



SOCI 101:13

Introduction to Sociology



Instructor:

Dr. Joel Z. Garrod
jgarrod@stfx.ca

Location:

Gilmora Hall 001
U4/U5

Office Hours:

By appointment

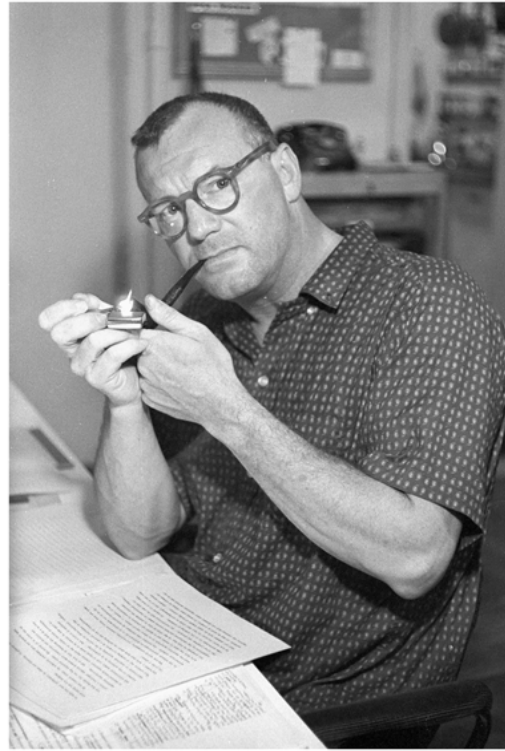
This course is intended to be an introduction to the discipline of sociology; however, there is no easy way to answer the question, “What is sociology?” The traditional definition is that sociology is the study of society; but that obscures more than it reveals. What constitutes society? And how might we go about studying it? As we will see, answers to those questions have varied immensely through time, making the discipline less of an accumulative science, and more of a perspectival one.

As such, this course will guide you through an introduction to the discipline that will encompass: sociology’s history; the major paradigms of social thought; common research methods; and popular areas of sociological study. The main goal of the course will be the development of what C. Wright Mills calls, ‘the sociological imagination’—the ability to understand how history and power impact biography. The course will conclude by reflecting on why sociology matters, and how it can help orient us toward an alternative future.

Course Objectives & Textbook

By the end of this course, you should have:

- A broad grasp of the history and development of sociology
- Knowledge of the main sociological paradigms
- Knowledge of common sociological methods
- The ability to understand how history impacts biography



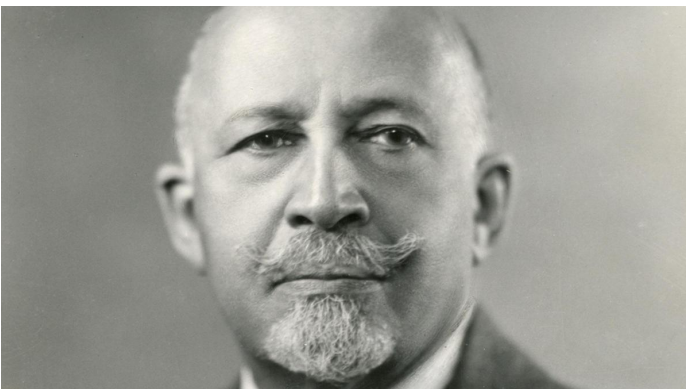
PHOTOGRAPH COURTESY C. WRIGHT MILLS ESTATE

All readings can be found on moodle

A free introductory textbook can be found online at: <https://opentextbc.ca/introductiontosociology2ndedition/>

I truly believe that this course is relevant to your lives. If, at any time during this course, you feel that what we're learning isn't useful, I urge you to ask me: "Why should I give a damn?"

I'll gladly take time to explain why I believe what we're learning is important for you to know. And if I can't explain why, I'll amend that section of the course.



Requirements

Attendance is absolutely vital to this course, and will likely be a necessary part of getting a good grade. In return for attending, I promise to make the course interesting, and worthwhile. If you are unable to attend regularly, please talk to me about possible accommodations.

The **Midterm** can be completed in one of two ways: (1) by taking an in-class test consisting of short answer questions; or, (2) through the submission of a sociological analysis of your fashion choices throughout your life. Both will assess your understanding of course materials and concepts up to the middle of the term. **October 7**

The **Biography Paper** is intended to get you thinking sociologically. Following from the concept of the sociological imagination, you will be asked to write a short paper about how history and power have had an impact on your life story. **December 6**

The **Final Exam** will assess your understanding of course material and concepts from the entire term. It will consist of a single essay question. **Sometime in exam period**

Grading

✓ Attendance:	10%
✓ Midterm:	20%
✓ Biography Paper:	35%
✓ Final Exam:	35%

All citations in
APA or ASA
Style

Double-spaced,
12 point, Times
New Roman font

Late items lose 5
marks per day



Class Schedule

Date	Topic	Readings
Sept 9	Introduction	Syllabus
Sept 13	The Sociological Imagination	Johnson, Chapter 1 Mills, "The promise"
Sept 16	Thinking Socially About Fashion	Simmel, "Fashion"
Sept 20	Thinking Socially About Fashion	Bourdieu, excerpt from <i>Distinction</i>
Sept 23	Thinking Socially About Evil	Milgram, "The dilemma of obedience"
Sept 27	Thinking Socially About Evil	Benjamin, excerpt from <i>Indian School Road</i> Optional: Woo, "Glen Jack experienced the horrors of the Kamloops residential school. He's been trying to get people to listen for 50 years" Truth and Reconciliation Commission Reports
Sept 30	National Day for Truth and Reconciliation	No readings
Oct 4	Culture, Symbols, and Meaning	Johnson, Chapter 2 Zerubavel, "Lumping and splitting"
Oct 7	Midterm	No readings

