



## DEPARTMENT OF SOCIOLOGY

### Introduction to Sociology (Soci. 100:11) 2014-15 Syllabus

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Class schedule: Monday 12:45-2 and Wednesday 11:15-12:30  
Office hours: Wednesday 9am-10am 1:15pm – 2pm  
Or by appointment on Monday or Wednesday

#### **Course Objectives**

The purpose of this course is to introduce you to the sociological perspective, to theoretical orientations, to the methods used to study human behaviour and to the concepts that guide the thinking and research of sociologists. We will look at what sociologists have learned about how the world is put together by surveying various areas of sociological study. An important goal of this course is to facilitate your ability to view the world through a sociological lens.

This course is divided into five sections. The first section examines the foundations of Sociology. This module is essential for the understanding of all other section. In the second section, we will explore the foundations of society by exploring how society is organized. Here we will look at cultures and socialization. In the third section, we will examine social inequality. We will ask why our society has inequalities and explore and critique different explanations of inequality. In section four we will look at social institutions: the economy, government, family etc. In our fifth section we will conclude with an examination of why and how societies change. We will question why humans achieved so much and yet despite our achievements solutions to serious problems such as poverty, pollution, and conflict between nations remain unresolved.

#### **Required Texts:**

*How Societies work: Class, Power, and Change* 5<sup>th</sup> edition by Joanne Naiman

*The Sociologically Examined Life* by Michael Schwalbe (use 3<sup>rd</sup> or 4<sup>th</sup> editions)

Additional required sources (e.g., Lectures\*, in-class videos, electronic journals/ RESERVE library readings – additional articles may be added throughout the term) (\*Lectures will not be posted online.)

## **Evaluation**

October Quiz	10% (Oct. 27, 2014)
December Exam	35%
Assignment TBA	20% (Mar. 9, 2015)
April Exam	35%

This class primarily follows a lecture format however, I expect student interaction and in-class discussion.

### **Class room etiquette/policies**

- Be respectful of your classmates and avoid class disruption (leaving class early, late, talking, whispering).
- This class should be free from discrimination and harassment in accord with the *StFX Discrimination and Harassment Policy* which can be found at <http://www.mystfx.ca/campus/stu-serv/equity/>.
- Regular attendance at class is advised. (see calendar section 3.7)  
[http://sites.stfx.ca/registrar\\_office/academic\\_calendar](http://sites.stfx.ca/registrar_office/academic_calendar).
- Students are responsible for material discussed in class even when they are absent.
- Emails: Restrict your emails to urgent concerns (e.g., extended absences – over 1 week). Exception: Feel free to email questions that require brief responses, especially during office hours. If I am not with a student, I will respond right away. I prefer you use office hours for issues that may require back and forth conversation. Under no circumstances will I provide you with information on what we covered in a class you missed via email. For this information, consult your syllabus or borrow notes.
- No Electronic devices (see me for exceptions to this rule).

### **Assignments – Guidelines To be posted on Moodle:**

***When conducting academic research be honest:*** Avoid plagiarism; always do your own work. Give yourself sufficient time and discipline yourself to rely on your *own* good mind for your work. That is enough!

### **Policy on Cheating and Plagiarism:**

Plagiarism is considered the most serious academic offense that can occur in a university. Defined as the theft of intellectual property, it entails the ***unreferenced*** quotation of statistics, scientific experiments, the content of websites, material from books, academic journals, maps, people’s conversations, a professor’s lecture, a photograph or a piece of art. Contrary to what many students imagine, plagiarism is remarkably easy to detect. Material that you use for your course assignments must be properly referenced and given credit where it is due. If a student plagiarizes an assignment or cheats on an exam, he/she will be given an automatic mark of zero, and will be reported by letter to the Registrar at St. Francis Xavier University. For a detailed description of what constitutes plagiarism and cheating, and its repercussions, please refer to the St. Francis Xavier University Calendar, under the section on Academic Regulations, **3.8.2 Offenses Against Academic Integrity** on page 14. SEE CALENDAR: [http://sites.stfx.ca/registrar\\_office/academic\\_calendar](http://sites.stfx.ca/registrar_office/academic_calendar)

- A tutorial for avoiding plagiarism is available through the STFX library website: <http://library.acadiau.ca/tutorials/plagiarism/>
- The full academic integrity policy and procedures document is available at <http://www.stfx.ca/services/registrar/academic-integrity-document.pdf>

**Class schedule and readings:** (if the links for the readings do not work you may access them via the St.FX library online – If you have problems locating them, consult a librarian. (Some may be available via google.)

