

**St. Francis Xavier University**  
**Department of Sociology & Anthropology**

**Sociology 100: Introduction to Sociology – 2011-12**

Dr. John Phyne  
Annex 110A

*Class Times:* Tuesday: 9:45 to 11:05 AM; Thursday: 8:15 to 9:30 AM.

*Office Hours:* First Semester Only: Monday: 1 to 2:30 PM; Tuesday: 1 to 2:30 PM;  
Friday: 10:30 AM to 12 Noon, or by appointment.

*Phone:* 867-2313

*E-mail:* [jphyne@stfx.ca](mailto:jphyne@stfx.ca)

**E-mail Policy:** Please restrict your e-mails to necessary communications. This includes: extended absences from class (more than one week) and family emergencies. I refuse to use the e-mail to cover lectures from missed classes. My office hours or the phone should be used to cover materials pertaining to the course. Also, **NO LAPTOPS** are to be used in the class. Refer to my information and communications technology policy guidelines on p. 7 of this syllabus.

**Course Outline**

This course introduces students to the social scientific study of society. The major objective is to get students to place their own circumstances within a wider social context. Students will gain an understanding of social structures, social institutions, social norms and social interaction. These concepts form the basic building blocks of sociological analysis. At the end of the course, students should be able to think sociologically, and grasp some of the basic tools necessary for engaging in sociological analysis.

The course is divided into six sections: **First**, students are introduced to the nature of sociological analysis and its relevance for understanding the world within which we live. **Second**, we explore the nature of *'culture'* as a set of beliefs, norms and practices influencing everyday life. Students are introduced to research on cross-cultural comparisons, the media and religion. **Third**, we focus upon the *institutions* that form the basis of contemporary society (families, education, work and occupations). **Fourth**, the philosophical and methodological context of sociological research will be covered. **Fifth**, we explore the nature of *social inequality*. This includes the various dimensions of social stratification (class, ethnic/racial, gender and global). **Sixth**, the processes of *social conflict and social change* will be discussed (population and urbanization, the environment, politics and social movements and globalization).

## Textbooks

Robert J. Brym, ed. *New Society: Sociology for the 21<sup>st</sup> Century*. Toronto: Harcourt, Brace & Company, Sixth Edition, 2011.

Robert J. Brym, ed. *Society in Question: Sociological Readings for the 21<sup>st</sup> Century*. Toronto: Harcourt, Brace and Company, Sixth Edition, 2011

## Evaluation

There will be two examinations each semester worth **12.5 per cent** of your final grade. The schedule for these examinations is listed below. Your final examination in April is **ONLY** worth **25 per cent** of your overall grade. You cannot depend on this examination in order to do well in this course!

### *Fall Semester*

Exam 1 – Thursday, October 6 (12.5 marks – Two Essays)

Exam 2 - Tuesday, November 8 (12.5 marks – Two Essays)

First Term Examination: 25 marks – based upon entire first term.

### *Winter Semester*

Exam 1 – Thursday, February 2 (12.5 marks – Two Essays)

Exam 2 - Tuesday, March 13 (12.5 marks – Two Essays)

Final Examination: 25 marks – based upon entire second term.

## Required Readings

(All readings are from your textbooks).

### ***Section One: Introduction: The Study of the ‘Social’ (September 8-15)***

*New Society*                      Robert J. Brym, ‘Chapter One: Introducing Sociology’, pp. 2-26.

*Society in Question*          Robert J. Brym, ‘Chapter 1: Sociology as a Life or Death Issue’, pp. 5-12.

Scott Davies and David Walters, ‘Chapter 2: Careers in Sociology’, pp. 13-26

Neil McLaughlin, 'Chapter 3: The Sociological Imagination in Canada', pp. 27-36.

***Section Two: Becoming Members of Society: Culture (September 20 – October 23)***

1. Culture

*New Society* Robert J. Brym, 'Chapter Two: Culture', pp. 28-47.

*Society in Question* Michael S. Kimmel and Rebecca F. Plante, 'Chapter 9: Sexualities', pp. 89-95.

2. Socialization

*New Society* William Shaffir and Michael Rosenberg, 'Chapter Three: Socialization', pp. 48-72.

*Society in Question* Frank F. Furstenberg Jr., et al. 'Chapter 4: Growing Up is Harder to Do', pp. 45-54.

Sandy Welsh and Jayne Baker, 'Chapter 5: Sexual Harassment in the Canadian Workplace', pp. 55-64.

3. Media

*New Society* Graham Knight and Josh Greenberg, 'Chapter Five: The Mass Media', pp. 97-119.

*Society in Question* Barry Wellman, 'Chapter 8: Connecting Communities: On and Offline', pp.76-85.

Karen Sternheimer, 'Chapter 11: Do Video Games Kill?', pp.106-114.

John L. McMullan, 'Chapter 24: News, Truth, and the Problem of Corporate Crime', pp. 303-316.

4. Religion

*New Society* Reginald W. Bibby, 'Chapter Thirteen: Religion', pp. 309-334.

