



SOCI 101.14

Introduction to Sociology I



The aim of this course is to help students to think critically and creatively about their society using the “sociological imagination.” The sociological imagination is a skill, a “habit of mind” that allows us to see underlying and often hidden structures of societies and to use that perception to shed light on social events, trends and even individual behaviour and personal experience. We will also learn how to test our ideas through discussion, argument and evidence. We will apply these skills of analysis to some of the most important social issues of our time.

Professor Bantjes

621 Nicholson Tower
902-867-2479

Please visit me to talk about the course, especially if you are having difficulties:

- Tuesday 11:15-2:00
- Wednesday 11:15-12:30
- Thursday 11:15-12:30

Classroom

Immaculata 114

Readings

Perusall (<https://perusall.com/>)
Key: BANTJES-NL97B

Assignments

<https://moodle.stfx.ca/>

Grading Scheme

Engagement with Readings – 22%
Midterm Exam (October 14) - 16%
Participation in class – 6%
Sociology Book Choice (Nov 1) - 8%
Research proposal (Nov 22)- 18%
Final Exam - 30%



I – Human Nature

Sept 8 Course materials
Sept 9 Solnit, *A Paradise Built in Hell* (selections)

2 – The Sociological Imagination

Sept 13 Solnit, *A Paradise Built in Hell* (selections)
Sept 15 Johnson, “1 - The Forest, the Trees, and the One Thing”
Sept 16

3 – Bureaucracy as Social Structure

Sept 20 Bantjes, “Bureaucratization and Anarchist Resistance”
Sept 22
Sept 23

4 – Identity and Socialization

Sept 27 Johnson, “5 - Us, It, and Social Interaction”
Sept 29 Lavrence and Cambre, “Do I Look Like My Selfie?': Filters and the Digital-Forensic Gaze”
Sept 30

5 – Sociological Imagination: Suicide

Oct 4 Abi-Jaoude, et al., “Smartphones, Social Media Use and Youth Mental Health”
Oct 6 Durkheim, *Suicide* (excerpts)
Oct 7

6 – Social Structures: Class, Race and Gender

Oct 11 Thanksgiving, no class
Oct 13 Johnson, “3 - The Structures of Social Life”
Day, “No Scrubs”
Oct 14 Midterm Exam
Oct 18 Johnson, “Why Is There Poverty? Putting the ‘Social’ Back into Social Problems”
Oct 20

7 – Capitalism

Oct 21 Smith, *Wealth of Nations* (excerpts)
Oct 25 Bantjes, “The Anti-Capitalism of Marx and Engels”
Oct 27
Oct 28

8 – Culture

Nov 1 Johnson, “2 – Culture” /Sociology Book Choice due
Nov 3 (last day to drop)
Nov 4

Break

Nov 8 Catch up on Perusall
Nov 10 Library research for your research proposal
Nov 11



9 – Colonialism /Indigeneity

- Nov 15 Canada, Truth and Reconciliation Commission, *Honouring the Truth, Reconciling for the Future*
- Nov 17 Lindeman, "'Revolution Is Alive': Canada Protests Spawn Climate and Indigenous Rights Movement"
- Nov 18
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10 – Panopticon /Surveillance Society

- Nov 22 Bentham, "Panopticon" /**Research Proposal due**
- Nov 24 Zuboff, "Data, Extraction, Analysis"
- Nov 25
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11 – Environment

- Nov 29 Johnson, "Population and Human Ecology"
- Dec 1 Beer, "The Latest IPCC Report Is a Mental Health Minefield"
- Dec 2
- Dec 6 Review