## **SECTION I: The Foundations of Sociology**

SOCIOLOGICAL PERSPECTIVES? (Week 1 & 2, September 8-17)

What is Sociology?

- Chapter 1, Naiman
- *The Promise* by C. Wright Mills  
[https://www.pravo.unizg.hr/\\_download/repository/C.\\_Wright\\_Mills\\_Sociological\\_Imagination\\_The\\_Promise.pdf](https://www.pravo.unizg.hr/_download/repository/C._Wright_Mills_Sociological_Imagination_The_Promise.pdf)
- Chapters 1-3, Schwalbe

SOCIOLOGICAL INVESTIGATION (Week 3, September 22-24)

- Lectures on research methods
- Intro text RESERVE Library

## **SECTION II: The Foundations of Society**

CULTURE, SOCIETY AND HISTORY (Week 4 & 5, – Sept. 29 –Oct. 8)

- Chapter 2 and 3, Naiman
- *Body ritual Among the Nacirema* by Horace Miner American Anthropologist, New Series, Vol. 58, No. 3. (Jun., 1956), pp. 503-507. <http://www.sfu.ca/~palys/Miner-1956-BodyRitualAmongTheNacirema.pdf>

THE BASIS OF MODERN SOCIETIES (Week 6, October 15) Oct. 13 no classes – Thanksgiving

- Chapter 4, Naiman
- Chapter 4, Schwalbe

SOCIALIZATION & SOCIAL INTERACTION (Week 7, October 20-22)

- Chapter 5, 6 & 7, Schwalbe

**October Quiz October 27**

SOCIAL CLASS (Week 8 October 29)

- Chapter 5, Naiman

### **SECTION 3: Social Institutions**

WORK (Week 9-11, November 3-19) No class on Nov. 10 – Study day

- Chapter 6, Naiman
- Work
- Politics of Food production

THE CREATION OF KNOWLEDGE (Week 12, Nov. 24-Dec 1)

- Chapters 9 & 10, Schwalbe

### **SECOND TERM**

THE SOCIAL CONSTRUCTION OF IDEAS AND KNOWLEDGE (Week 13 – 14, January 5-14)

- Chapter 7, Naiman
- Chapters 9 & 10, Schwalbe
- Education <http://www.danielnpaul.com/IndianResidentialSchools.html>

THE ROLE OF THE STATE (Week 15, January 19-21)

- Chapter 8, Naiman

NEOLIBERALISM AND GLOBALIZATION (Week 16-17, January 26-February 4)

- Chapter 9, Naiman
- Chapter 8, Schwalbe
- Film: Who's Counting? M. Waring
- *Marginalization through a custom of deservingness: sole-support mothers and welfare law in Canada* by Rebecca Crookshanks  
<http://journals.uvic.ca/index.php/appeal/article/viewFile/11892/3378>

### **SECTION IV: SOCIAL INEQUALITY**

INEQUALITY OF WEALTH AND INCOME

Chapter 10, Naiman (Week 18, February 9-11)

RACE AND ETHNICITY (Week 19 February 16-18)

- Chapter 11, Naiman
- Chapter 11, Schwalbe

## **FEBRUARY Break** – February 23-27

### RACE AND ETHNICITY (Con't) (Week 20, Feb 16 – March 4)

- Chapter 11, Naiman con't
- DVD: What does it mean to be white?
- *White Privilege, Male Privilege* by Peggy McIntosh
- <http://www.isr.umich.edu/home/diversity/resources/white-privilege.pdf>

### GENDER ISSUES (Week 20-23)

- Chapter 12, Naiman
- Chapter 11, Schwalbe (con't)
- *X: A Fabulous Child Story* by L. Gould  
<http://coe.k-state.edu/about/download/profdev/X%20story.pdf>
- Can you Really raise a genderless child?  
<http://jezebel.com/5804667/can-you-really-raise-a-child-without-gender>
- *Contextualizing the Employment decisions of new mothers* by S. Waltzer (1997)
- <http://journals.uvic.ca/index.php/appeal/article/viewFile/11892/3378>

## **SECTION V: Social Change**

### SOCIAL CHANGE -Looking toward the future (Week 24 &25, March 30-April 8)

- Chapter 13, Naiman
- Chapter 12, Schwalbe