*Society in Question* Emile Durkheim, 'Chapter 7: Egoistic Suicide', pp. 73-75.

***Section Three: Moving Through Society: Social Institutions (October 25 to December 1)***

1. Families

*New Society* Bonnie J. Fox, 'Chapter Ten: Families', pp. 226-252.

*Society in Question* Adam Isiah Green, 'Chapter 18: The Changing Face of Matrimony: Same Sex Civil Marriage in the Twenty-First Century', pp.217-227.

Dan Clawson and Naomi Gerstel, 'Chapter 19: Caring for Our Young: Child-Care in Europe and the United States', pp. 228-237.

2. Work and Occupations

*New Society* Sandy Welsh, 'Chapter Eleven: Work and Occupations', pp. 253-283.

*Society in Question* Robert J. Brym, 'Chapter 21: Affluence, Unemployment and Strikes in Canada', pp.262-280.

3. Education

*New Society* Scott Davies, 'Chapter Twelve: Education', pp. 284-308.

***Section Four: Investigating the 'Social': Research Methods (January 5-17)***

*Research Methods*

*New Society* Neil Guppy, 'Chapter Twenty: Research Methods', pp. 478-504.

***Section Five: Locating Our Place in Society: Social Inequality (January 19 - March 6)***

1. Social Stratification

*New Society* Harvey Krahn, 'Chapter Six: Social Stratification', pp. 122-153.

*Society in Question* John Myles, 'Chapter 12: Income Inequality and Democracy', pp.121-124.

Ann Duffy and Nancy Mandell, 'Chapter 13: Poverty in Canada', pp. 125-144.

## 2. Gender Inequality

*New Society* Monica Boyd, 'Chapter Seven: Gender Inequality: Economic and Political Aspects', pp. 154-178.

*Society in Question* Julie Ann McMullin and John Cairney, 'Chapter 14: How Gender, Class, and Age Affect Self-Esteem', pp. 145-157.

## 3. Race and Ethnic Relations

*New Society* Vic Satzewich, 'Chapter Eight: Race and Ethnic Relations', pp. 179-205.

*Society in Question* Hugh Lautard and Neil Guppy, 'Chapter 15: Multiculturalism or Vertical Mosaic? Occupational Stratification Among Canadian Ethnic Groups', pp. 163-177.

Jeffrey G. Reitz, 'Chapter 16: Tapping Immigrants' Skills', pp. 178-193.

## 4. Global Inequality

*New Society* Anthony Winson, 'Chapter Nine: Development and Underdevelopment', pp. 206-224.

*Society in Question* William I. Robinson, 'Chapter 25: The Fantasy of Democracy and Development', pp. 321-323.

## ***Section Five: Social Conflict and Social Change (March 8 – April 10)***

### 1. Population and Urbanization

*New Society* John Hannigan, 'Chapter Fifteen: Population and Urbanization', pp. 362-386.

### 2. The Environment

*New Society* John Hannigan, 'Chapter Sixteen: Sociology and the Environment', pp. 387-408.

*Society in Question* Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, 'Chapter 26: Climate Change: Analysis and Prospects', pp. 324-339.

### 3. Politics and Social Movements

*New Society* Robert J. Brym, 'Chapter Eighteen: 'Politics and Social Movements'', pp. 429-450.

*Society in Question* Lawrence LeDuc, 'Chapter 20: Political Volatility in Canada: Brokerage Politics and a Dealigned Electorate', pp. 245-261.

### 4. Globalization

*New Society* Josée Johnston, 'Chapter Nineteen: Globalization', pp. 451-475.

### **Websites**

Bookmark the following websites. We will refer to these in class at various times throughout the year.

Companion website for *New Society* – [www.newsociety6e.nelson.com](http://www.newsociety6e.nelson.com).

Statistics Canada – [www.statcan.gc.ca](http://www.statcan.gc.ca).

United Nations – [www.un.org](http://www.un.org).

*Technology and this Course*

1. **E-mail:** Please restrict your e-mails to necessary communications. This includes: extended absences from class (more than one week) and family emergencies. I refuse to use e-mail to cover lectures from missed classes. My office hours or the phone should be used to cover materials pertaining to the course. Unnecessary e-mails will remain unanswered.
2. **Cell phones:** Please turn off all cell phones before the commencement of class. If you need to have your cell phone turned on, please let me know as soon as possible.
3. **No laptops in the classroom:** The surfing of the net while in class is a rude and disrespectful act. Despite my attempts over the past 5 years to get students to use their laptops in a responsible manner, far too many students are not complying. The surfing of the net has turned out to be a distraction that interferes with my ability to teach. It also interferes with the learning environment for the class as a whole.
4. **No audio or video taping of lectures:** Under no circumstances are my lectures to be audio taped or video taped. If you require assistance in the taking of notes, I suggest that you seek the assistance of the Counseling Centre (867-2281).

If you want to use your laptop, cell phone, black berry, etc., I suggest that you leave the class. If I catch someone using these devices, that person will be asked to leave the class.