drop Course****

Jan 17 & 19 Reflecting on Where we Are: On the Meaning of the University in a Democratic Society

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.

Jan 24 & 26 Classical Sociological Theory: Max Weber

Weber, Max. 1968 [original 1918]. "Science as a Vocation." Pp. 294-309 in *Max Weber on Charisma and Institution Building*, edited by S. N. Eisenstadt. Chicago, IL: University of Chicago Press.

Ritzer, George. 2002. "The McDonaldisation of Society." Pp. 625-33 in *Mapping the Social Landscape*, edited by S. Ferguson. Toronto: McGraw Hill.

Jan 31 & Feb 2 'Race' and Racism

Du Bois, W. E. B. 1998 [original 1903]. "The Souls of Black Folks." Pp. 713-728 in *Norton Anthology of American Literature*, edited by Nina Baym. New York: Norton.

Harrison, Faye. 2002. "Unravelling 'Race' for the Twenty First Century." Pp. 145-66 in *Exotic No More: Anthropology on the Front Lines*, edited by J. MacClancey. Chicago: University of Chicago Press.

Feb 7 & 9 Inequality, Respect and Disrespect

Bourgois, Philippe. 2009. "Poverty at Work: Office Employment and the Crack Alternative." Pp. 227-239 in *Conformity and Conflict*, edited by J. Spradley and D. McCurdy. Upper Saddle River, NJ: Pearson.

Anderson, Elijah. "The Code of the Street." *The Atlantic Monthly*, 273(5) May: 81-94.

Feb 14 & 16 Classical Sociological Theory: Alexis de Tocqueville

Tocqueville, Alexis de. 1969 [original 1835/40]. *Democracy in America* [selections]. New York: Anchor Books.

****Essays Due in Class, Thursday February 16th****

Feb 21 & 23 Reading week

Enjoy!

**Feb 28
& Mar 1 Erving Goffman's Dramaturgical Perspective**

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. 1950. *The Presentation of Self in Everyday Life*. Toronto: Doubleday. Pages: 1-16.

Mar 6 & 8 Stigma and Disability

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

Michalko, Rod. 2001. "Blindness Enters the Classroom." *Disability and Society* 16(3): 349-359.

****Quiz – Tuesday, March 6****

Mar 13 & 15 Deviance and Social Control

Becker, Howard S. 1953. "Becoming a Marijuana User." *American Journal of Sociology* 59: 235-242.

Becker, Howard S. 1967. "Whose Side are We On?" *Social Problems* 14(3): 239-247.

Mar 20 and 22 Total Institutions and the Self

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

Zimbardo, Philip. 2004[orig. 1972]. "The Pathology of Imprisonment." Pp. 74-6 in *Society in Question*, edited by R. Brym. Toronto: Nelson.

Goffman, Erving. 1997 [original 1961]. "The Mortified Self." Pp. 55-71 in *The Goffman Reader*, edited by C. Lemert and A. Branaman. Malden, MA: Blackwell.

Mar 27 & 29 Personal Relationships: Friends and Family

Vaughan, Diane. 1992 [orig. 1979]. "Uncoupling: The Social Construction of Divorce." Pp. 399-417 in *Social Interaction: Readings in Sociology*, edited by C. Clark and H. Robboy. New York: St. Martin's Press.

Little, Graham. 1992. "The Meaning of Friendship." Pp. 39-43 in *The Meaning of Sociology*, edited by J. Charon. Englewood Cliffs, NJ: Prentice Hall.

Apr 3 & 5 Gifts and Exchange

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

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

Apr 10 Review

Study Guide Distributed for Exam