

SOC101.15: Introduction to Sociology I
Instructor: Dr. P. Cormack
Fall Term, 2020 (online)
Department of Sociology, St. Francis Xavier University

Office hours: 11:15-1:00 (Monday – Friday) by appointment (Teams or Collaborate).
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This course will introduce you to thinking and researching sociologically. Topics include questioning everyday ideas, inequalities (race, gender, social class, etc.), and modern life. We will cover the classic thinkers as well as contemporary issues.

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 or by telephone at 902-867-5306.

Required Reading: All readings are posted to our moodle site.

Grade Breakdown:

- **Quizzes* (4 x 20 points each) = 80 points (See below for quiz dates.)**
- **Forum** posts (20 x 1 point each) = 20 points**
- **Optional bonus forum (see moodle) = 5 points**

*Missed quizzes **cannot be taken**. Your grade and will be prorated to account for missed quizzes. Each quiz will have 20 short-answer questions. You will be given 30 minutes to complete quizzes in class time and submit your answers to moodle. You are encouraged to create a “cheat sheet” for your quizzes (see moodle).

** All forum posts (to moodle) are due by 4PM each Friday for the readings covered that week. Moodle will close to postings at this time. Each post should be about 50 words. See moodle for details about the assessment of your forum posts. Missed forum **posts cannot be made up**. If you miss a forum post, work toward strong future posts to bring up your forum grade.

LECTURE AND READING SCHEDULE

What is society and what is sociology?

Sept 16: Singh, J. 2014. "The Ideological roots of Stephen Harper's Vendetta against Sociology", Toronto Star.

Sept 18 and 22: Durkheim, E. 1895. "What is a Social Fact?", The Rules of Sociological Method.

Thinking About Emotions

Sept 23: Hochschild, A. 1979. "Emotion Work and Feeling Rules." (*You can skip the section called "The Interactive Account of Emotion and Social Psychology".*)

Sept 25 and 29: Hochschild, A. 1992. "The Economy of Gratitude."

SEPT 30 – QUIZ #1

Thinking about Nature and Climate

Oct 2: Brym, R. 2015. "Hurricane Katrina and the Myth of Natural Disasters."

Oct 6: Klinenberg, E. 2004. "Denaturalizing Disaster: A Social Autopsy of the 1995 Chicago Heat Wave."

Oct 7: Pierre Bourdieu lecture (no reading)

Thinking about Behavior

Oct 9: Merton, R. 1948. "The Self-fulfilling Prophecy".

Oct 13: Cherlin, A. 2004. "The Deinstitutionalization of American Marriage."

Oct 14: Mills, C.W. 1959. "The Promise", The Sociological Imagination.

Self and Interaction

Oct 16: Goffman, E. 1959. The Presentation of Self in Everyday Life.

Oct 20 and 21: Goffman, E. 1961 "The Mortified Self."

OCT 23 – QUIZ #2

Social Class and Gender

Oct 27: Bourgois, P. 2009. "Poverty at Work: Office Employment and the Crack Alternative."

Oct 28: Hamilton, L. and Armstrong, E. 2012. "The (Mis)Education of Monica and Karen."

Oct 30: Marx lecture (no reading)

Racism and White Privilege

Nov 3: Indigenous Survivors. 2015. "Truth and Reconciliation Report". (p. 3-45)

Nov 4: Anderson, E. 1994. "The Code of the Streets".

Nov 6: Du Bois lecture (no reading)

Nov 10: Du Bois, W.E.B. 1903. "The Souls of Black Folk".

NOVEMBER 11 – REMEMBRANCE DAY (NO CLASSES)

Nov 13 - Quiz #3

Marginality

Nov 17: Gans, H. 1971. "The Uses of Poverty".

Nov 18 and 20: Goffman, A. 2009. "On The Run: Wanted Men in a Philadelphia Ghetto."

Nov 24: Hochschild, A. 2016. "I Spent 5 Years with Some of Trump's Biggest Fans. Here's What They Won't Tell You."

Nov 25: Weber lecture (no reading)

Nov 27: Parnis, D. and Du Mont, J. 2006. "Symbolic Power and the Institutional Response to Rape: Uncovering the Cultural Dynamics of a Forensic Technology." (*You can skip the part called "Bringing in the Cultural"*)

Dec 1 and 2: Simmel, G. 1908. "The Stranger".

(Optional bonus forum – due Dec.4)

QUIZ #4 (Date to be announced – EXAM PERIOD)

