



# 201810-SOCI-101.13-Foundation of Sociology

## Course Materials

The following files are guidelines and resources to help you do well in the course.

October Grade – 35%

Reading Quizzes (7) – 10%


Participation in forums and in class – 8%

In-Class Essay (October 27) – 17%

Participation in forums and in class (October 27 to December 1) – 12%

Library Research – 18%

Final Exam – 35%

 Syllabus -- Printable

 Library Research

 Announcements

 Book Publisher rankings

 ASA Citation Format

This is how you cite books and articles in everything you post or submit in this course.

 Plagiarism

How to avoid plagiarism.

 Participation on Moodle

 Participation in Class

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## 1 -- Human Nature and Modernity -- September 5

Required Reading:

- Solnit, Rebecca. 2009 "Prelude: Falling Together" A Paradise Built in Hell: the Extraordinary Communities That Arise in Disasters. New York: Viking.
- Solnit, Rebecca. 2009 "The Mizpah Cafe," "Pauline Jacobsen's Joy," "General Funston's Fear," A

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### Paradise Built in Hell

Concepts: anarchism, altruism /egoism, mutual aid /exploitation, equality /hierarchy, common property, self-fulfilling prophecy, moral economy, public space, privatization, Hobbes vs Rousseau re: human nature, nature vs nurture, socialization, ideology

Questions:

- How do people behave in the absence of external social control? What does that tell us about human nature and about structures of social control?
- Are humans naturally altruistic or naturally self-interested?
- Is there such a thing as human nature; or are humans entirely shaped by their social environment?

Recommended Reading:

- Bowles, Samuel, and Herbert Gintis. 2011. "A Cooperative Species." in *A Cooperative Species: human reciprocity and its evolution*. Princeton: Princeton University Press.



External structure



Understanding Solnit



Quiz: Solnit

## 2 -- Human Nature and Modernity -- September 11

Required Reading:

- Hobbes, Thomas. 1651. "Chapter XIII Of the Natural Condition of Mankind as Concerning Their Felicity and Misery." in *Leviathan*. London: Andrew Crooke. [click here for a modern edition]
- Osnos, Evan. 2017. "Doomsday Prep for the Super-Rich." *The New Yorker*, 30 January. Retrieved 3 August, 2017(<http://www.newyorker.com/magazine/2017/01/30/doomsday-prep-for-the-super-rich>).

Concepts: competitive individualism; social class; class conflict; corporate elite; fear of the "crowd" (or the public); (dis-)trust in systems: the market, the state; civil society; private solutions to public problems

Questions:

- Why, if Hobbes is right that we are equal in our natural capacities, are there enormous inequalities in society?
- What are the systems that maintain social order in the 21st century?
- Are any of these systems fragile and at risk of collapse in the 21st century?

Recommended Reading:



Hobbes and Rousseau



Quiz-Hobbes and Durkheim



Understanding Hobbes

## 3 -- Colonialism and Race -- September 18

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### Required Reading:

- Canada, Truth and Reconciliation Commission of. 2015. Honouring the Truth, Reconciling for the Future: Summary of the Final Report of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada. Winnipeg. [Read the Introduction only.]
- Reeve, Elspeth. 2016. "White Nonsense: Alt-Right Trolls Are Arguing over Genetic Tests They Think "Prove" Their Whiteness " Vice News, Oct 9. Retrieved August 3, 2017(<https://news.vice.com/story/alt-right-trolls-are-getting-23andme-genetic-tests-to-prove-their-whiteness?cl=fp>).

Concepts: Colonialism; racism; assimilation; cultural genocide; modern subjectivity; collective identity; sovereignty; social construction of race; sociobiology; social darwinism; eugenics

### Questions:

- In what ways do states attempt to shape the identities of their citizens?
- Why was the Canadian state so hostile to First Nations identities?
- Are racial categories natural or social?
- How can we explain racism sociologically?

### Recommended Reading:

- Morning, Ann. 2014. "Does Genomics Challenge the Social Construction of Race?". *Sociological Theory* 32(3):189-207. doi: 10.1177/0735275114550881.
- Conley, Dalton and Jason Fletcher. 2017. "What Both the Left and Right Get Wrong About Race: Setting the Scientific Record Straight on Race, IQ, and Success." *Nautilus*, June 1. Retrieved August 3, 2017(<http://nautil.us/issue/48/Chaos/what-both-the-left-and-right-get-wrong-about-race>).



Colonialism and Modern Subjectivity



Quiz-Gift Economy, Assimilation, Reconciliation

## 4 -- The Sociological Imagination -- September 25

### Required Reading:

- Gladwell, Malcolm. 2008. "The Mathew Effect." in *Outliers: The story of success*. London: Allen Lane.
- Durkheim, Emile. 1964. "What is a Social Fact?" in *The Rules of Sociological Method*. New York: Free Press of Glencoe.

