

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

**Sociology 100: Introduction to Sociology – 2012-13**

Dr. John Phyne  
Annex 110A

*Class Times:* Monday: 11:15 AM to 12:30 PM; Thursday: 12:45 PM to 2:05 PM

*Office Hours:* First Semester Only: Monday: 2:00 to 4:00 PM; Thursday: 10:00 AM to 12:00 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. These include 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. 5 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, values and beliefs, 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).

## **Textbook**

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

## **Evaluation**

There will be three examinations each semester. The first examination is worth **10 per cent** of your final grade; the second examination is worth **15 per cent** of your final grade. The end of semester and end of year examinations are worth **25 per cent** each. The schedule for the examinations is listed below.

### *Fall Semester*

Exam 1 – Monday, October 1 (10 marks – Two Essays)

Exam 2 – Thursday, November 1 (15 marks – Two Essays)

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

### *Winter Semester*

Exam 1 – Thursday, January 31 (10 marks – Two Essays)

Exam 2 - Thursday, March 7 (15 marks – Two Essays)

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

## **Required Readings**

(All readings are from your textbook).

### ***Section One: Introduction: The Study of the ‘Social’ (September 6-13)***

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

### ***Section Two: Becoming Members of Society: Culture (September 17 – October 29)***

#### *1. Culture*

Robert J. Brym, ‘Chapter Two: Culture’, pp. 28-47.

2. Socialization

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

3. The Mass Media

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

4. Religion

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

***Section Three: Moving Through Society: Social Institutions (November 5 to 30)***

1. Families

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

2. Work and Occupations

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

3. Education

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

***Section Four: Investigating the 'Social': Research Methods (January 7-21)***

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

***Section Five: Locating Our Place in Society: Social Inequality (January 24 - March 4)***

1. Social Stratification

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

2. Gender Inequality

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

### 3. Race and Ethnic Relations

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

### 4. Global Inequality

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

## ***Section Five: Social Conflict and Social Change (March 11 – April 4)***

### 1. Population and Urbanization

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

### 2. The Environment

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

### 3. Politics and Social Movements

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

### 4. Globalization

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.

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 several 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.