

St. Francis Xavier University - Department of Sociology
Sociology 101.16: Foundation of Sociology - Fall 2018

Instructor: Dr. Deirdre M. Smythe
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Lecture Schedule

Tuesday: 3:45-5:00 PM - IM 114 (Immaculata Auditorium)
Thursday: 2:15-3:30 PM – IM 114 (Immaculata Auditorium)

Course Description

Welcome to SOCI 101.16. This course will provide students with an introduction to 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.

Required Text

A **course pack** of readings is available at the Campus Store. Be sure the book you purchase is for this section of Sociology 101. Look for the name **Professor Peter Mallory** on the front cover.

Johnson, Allan G. *The Forest and the Trees: Sociology as Life, Practice and Promise*. Third Edition. Temple University Press, 2014. **ISBN-13:** 978-1439911877.

Course Evaluation

October Test 20%
Essay 30%
Final Exam 50%

Reflexive Essay:

In sociology, the reflexive method includes both a subjective process of self-conscious inquiry (self-awareness) and the study of social behavior with reference to relevant theories. In this paper, I would like you to choose one area of sociology that particularly interests you. It can be either historical or contemporary. Be sure that the area you choose is focused; it is better to write a lot about a small subject than to write a little about a large research area. Begin with a brief introduction, and follow with a theoretical framework that we have taken up in class that is appropriate for your topic. Then analyze your choice of a subject matter. Your choice of a theoretical framework and the analysis should be well-matched, in other words, you should not have to force fit sociological concepts on the issue to produce the paper. The conceptual framework for this assignment should emerge from the data, the problem itself. To conclude your paper, suggest a possible solution to the situation or set of circumstances. **Five pages, double-spaced. Five (5) scholarly references. MLA Style. REFLEXIVE ESSAY DUE: Thursday November 22, 2018.**

Tests and Exams:

There will be a multiple choice, mid-term test worth 20% of your final grade during the October exam period on **OCTOBER 23, 2018** in class. A closed-book exam will be held in the December exam period (date and time TBA). An outline of the final exam will be distributed by mass e-mail four weeks beforehand.

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 **MLA style 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. Please ensure that you fully understand this policy (see section 3.8 in the calendar).

Classroom Technology

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, i-phones, smart phones or Blackberries is strictly prohibited. Please make sure your phone is turned off.**

Accommodations

If you develop a prolonged illness that will affect your progress in the course, please notify the Office of the Dean of Arts (jaker@stfx.ca) as soon as the problem becomes apparent. If you have problems of a personal or emotional nature that will impact your work, do not hesitate to contact me immediately if I can be of assistance.

Students with a disability and those who need special accommodation are encouraged to notify the instructor at the beginning of the year, and to register with the Tramble Centre for Accessible Learning located on the first floor of the Angus L. MacDonald Library, Room 108. They are open between 8:00am and 4:30pm, Monday to Friday. To register with the Centre, students require supporting documentation. **The contact person is Elizabeth Kell, Coordinator, at (902) 867-3633 or by e-mail, ekell@stfx.ca.**

LECTURE SCHEDULE AND READINGS

Sept. 4 and 6: Introductions – What is Sociology? Why Study It?

“The Forest, the Trees, and the One Thing.” In: Johnson, Allan G. *The Forest and the Trees: Sociology as Life, Practice and Promise*. Third Edition. Temple University Press, 2014. Chapter 1, pp. 7-30.

Berger, Peter. “Sociology and Freedom.” Pp. 39-40. **Coursepack.**

Sept. 11 and 13: Thinking Socially About “Natural” Disasters

Brym, Robert. 2008. “Hurricane Katrina and the Myth of Natural Disasters.” Pp. 1-14. **Coursepack.**

Klineberg, Eric. “Denaturalizing Disaster: A Social Autopsy of the 1995 Chicago Heat Wave.” Pp. 15-24. **Coursepack.**

Sept. 18 and 20: Thinking Socially About Emotions

Hochschild, Arlie. “Emotion Work and Feeling Rules.” Pp. 25-30. **Coursepack.**

Hochschild, Arlie. 1992. “The Managed Heart: Commercialization of Human Feeling.” Pp. 31-37. **Coursepack.**

Sept. 25 and 27: Classical Sociological Theory - Emile Durkheim

***Readings will be distributed by e-mail attachment.**

Oct. 2 and 4: Culture, Symbols, and Meaning

“Culture: Symbols, Ideas and the Stuff of Life.” In: Johnson, Allan G. *The Forest and the Trees: Sociology as Life, Practice and Promise*. Third Edition. Temple University Press, 2014. Chapter 2, pp. 31-62.

Oct. 9 and 11: Classical Sociological Theory - Karl Marx

***Readings will be distributed by e-mail attachment.**

Oct. 16 and 18: Total Institutions

Goffman, Erving. *The Presentation of Self in Everyday Life*. Introduction and Chapter One. **Coursepack**. Pp. 87-96.

Goffman, Erving. "The Mortified Self." **Coursepack**. Pp. 97-102.

Oct. 23* and 25: Obedience and Authority

Milgram, Stanley. "The Perils of Obedience." **Coursepack**. Pp. 41-48.

Kelman, Herbert and Lee Hamilton. 2002. "The My Lai Massacres: Crimes of Obedience and Sanctioned Massacres." **Coursepack**. Pp. 49-64.

***Midterm Test in class.**

Oct. 30 and Nov. 1: Classical Sociological Theory - Max Weber

***Readings will be distributed by e-mail attachment.**

Nov. 6 and 8: Self and Socialization

"Us, It and Social Interaction." In: Johnson, Allan G. *The Forest and the Trees: Sociology as Life, Practice and Promise*. Third Edition. Temple University Press, 2014. Chapter 5. Pp. 107-124.

Nov. 13 and 15: Class, Culture, and Social Inequality

"Sociology as Worldview: Where White Privilege Came From." In: Johnson, Allan G. *The Forest and the Trees: Sociology as Life, Practice and Promise*. Third Edition. Temple University Press, 2014. Chapter 7. Pp. 147-160.

Bourgois, Philippe. "Poverty at Work: Office Employment and the Crack Alternative." **Coursepack**. Pp. 103-116.

Nov. 20 and 22*: Class and Culture in Universities

Hamilton, Laura and Elizabeth Armstrong. "The (Mis)Education of Monica and Karen." **Coursepack**. Pp. 117-122.

***Reflexive Essay Due in Class**

Nov. 27 and 29: Objectivity and Bias in Social Research

Becker, Howard. "Whose Side are We On?" **Coursepack**. Pp. 133-141.

Hochschild, Arlie. "I Spent Five Years With Some of Trump's Biggest Fans: Here's What They Won't Tell You." **Coursepack**. Pp. 123-132.