

St. Francis Xavier University
Department of Sociology
Fall 2020

Course: SOCI 101.17: Introduction to Sociology I
Instructor: Dr. Peter Mallory
Email: pmallory@stfx.ca
Lecture Schedule Z7/Z8 Tuesday 3:45-5:00; Thursday 2:15-3:30

Online Office Hours: Monday 1:00-3:00PM; Tuesday 10:00-11:00AM
Wednesday 1:00-2:00PM, or by appointment. See Moodle for a link to my office hours.

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

1. Johnson, Allan. 2014. *The Forest and the Trees: Sociology as Life, Practice, and Promise*. 3rd edition. Philadelphia: Temple University Press. (You can purchase this book from the StFX store. If you prefer an electronic copy, you can purchase one directly from the publisher: <http://tupress.temple.edu/book/1307>)

2. For details on how to access other weekly readings, see the course Moodle page.

Course Evaluation

October Test	25%
November Test	25%
Final Exam	40%
Class Participation	10%

Tests and Exams:

There will be two in-class tests on **October 13** and **November 10**. A final exam will be held in the December 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 is the best way 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.

Office Hours

I hold regular online student 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 101 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

September 15 & 17 Introductions – What is Sociology? Why Study It?

- Johnson. The Forest and the Trees. Pp. 1-30
- Mills, C. Wright. 1959. "The Promise." Pp. 3-24 in *The Sociological Imagination*. New York: Oxford University Press. [excerpt]

September 22 & 24 Thinking Socially About “Natural” Disasters

- Brym, Robert. 2015. “Hurricane Katrina and the Myth of Natural Disasters.” Pp. 53-82 in *Sociology as a Life or Death Issue*. Toronto: Nelson.
- Klinenberg, Eric. 2004. “Denaturalizing Disaster: A Social Autopsy of the 1995 Chicago Heat Wave.” Pp. 308-317 in *Violence in War and Peace: an Anthology*, edited by N. Scheper-Hughes and P. Bourgois. Malden, MA: Blackwell Publishers.

September 29 & October 01 Thinking Socially About Emotions

- Hochschild, Arlie. 2011 [original 1979]. “Emotion Work and Feeling Rules.” Pp. 51-56 in *Inside Social Life*, edited by S. Cahill and K. Sandstrom. New York: Oxford University Press.
- Durkheim, Émile. 1982 [original 1895]. “What is a Social Fact?” Pp. 50-59 in *The Rules of Sociological Method*. New York: The Free Press.

October 6 & 8 Culture, Symbols, and Meaning

- Johnson. Chapter 2. Pp. 31-62.
- Zerubavel, Eviatar. 1996. “Lumping and Splitting: Notes on Social Classification” *Sociological Forum* 1(3): 421-433.

October 13* & 15 The Structures of Social Life

- Johnson. Chapter 3. Pp. 63-90.
- Gross, Neil. 2019. “Why do the Democrats keep saying ‘structural?’” *New York Times*, July 31.

*Test 1, Tuesday, Oct. 13: Open-book test during regular class time

October 20 & 22 Gender

- Smith, Dorothy. 1987. “The Authority of the Male Voice.” Pp. 29-34 in *The Everyday World as Problematic*. Boston: Northeastern University Press.
- Hochschild, Arlie, with Anne Machung. 1989. *The Second Shift: Working Families and the Revolution at Home*. New York: Penguin. [excerpt]

October 27 & 29 Social Interaction

- Johnson. Chapter 5. Pp. 107-124.
- Goffman, Erving. 1959. *The Presentation of Self in Everyday Life*. Toronto: Doubleday. Pages: 1-16.

November 3 & 5 Social Class and Social Inequality

- Marx, Karl and Friedrich Engels. 1978 [original 1848]. "The Communist Manifesto [selection]." Pp. 473-483 in *The Marx-Engels Reader*, edited by R. Tucker. New York: Norton.
- Appiah, Anthony Kwame. 2018. "The myth of meritocracy: who really gets what they deserve?" *The Guardian*, October 19.

November 10* & 12 Political Sociology and Social Movements: Making sense of 'left' and 'right'

- Hochschild, Arlie. 2016. "Special Report: I Spent 5 Years with Some of Trump's Biggest Fans. Here's What They Won't Tell You." *Mother Jones*, September/October Issue.
- Additional reading To Be Announced.

***Test #2**, Tuesday, Nov. 10: open-book test during regular class time, covering all material from September 15 to November 5

November 17 & 19 Racism and White Privilege

- Johnson. Chapter 7. Pp. 147-159.
- Anderson, Elijah. 2015. "The White Space." *Sociology of Race and Ethnicity* 1(1): 10–21.

November 24 & 26 Love and Friendship: Seeing the social in our intimate relationships

- Allan, Graham. 1989. *Friendship: Developing a Sociological Perspective*. San Francisco, CA: Westview Press. Pp: 13-29.
- Cherlin, Andrew. 2004. "The Deinstitutionalization of American Marriage." *Journal of Marriage and Family* 66(4): 848–61.

December 1 Conclusion to the Course

- Johnson. Epilogue "Who are we really?" Pp. 161-164.