

**St. Francis Xavier University
Department of Sociology
2014/2015 Term**

**Introductory Sociology - SOCI 100.17
Tuesdays 9:45-11:00 AM; Thursdays 8:15-9:30
Room: NH 342**

Instructor: Deirdre M. Smythe, PhD
OFFICE: Room AX 9A.
TELEPHONE: (902) 867-5217.
E-MAIL: dsmythe@stfx.ca
OFFICE HOURS: *By appointment.*

REQUIRED TEXTBOOK:

Naiman, Joanne. 2012. *How Societies Work: Class, Power and Change*. 5th Edition. Black Point, NS: Fernwood. Paperback ISBN: 9781552664650. \$54.95

COURSE DESCRIPTION:

Welcome to SOCI 100.17 - Introductory Sociology! This course will provide students with an overview of the compelling field of sociology, the scientific study of societies and the behaviour of their peoples. Sociologists attempt to explain the ‘taken-for-granted’ qualities of everyday life as well as to provide a coherent framework from which to understand the world. We will learn to analyze social life from a number of perspectives, including gender, ‘race’ and class inequalities. We will also examine how sociological concepts can explain such serious social problems such as family violence, poverty, racism and crime.

The discipline of sociology and its theories can be baffling to new students. You might not understand it immediately, as these new ideas take time to absorb. It helps to know that sociology has *competing* theories or sets of ideas called **paradigms** that are adopted and supported by communities of scholars. The course will involve the observation of sociological themes through each of these paradigms. By the end of the course, you should understand the most important sociological theories, have a deeper understanding of your social surroundings and how they impact your life chances, and have acquired a basic ability to analyze your society.

CLASSROOM POLICIES (PLEASE READ CAREFULLY):

- 1. Before you e-mail or call me, consult the course outline!**
2. Lectures will not be posted online. Lectures are based on materials that supplement our textbook, and you will be responsible for the lecture content, as well the required readings in our textbook on midterm and final examinations.

3. According to the STFX regulations outlined in the Academic Calendar, classroom attendance is mandatory, and attendance will be taken. After an absence of more than one class, students should contact the professor or instructor. In the case of sudden emergency requiring an absence of more than five days, students should contact the dean's office. Faculty is required to report to the dean all unexplained absences of students in excess of three hours over at least two classes in any term.
4. Teaching and learning in this course is not based on a corporate model. Students' tuition fees do not entitle them to high marks and unlimited attention, and 'customer service' is not part of a professor's job description. In my classes, I encourage professionalism, academic integrity, respect for human rights, and critical pedagogy.
5. The use of laptops during class time for anything other than note-taking will result in the loss of laptop privileges. **The use of cell phones, smart phones or Blackberries is strictly prohibited. Please make sure your phone is turned off.**
6. **Grades cannot be negotiated.** Grading rationales and marking schemes are provided for each test/examination, and guidance will be provided for improving your work. For marks deemed to be unfair, please make use of the STFX grade appeal procedure.
7. Conflicts on examination schedules must be reported promptly with supporting documentation. Illness during exam periods must be documented by a doctor's note.
8. Students with a disability and who need special accommodation are encouraged to notify the instructor at the beginning of the year, and to contact the Coordinator for Centre for Accessible Learning located in Room 424 of the Bloomfield Centre. **The contact person is Elizabeth Kell, Coordinator, at (902) 867-3633 or by e-mail, ekell@stfx.ca.**

POLICY ON ACADEMIC INTEGRITY:

All students at St. Francis Xavier University are expected to conduct themselves in an ethical manner in their academic work. It is the policy of the university that academic dishonesty in any form is not acceptable. Academic dishonesty is defined as any act, practice or behaviour that gives a student an unearned academic advantage over another or that counteracts or undermines the integrity of academic or scholarly endeavor at St. Francis Xavier University.

If a student is caught cheating on an exam or assignment, there will be no second chances, because you have been prepared and warned in advance. The student who cheats will be given an automatic mark of zero, and will be reported by letter to the Department Chair, the Dean of Arts and the Registrar at St. Francis Xavier University. For a detailed description of what constitutes an offense against academic integrity and its repercussions, please refer to the St. Francis Xavier University full academic integrity policies and procedures document available at: http://www.sites.stfx.ca/registrars_office/sites/sites.stfx.ca/registrars_office/files/academic-integrity-document.pdf.

