

**SOC101.15: Introduction to Sociology I**  
**Instructor: Dr. P. Cormack**  
**Fall Term, 2022**  
**Department of Sociology, St. Francis Xavier University**

**Office: 605 Nicholson Tower**

**Office hours:** Tues, 9:15-11:00; Wed, 11:15-2:00; Fri, 10:15-12:00.

**Email:** [pcormack@stfx.ca](mailto:pcormack@stfx.ca)

This course will introduce you to thinking and researching sociologically. Topics include questioning everyday ideas, inequalities (race, gender, social class, etc.), and modern life. This is a reading-based course, so come to class having read the assigned texts.

*Everyone learns more effectively in a respectful, safe and equitable learning environment, free from discrimination and harassment. I invite you to work with me to create a classroom space – both real and virtual – that fosters and promotes values of human dignity, equity, non-discrimination and respect for diversity. Please feel free to talk with me about your questions or concerns about equity in our classroom or in the STFX community in general. If I cannot answer your questions or help you address your concerns, I encourage you to talk to the Chair/Coordinator of the Department/Program or the Human Rights and Equity Advisor. The Human Rights and Equity Advisor is Megan Fogarty. Megan can be contacted by email at [mfogarty@stfx.ca](mailto:mfogarty@stfx.ca) or by telephone at 902-867-5306.*

ACADEMIC INTEGRITY – The Academic Integrity Policy may be found at: <https://www.mystfx.ca/registrars-office/academic-integrity>. Please read this document before this course begins to avoid violating these rules.

DROP DATE - Students may drop a course, online in Banner, on or before the relevant deadline. See the calendar of events in the StFX Academic Calendar for the drop-date.

Required Reading: SOC101 moodle posts.

Evaluation:

You are allowed to bring in a “cheat sheet” for your quizzes and exams with any information you like on it. I will hand out an index card for you to use as your cheat. You may either write on it or paste your computer notes on it. If you misplace your index card, just cut a 4” x 6” piece of paper.

Part of your grade is based on class participation. You will be divided into working groups. Please sit with your group each class. Groups will be asked to begin class discussion of the day's assigned reading. On moodle you will find a list of general questions to help you with your reading and your group responses. Individually prepare these answers before you come to class and bring your notes to share with your group.

#### Grade Breakdown:

- **Quizzes\* 4 quizzes x 10 points each = 40 points**
- **Participation = 10 points**
- **Final exam = 50 points**

\*Missed quizzes **cannot be taken**. Your grade will be prorated to account for missed quizzes. **ALL QUIZZES MUST BE WRITTEN IN THE CLASSROOM – STUDENTS WHO DO NOT SIGN THE ATTENDANCE SHEET WILL GET A GRADE OF ZERO.**

\*\* If you miss more than 5 classes you will forfeit your participation grade. You may write a 2500-word essay to make up for the participation grade. If you would like to do this, please come to see me about making this arrangement before classes end. After the last day of classes, this option is no longer available.

\*\*\*\*\*

### **LECTURE AND READING SCHEDULE**

#### **What is society and what is sociology?**

Sept 6 – Singh, J. 2014. “The Ideological roots of Stephen Harper’s Vendetta against Sociology”, Toronto Star.

Sept 7 and 9 - Durkheim, E. 1895. “What is a Social Fact?” The Rules of Sociological Method. (Pages 50-59 required only.)

#### **Thinking About Emotions**

Sept 13 - Hochschild, A. 1979. “Emotion Work and Feeling Rules.” (The section called “The Interactive Account of Emotion and Social Psychology” can be skipped.)

Sept 14 and 16 - Hochschild, A. 1992. “The Economy of Gratitude.”

**\*\*\*\*\*SEPT 20 QUIZ #1 \*\*\*\*\***

**Thinking about Nature and Climate**

Sept 22 - Brym, R. 2015. "Hurricane Katrina and the Myth of Natural Disasters."

Sept 23 - Klinenberg, E. 2004. "Denaturalizing Disaster: A Social Autopsy of the 1995 Chicago Heat Wave."

**Thinking about Behaviour**

Sept 27 – Merton, R. 1948. "The Self-Fulfilling Prophecy." (Parts I and II required only.)

Sept 28 – Smith, D. 1979. "The Authority of the Male Voice."

Sept 30 - Cherlin, Andrew. 2004. "The Deinstitutionalization of American Marriage."

Oct 4 – Mills, C.W. 1959. "The Promise".

**\*\*\*\*\*OCT 5 QUIZ #2 \*\*\*\*\***

**Self and Interaction**

Oct 7 - Goffman, Erving. 1959. The Presentation of Self in Everyday Life.

Oct 11 and 12 - Goffman, Erving. 1961 "The Mortified Self."

**Social Class and Social Inequality**

Oct 14 - Bourgois, P. 2009. "Poverty at Work: Office Employment and the Crack Alternative."

Oct 18 - Hamilton, L. and Armstrong. 2012, E. "The (Mis)Education of Monica and Karen."

Oct 19 – Gans, H. 1971. "The Uses of Poverty".

**\*\*\*\*\* OCT 21 QUIZ #3 \*\*\*\*\***

**Racism and White Privilege**

Oct 25 - Du Bois, W.E.B. 1903. "The Souls of Black Folk".

Oct 26 – Simmel, G. 1908. “The Stranger”.

Oct 28 – Anderson, E. 1994. “The Code of the Streets.”

Nov 1 - Hochschild, A. 2016. “I Spent 5 Years with Some of Trump’s Biggest Fans. Here’s What They Won’t Tell You.”

Nov 2 - Goffman, A. 2009. “On The Run: Wanted Men in a Philadelphia Ghetto.”

Nov 4 - Truth and Reconciliation Report. 2015. Indigenous Survivors Speak. (Pages 3-45 required only.)

**BREAK – NO CLASSES NOV 7 – 11<sup>TH</sup>**

**\*\*\*\*\* NOV 15 QUIZ #4\*\*\*\*\***

### **The Classics**

Nov 16 – Durkheim – on crime (lecture only, no reading).

Nov 18 – Durkheim – on suicide (lecture only, no reading)

Nov 22 – Weber, M. 1917. “Science as a Vocation” (from page 6, new paragraph to page 9, “... our ultimate position toward life.”)

Nov 23 – Weber – on bureaucracy (lecture only, no reading)

Nov 25 – Marx, K. and Engel, F. 1848. “The Manifesto of the Communist Party” (Part I – Bourgeois and Proletarians”)

Nov 29 – Marx and Engels, continued.

Nov 30 - faux quiz

Dec 2 – REVIEW for EXAM ---- **FINAL EXAM - TBA**