Date	Topic	Readings
Oct 11	Thanksgiving	No readings
Oct 14	Social Structures	Johnson, Chapter 3 Gross, "Why do the Democrats keep saying 'structural'?" Day, "No scrubs"
Oct 18	Thinking Socially About Gender	Smith, "The authority of the male voice"
Oct 21	Thinking Socially About Gender	Hochschild & Machung, excerpt from <i>The Second Shift</i>
Oct 25	Paper Writing Workshop	Orwell, "Politics and the English language"
Oct 28	Thinking Socially About Halloween	Hickey, "Cultural development of monsters, demons, and evil" Federici, excerpt from <i>Caliban and the Witch</i>
Nov 1	Social Interaction	Johnson, Chapter 5
	Drop Date Nov 3	
Nov 4	Social Interaction	Goffman, excerpt from <i>The Presentation of Self in Everyday Life</i>
Nov 8	Fall Break	No readings
Nov 11	Remembrance Day	No readings
Nov 15	Class and Inequality	Marx & Engels, excerpt from <i>The Communist Manifesto</i>

Date	Topic	Readings
Nov 18	Class and Inequality	Appiah, "The myth of meritocracy" Gude, "The ultra-rich are ultra conservative"
Nov 22	Thinking Socially About Politics	Mills, "The structure of power in American society" Hochschild, "I spent 5 years with some of Trump's biggest fans. Here's what they won't tell you"
Nov 25	Thinking Socially About Race and White Privilege	Johnson, Chapter 7 Du Bois, "Strivings of the Negro People"
Nov 29	Thinking Socially About Race and White Privilege	Anderson, "The White Space" Cobb, "Starbucks and the issue of white space"
Dec 2	Film: <i>Is the Crown at War with Us?</i>	No readings
Dec 6	Thinking Socially About the Future Final Paper Due	Johnson, "Who are we really?" Butler, "A few rules for predicting the future"



Additional Information

Drop Date

Students may drop this course, online in Banner, on or before **November 3, 2021**.

COVID-19

The 2021–2022 academic year is taking place during an exceptional period of human history. As the COVID-19 pandemic is still ongoing, we may have to adjust the course assessment plan and/or delivery method with little or no notice. You may also have to stay home from class for various reasons related to COVID-19 (such as simply feeling ill). If this happens to you, please contact me so that we can discuss an alternative to your attendance grade for that class. Lastly, it is important that you take care of yourself by getting adequate amounts of sleep, and by taking appropriate mental health breaks. The university website on COVID-19 provides more information and links (<https://www.stfx.ca/coronavirus>).

Academic Honesty and Plagiarism

As this course involves the production of written work, you should familiarize yourself with the standards for proper referencing of all cited materials, such as books, journal articles, newspaper articles, websites, and so on. For help with citation styles, I recommend visiting the Student Success Centre (<https://www.mystfx.ca/student-success/style-guides>).

Students that attempt to pass off someone else's work as their own (i.e., plagiarism) will be dealt with through the university policy on academic honesty. Please ensure that you fully understand this policy (see section 3.8 of the academic calendar, found at: <https://www2.mystfx.ca/registrar-office/academic-calendars>). Resources for avoiding plagiarism can be found on the library website (<https://www2.mystfx.ca/library/plagiarism>).

Writing Assistance

Despite the fact that this is a writing-intensive course, we will not be able to spend much time on the craft of writing. If you need assistance with your writing, I recommend booking an appointment with me or visiting the Student Success Centre (<http://www2.mystfx.ca/student-success/>).

Accommodations

If you have an injury, develop an illness, or encounter a personal crisis that will impact your progress in this course, please email me as soon as you are able. This will ensure that we find a way for you to complete the course. The Health and Counselling Centre is another resource available to you (<http://www2.mystfx.ca/health-and-counselling/>).

If you have any disabilities that require an accommodation in teaching style or evaluation, please speak to me as soon as possible so we can implement those accommodations. You may also want to contact the Tramble Centre for Accessible Learning (<https://www2.mystfx.ca/accessible-learning/tramble-centre-accessible-learning>).

Equity and Discrimination

Everyone learns more effectively in a respectful, safe, and equitable learning environment free from discrimination or harassment. I invite you to work with me to create a classroom space that fosters and promotes values of human dignity, equity, non-discrimination and respect for diversity. These values and practices are in accord with the StFX Discrimination and Harassment Policy which can be found at (<https://www2.mystfx.ca/equity/policies>). Please feel free to discuss with me any questions or concerns you have about equity in our classroom or in the StFX community. If I cannot answer your questions or help you address your concerns, I encourage you to talk to the Chair of our Department, or the Human Rights and Equity Advisor (Megan Fogarty, mfogarty@stfx.ca).

Copyright

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Grade Scale

A+ = 90-100	B+ = 77-79	C+ = 67-69	D+ = 57-59
A = 85-89	B = 73-76	C = 63-66	D = 53-56
A - = 80-84	B - = 70-72	C - = 60-62	D - = 50-52
F = Below 50			