

St. Francis Xavier University
Department of Sociology
Winter 2021

Course: SOCI 102 Introduction to Sociology II
Instructor: Dr. Peter Mallory
Email: pmallory@stfx.ca
Lecture Schedule Z4/Z5 Tuesday 12:45-2:00; Thursday 11:15-12:30

Online Office Hours: Monday 10:00-11:00AM; Tuesday 10:00-11:00AM
Wednesday 1:00-3:00PM, or by appointment.

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 that sociologists use to understand our world. Sociology is a diverse discipline, and one aim of this course is to give you a sampling of the diversity of perspectives and insights in sociology. At the same time, we will also discuss 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 sociologically about issues of our contemporary world.

Course Objectives

By the end of the course, you will be able to:

- Develop your sociological imagination and use it to understand social issues
- Understand the main concepts and theoretical perspectives in sociology and know how to apply them to topics and problems
- Understand the research methods and types of evidence sociologists use
- Critically analyze common sense and taken-for-granted ideas about the social world
- Analyze the structural factors that contribute to social inequalities
- Develop university-level skills of note-taking, reading, critical thinking, studying, test-taking, and writing

Required Texts

There is no required textbook for this course. Course readings will be either available on Moodle or on reserve at the library. Check Moodle for details. Make sure to print or copy the readings and have them with you during class.

Course Evaluation

February Test	25%
March Test	25%
Final Exam	40%
Class Participation	10%

Tests and Exams:

There will be two in-class tests on February 23 and March 18. A final exam will be held in the April exam period. Both tests and the final exam are open book.

Class Participation:

Active participation is an important part of this course. Participation comprises attendance, active listening, giving other students an opportunity to speak, raising and answering questions, taking part in small-group discussions, and providing relevant comments on the material discussed in lecture and the class readings. Please have the readings with you during class and be prepared to offer your questions and insights.

COURSE INFORMATION AND POLICIES**A Note on Course Content**

We will deal with difficult and sometimes upsetting topics in this course. I invite you to work with me to create a classroom where we can engage with serious issues of justice and injustice in a way that is sensitive to people's experiences. We will approach all topics in a way that uncovers what sociologists have to offer in understanding them. As such, this course may challenge your view of the world.

Attendance

Attending all classes and making effective lecture notes are the best ways to ensure you do well in the course. Please let me know if you will be absent for two or more classes in a row.

If you are unable to attend our class because of a requirement for another course (such as a mandatory class, public lecture, quiz, exam, or class project that is scheduled outside normal class hours), then please contact me.

Student Office Hours

I hold regular online office hours throughout the week, and you do not need an appointment. A link and instructions on how to connect to my office hours is posted on Moodle.

Academic Honesty and Plagiarism

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 (see section 3.8 in the calendar). If you have questions about plagiarism, academic honesty, or how to reference sources, you can speak with me during my office hours.

Special Accommodations

If you develop a prolonged illness or encounter a personal crisis that will impact your progress in the course, please contact me as soon as the problem becomes apparent. If you contact me early, we will have a better chance of developing a plan to help you complete the course in a way that is satisfactory to you.

Other Accommodations

If you are a student with physical, learning, or psychiatric disabilities that require reasonable accommodation in teaching style or evaluation, you should either speak with me or contact the Tramble Centre for Accessible Learning so that appropriate arrangements can be made.

Recording of Lectures

All lectures will be recorded and available on Collaborate and you can access the recordings at any time, including during tests and exams. Audio or video recording of lectures by students is not permitted. The recordings on Collaborate are for your personal use only. Please see the note below on copyright and intellectual property.

Copyright of Course Materials

All course materials are designed for use as part of Sociology 102 at St. Francis Xavier University and are the intellectual property of the instructor unless otherwise stated. Copying this material for distribution (e.g. uploading material to a commercial website) may lead to a charge of misconduct under StFX's Community Code of Conduct, the StFX Policy on Academic Integrity, and/or legal consequences for violation of copyright law if copyright law has been violated.

LECTURE SCHEDULE AND READINGS**January 14 Welcome to Sociology 102**

Introductions and overview of course themes. No readings.

January 19 & 21 Personal Troubles/Public Issue: Thinking like a Sociologist

- Mills, C. Wright. 1959. "The Promise." Pp. 3-24 in *The Sociological Imagination*. New York: Oxford University Press.
- Calarco, Jessica and Anne Helen Petersen. 2020. "Other countries have social safety nets. The U.S. has women." *Culture Study*, November 11.

