

Sociology 100.13: Introduction to Sociology
St. Francis Xavier University
Department of Sociology
Fall and Winter 2012-2013

Instructor: Dr. Peter Mallory
Office Hours (Fall Term): Tues. 12:00-1:00;
Wed. 1:00-3:00; Thurs. 11:00-12:00
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Lecture Schedule

T1 and T2, Tuesday and Thursday 3:45-5:00

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%
Fall Term Essay	20%
December Exam	25%
February In-Class Test	15%
April Exam	30%

Essay:

There will be one short essay assignment in the fall term. The completed papers will be between 6-8 pages in length (250 words per page, 12 point standard font, double spaced). It will be due no later than **November 22**.

Tests and Exams:

There will be two in-class tests, one on **Thursday, October 11** and one on **Thursday, February 14**. 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.

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. A professor's 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 calendar).

Class Attendance

The university has a policy on class attendance which is outlined in the Academic Calendar (section 3.7) which you should review.

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 participation in the course, please contact me 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 with me as soon as they become apparent so that we can work out a way of responding to them.

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

Sept 6 Introductions – What is Sociology? Why Study it?

Overview of the course and syllabus

Sept 11 & 13 Sociology as a Way of Seeing

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.

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.

Sept 18 & 20 The Social Shaping of Disaster as an example of Sociology

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.

Sept 25 & 27

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 2 & 4

Culture, Symbols and Meaning

White, Leslie A. 2007 [original 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.

Becker, Howard. 2002. "Culture: A Sociological View." Pp. 238-243 in *The Meaning of Sociology*. Upper Saddle River, NJ: Prentice Hall

Geertz, Clifford. 2002 [original 1973]. "Thick Description: Towards and Interpretive Theory of Culture." Pp. 63-68 in *Cultural Sociology*, edited by L. Spillman. Malden, MA: Blackwell.

Oct 9 & 11

Self and Socialization

*Test Thursday, October 11

Karp, David and Lynda Holmstrom and Paul Gray. 1998. "Leaving Home for College: Expectations for Selective Reconstruction of Self." *Symbolic Interaction* 21(3): 253- 276.

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.

Oct 16 & 18

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

Oct 23 & 25

Total Institutions

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

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.

Oct 30 & Nov 1

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 6 & 8

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.

Nov 13 & 15

Social 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 20,
22 & 27**

Class, Culture and Social Inequality

**Essay Due November 22

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.

Nov 29

Review

Study Guide Distributed for Exam

SECOND TERM LECTURE SCHEDULE AND READINGS

Jan 8 & 10

Classical Sociological Theory: Emile Durkheim

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

Durkheim, Émile. 2008 [original 1912]. "The Elementary Forms of Religious Life." Pp. 72-80 in *Readings in Social Theory: The Classic Tradition to Post-Modernism*, edited by J. Farganis. Toronto: McGraw Hill.

Jan 15 & 17

Classical Sociological Theory: Max Weber

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

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.

Jan 22 & 24

Sociology of Education – 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.

Jan 29 & 31

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.

Feb 5 & 7

Sex and Gender

Gardner, Carole Brooks. 1980. "Passing By: Street Remarks, Address Rights and the Urban Female." *Sociological Inquiry*, 50: 328-356.

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.

Feb 12 & 14

Race and Racism

*Test Thursday, Feb. 14

Du Bois, W. E. B. 2007 [original 1903]. "Of Our Spiritual Strivings." Pp. 7-14 in *The Souls of Black Folks*. New York: Oxford.

Collins, Patricia Hill. 1986. "Learning from the Outsider Within: The Sociological Significance of Black Feminist Thought." *Social Problems* 33(6): S14-S32.

Feb 19 & 21

Race and Racism

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*. Fernwood Publishing: Halifax, NS.

Perreux, Les. 2010. Racism's Long History in Quiet East Coast Towns. *The Globe and Mail*. Friday, May 21.

Feb 26 & 28

Spring Recess – No Classes

Enjoy !

Mar 5 & 7

Respect, Disrespect and Inequality

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.

Mar 12 & 14

Respect, Disrespect and Inequality

Goffman, Erving. 1963. "Stigma and Social Identity." Pp. 1-19 in *Stigma: Notes on the Management of*

Spoiled Identity. Englewood Cliffs, NJ: Prentice Hall.

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

Mar 19 & 21

Personal Relationships: Gift 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.

**Mar 26 & 28
& Apr 2**

Personal Relationships: Friends and Family

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

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 4

Review

Study Guide Distributed for Exam