Concepts: sociological imagination; social fact; social structure; blaming the victim

### Questions:

- How much of personal achievement can be explained by social structural conditions?
- How much is personal achievement determined by social categories (e.g. citizenship (i.e. within a given nation), race, class, gender)?
- Why is it difficult to see how social facts condition individual experience?

### Recommended Reading:

- Mills, C. Wright. 1959. "The Promise." in *The Sociological Imagination*. New York,: Oxford



University Press.



Durkheim and Social Facts



Quiz-Social Facts

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## 5 -- The Sociological Imagination -- October 3

Required Reading:

- Durkheim, Emile. 1897. "Egoistic Suicide." in *Suicide: A Study in Sociology*. Glencoe, Ill: Free Press.
- Durkheim, Emile. 1897. "Anomic Suicide." in *Suicide: A Study in Sociology*. Glencoe, Ill: Free Press.
- Junger, Sebastian. 2016. "The Men and the Dogs." in *Tribe: on homecoming and belonging*. New York: Harpercollins.

Concepts: Social cohesion; social regulation; suicide rates; egoism; anomie; hunting and gathering societies; altruism; individualism; inequality; evolution of co-operation;

Questions:

- What was it about industrialization in Europe that increased the suicide rate?
- Is individualistic, privatized modern society bad for humans?
- If Durkheim's theory is correct, what changes could be made to society to reduce the suicide rate?

Recommended Reading:

## 6 -- Micro Order and Interaction -- October 10

Required Reading:

- Geiser, Saul. 2001. "Goffman: Rituals of Interaction." in *Conflict, order and action readings in sociology*, edited by David Liu and Edward Ksenych. Toronto: Canadian Scholars' Press.
- Solon, Olivia. 2016. "How Facebook Plans to Take over the World." *The Guardian*. Retrieved: 27 August, 2016 (<https://www.theguardian.com/technology/2016/apr/23/facebook-global-takeover-f8-conference-messenger-chatbots>).

Concepts: performance of self, team, front-stage vs backstage, giving vs giving off impressions, micro-order, symbolic interactionism, dramatization/dramaturgy, face-to-face vs distanced interaction, myth of authenticity, trust, civil inattention, rituals: maintenance, presentation, access, ratification, avoidance

Questions:

- How do people construct (dramatize) and maintain the micro-order?
- How do people construct (dramatize) and maintain their identities within the micro-order?
- What are the similarities and differences in the construction and maintenance of identity online and offline?
- What are the social implications of private firms owning an increasingly complete record of mediated human interactions?

Recommended Reading:

- Goffman, Erving. 1959. *Presentation of self in everyday life*. Garden City: N.Y.





Quiz-Goffman



Quiz-Social Media



Goffman and Self Fulfilling Prophecy

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## 7 -- Culture and Economy -- October 16

Required Reading:

- Harris, Marvin. 1974. "Mother Cow." in Cows, pigs, wars & witches/ the riddles of culture. New York: Random House.
- Monbiot, George. 2014. "Put a Price on Nature? We Must Stop This Neoliberal Road to Ruin " The Guardian, 4 July. Retrieved August 3, 2017(<https://www.theguardian.com/environment/georgemonbiot/2014/jul/24/price-nature-neoliberal-capital-road-ruin>).

Concepts: culture, system, interdependence, latent function, ethnocentrism, cultural relativism, cultural materialism, low energy ecosystem, industrial (capitalist) agriculture; modernization; commodification

Questions:

- What are the functions of the Zebu cow?
- What are the latent functions of cow worship?
- What are the pros and cons of modernization?

Recommended Reading:



Quiz-Mother Cow



Mother Cow

## 8 -- The Market and Liberalism -- October 23

Required Reading:

- Smith, Adam. 1993. [1776] "The Division of Labour" An Inquiry into the Nature and Causes of the Wealth of Nations. Project Gutenberg. [Just read chapters 1 and 2]

Concepts: division of labour in detail, deskilling, cheapening of tasks, gift vs contract, egoism, market logic, liberalism, neo-liberalism, alienation, citizenship, commodification

Questions:

- How are relationships between large numbers of people across vast distance supposed to be coordinated by the market?
- What are the societal costs of market relations according to Adam Smith?
- How does he think that these costs can be minimized?

Recommended Reading:

Monbiot, George. 2014. "Put a Price on Nature? We Must Stop This Neoliberal Road to Ruin " The Guardian, 4 July. Retrieved August 3, 2017(<https://www.theguardian.com/environment/georgemonbiot/2014/jul/24/price-nature-neoliberal-capital-road-ruin>).