E-MAIL POLICY:

E-mail will be answered during the week within 48 hours. Mail is not answered on the weekends and I do not take calls at my home.

The **Course Outline** is designed to provide to you all my responses to individual questions about course content and examinations. Before you e-mail me with a question, you are expected to check the content here first to make sure clarification has not already been given. If the question has been asked is on the syllabus, I will not answer it. Questions of a personal, individual nature will be responded to privately via email.

COURSE EVALUATION:

Fall Semester:

October in-class Quiz:	10% <u>TUESDAY OCTOBER 21, 2014.</u>
December Exam:	40% (TBA)
Total:	50%

Winter Semester:

Mid-term in-class Quiz	10% <u>THURSDAY FEBRUARY 19, 2015.</u>
Final Exam:	40% (TBA)
Total:	100%

REQUIRED READINGS:

Note: Required readings are taken up at the beginning of the **FIRST** class of the week in a **Question Period**. Your weekly required reading should be done by that time.

Fall Semester 2014:

Week 1 (Sept. 8-12, 2014): Naiman, Chapter 1, pp. 1-24. Defining Sociology.

Week 2 (Sept. 15-19, 2014): Lectures on Theory.*

Week 3 (Sept. 22-26, 2014): Lectures on Method and Methodology.*

Week 4 (Sept. 29 – Oct. 3, 2014): Naiman, Chapter 2, pp. 25-43. Biological determinism.

Week 5 (Oct. 6-10, 2014): Naiman, Chapter 3, pp. 45-51. Defining Culture.

Week 6 (Oct. 13-17, 2014): Naiman, Chapter 3, pp. 52-66. Early Societies.

Week 7 (October 20-24, 2014): Naiman, Chapter 4, pp. 67-76. Feudalism. ***Tuesday, Oct. 21, 2014 – Midterm Quiz in Class.**

Week 8 (Oct. 27-31, 2014): Naiman, Chapter 4, pp.76-94. Capitalism.

Week 9 (Nov. 3-7, 2014): Naiman, Chapter 5, pp. 96-102. Social Class.

Week 10 (Nov. 10-14, 2014): Naiman, Chapter 5, pp. 102-116. The Owning Class and the Working Class.

Week 11 (Nov. 17-21, 2014): Naiman, Chapter 6, pp. 117-129. Work.

Week 12 (Nov. 24-28, 2014): Naiman, Chapter 6, pp. 129-140. The Culture of Capitalism.

Winter Semester 2015:

Week 1 (Jan. 5-9, 2015): Naiman, Chapter 7, pp. 141-155. Ideology.

Week 2 (Jan. 12-16, 2015): Naiman, Chapter 7, pp. 156-163. Education.

Week 3 (Jan. 19-23, 2015): Naiman, Chapter 8, pp. 165-172. The Modern State.

Week 4 (Jan. 26-30, 2014): Naiman, Chapter 8, pp. 173-190. The State and Coercion.

Week 5 (Feb. 2-6, 2015): Naiman, Chapter 9, pp. 191-195. The Rise of the Welfare State.

Week 6 (Feb. 9-13, 2015): Naiman, Chapter 9, pp. 195-211. Neoliberalism.

Week 7 (Feb. 16-20, 2015): Naiman, Chapter 10, pp. 212-220. Social Inequality. * **Thursday Feb. 19, 2015 – Midterm Quiz in class.**

FEBRUARY 23 – FEBRUARY 27, 2015 – MIDTERM RECESS

Week 8 (Mar. 2-6, 2015): Naiman, Chapter 10, pp. 220-237. Canadian and Global Inequality.

Week 9 (Mar. 9-13, 2015): Naiman, Chapter 11, pp. 240-247. Scientific Racism.

Week 10 (Mar. 16-20, 2015): Naiman, Chapter 11, pp. 247-263. Racism in Canada.

Week 11 (Mar. 23-27, 2015): Naiman, Chapter 12, pp. 264-269. The Roots of Gender Inequality.

Week 12: (Mar. 30-Apr. 2, 2015): Naiman, Chapter 12, pp. 269-287. Theories of Gender Inequality.

***There are no required readings for these lectures, but you are responsible for the content.**