January 26 & 28 Class, Culture, and Social Inequality, Part I

- 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.
- Hamilton, Laura and Elizabeth Armstrong. 2012. "The (Mis)Education of Monica and Karen." *Contexts* 11(4): 22-7.

February 2 & 4 Class, Culture, and Social inequality, Part II

- Lehmann, Wolfgang. 2009. "Becoming Middle Class: How Working-Class University Students Draw and Transgress Moral Class Boundaries." *Sociology* 43(4): 631-647.
- Gans, Herbert. 1972. "The Positive Functions of Poverty." *American Journal of Sociology* 78(2): 275-289.

February 9 & 11 Culture and Action

- Weber, Max. 1978. "Social Action" *Economy and Society: An Outline of Interpretive Sociology*. Berkeley: University of California Press. pp. 22-26.
- Zerubavel, Eviatar. 1996. "Lumping and Splitting: Notes on Social Classification." *Sociological Forum* 1(3): 421-433.
- Becker, Howard. 2009. "Culture: a Sociological View." Pp. 220-225 in *The Meaning of Social Life: A Reader*. Upper Saddle River, NJ: Pearson.

February 16 & 18 Catch up and Review Class

Tuesday, February 16, Study Day – No classes

Thursday, February 18, Catch up and Review Class

February 23* and 25 Gender and Sexual Violence

*Test #1: Tuesday, February 23. Open-book test during regular class time, covering all material from January 14 to February 18.

Thursday

- Armstrong, Elizabeth A., Laura Hamilton, and Brian Sweeney. 2006. "Sexual Assault on Campus: A Multilevel, Integrative Approach to Party Rape." *Social Problems* 53 (4): 483–99.

March 2 & 4 Stigma and Social Interaction

- Goffman, Erving. 1963. "Stigma and Social Identity." Pp. 1-19 in *Stigma: Notes on the Management of Spoiled Identity*. Englewood Cliffs, NJ: Prentice Hall.
- Rosenhan, D.L. 1973. "On Being Sane in Insane Places." *Science* 179: 250-258.
- Goffman, Erving. 1963. "Civil Inattention." Pp. 83-88 in *Behaviour in Public Places: Notes on the Social Organization of Gatherings*. New York: The Free Press.

March 9 & 11 Personal Life: Coupledness and Singlehood

- Hochschild, Arlie. 2003. "The Economy of Gratitude." Pp. 104-118 in *The Commercialization of Intimate Life*. Berkeley, CA: University of California Press.
- Klinenberg, Eric. 2012. *Going Solo: The Extraordinary Rise and Surprising Appeal of Living Alone*. New York: Penguin. Pp. 1-27.
- Roseneil, Sasha. 2020. "It's Time to End the Tyranny of Coupledness." *The Guardian*, November 14.

March 16 and 18* Review and Test #2

Tuesday, March 16, Catch up and Review Class. Bring your questions about the course material to class.

*Test #2 – Thursday, March 18. Open-book test during regular class time, covering all material from February 25 to March 16.

March 23 & 25 Knowledge and Objectivity in the Social Sciences

- DuBois, W. E. B. 2007 [original 1903]. "Of Our Spiritual Strivings." Pp. 7-14 in *The Souls of Black Folk*. New York: Oxford.
- Becker, Howard. 1967. "Whose Side are We On?" *Social Problems* 14(3): 239-247. →

- Molotch, Harvey. 1988. “The Rest Room and Equal Opportunity” *Sociological Forum* 3(1): 128–32.

March 30 & April 1* Education and the University as a Collective Project

- McMillan Cottom, Tressie. 2017. *Lower Ed: The Troubling Rise of For-Profit Colleges in the New Economy*. New York: The New Press. [Excerpt]
- 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.

*Thursday, April 1 – Study Day, no classes

April 6 Housing and Work: Personal Troubles and Public Issues, re-visited

- Rottenberg, Catherine. 2018. “How neoliberalism colonised feminism – and what you can do about it.” *The Conversation*, May 23.
- Desmond, Matthew. 2017. “How Homeownership Became the Engine of American Inequality.” *The New York Times*, May 9.

April 8 Conclusion to the Course

- No readings. Come to class with your questions and be prepared to talk about what you have learned in the course.