## 9 -- Community and Civil Society -- October 30

### Required Reading:

- Kropotkin, Petr Alekseevich. 1910. "Chapter 7: Mutual Aid Amongst Ourselves [pre-Industrial]." in Mutual Aid. London: W. Heinemann.
- Kropotkin, Petr Alekseevich. 1910. "Chapter 8: Mutual Aid Amongst Ourselves [Industrial]." in Mutual Aid. London: W. Heinemann.
- Chen, Michelle 2015. "Are These Strikes a Sign of Growing Militancy among China's Workers?" The Nation, April 9. Retrieved August 4, 2017(<https://www.thenation.com/article/are-these-strikes-sign-growing-militancy-among-chinas-workers/>).

Concepts: Mutual aid; common property; state coercion; unions; co-operatives; civil society; public space

### Questions:

- How and why have states historically opposed people's organizations?
- How have people's organizations helped to create social order?
- How have people's organizations helped to create social change?
- Are people less organized in the 21st century? If so, what are reasons for and social implications of this change?

### Recommended Reading:

- Bantjes, Rod. "Workers of the World Unite!". In Social Movements in a Global Context Canadian Perspectives. Toronto: Canadian Scholars' Press, 2007.
- Marx, Karl, and Friedrich Engels. 1848. Manifesto of the Communist Party. London.

## 10 -- Systems of Domination: Surveillance -- November 6

### Required Reading:

- Bentham, Jeremy. 1791. Panopticon or, the Inspection-House. Dublin: Thomas Byrne.
- Rule, James B. . 2017. "When the Surveillance State Meets Donald Trump." Dissent, August 2. Retrieved August 4, 2017(<https://www.dissentmagazine.org/blog/surveillance-state-meets-donald-trump-repression>).

Concepts: asymmetrical surveillance, panopticism, punishment: retributive vs rehabilitative, centralized social control, atomization, mass society, autonomization of power, internalization

### Questions:

- What is the difference between 'natural policing' (face-to-face, personal) and panopticism (at-a-distance, automated)? How does each work? What are the social consequences when societies rely on impersonal surveillance for social control?
- How can panopticism be designed so that power is not abused (i.e. who watches the watchers)?
- Who (in social class terms) was supposed to be controlled and who was meant to do the controlling in Bentham's time? Is there still class inequality in the way that surveillance works?
- What are the social implications of increasing technological powers of surveillance?

## Recommended Reading:

- Andrejevic, Mark. 2013. "Intelligence Glut: Policing, Security, and Predictive Analysis." in Infoglut: how too much information is changing the way we think and know. London: Routledge.
- Bradshaw, Elizabeth A. 2013. "This is What a Police State Looks Like: Sousveillance, Direct Action and the Anti-corporate Globalization Movement." *Critical Criminology* 21:447-61



My Sociology Book Choice



Understanding Bentham

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## 11 -- Systems of Domination: Bureaucracy -- November 14

### Required Reading:

- Weber, Max. 1946. "Bureaucracy." From *Max Weber: Essays in Sociology*, ed H. H. Gerth and C. W. Mills. New York: Oxford University Press.
- Heer, Jeet 2017. "The Scary Power of Nepotism in Trump's White House." *New Republic*, April 4. Retrieved 3 August, 2017(<https://newrepublic.com/article/141835/scary-power-nepotism-trumps-white-house>).

Concepts: systems of domination, patrimonialism, bureaucracy, hierarchy, division of labour, separation of office and incumbent, meritocracy (inequality of condition and equality of opportunity), corruption, accountability, bureaucratization, state, violence

### Questions:

- In what ways is bureaucracy more efficient and stable than patrimonialism? Is it more fair?
- How, according to Weber, does the process of cultural evolution favour bureaucracy?
- What is the difference between bureaucracy and democracy?
- Is bureaucracy necessary in order to co-ordinate the actions of millions of people over great distances?

### Recommended Reading:

- Bantjes, Rod. 2007. "Bureaucratization and Anarchist Resistance." in *Social Movements in a Global Context Canadian Perspectives*. Toronto: Canadian Scholars' Press.



Bureaucracy

## 12 -- Gender Inequality and Social Change -- November 20

### Required Reading:

- Guppy, Neil and Nicole Luongo. 2015. "The Rise and Stall of Canada's Gender-Equity Revolution." *Canadian Review of Sociology/Revue canadienne de sociologie* 52(3):241-65.

Concepts: gender, public sphere /private sphere, labour force participation, wage gap, occupational segregation, misogyny, sexism, sexualization, sexual harassment, sameness /difference debate, inequality of condition vs inequality of opportunity, feminism, women's movement

### Questions:

- What does it mean to be 'equal'? Have women achieved equality in Canadian society?



- Is sexualization a form of social control? If so, whose interests does it serve?
- Do women feel as safe in public space (online and physical public space) as men? If not, then why not?

Recommended Reading:



Gender Equality

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