

SOCI 101: Introduction to Sociology I
St. Francis Xavier University
Department of Sociology
Fall 2019

Instructor: Dr. Peter Mallory
Email: pmallory@stfx.ca
Phone: 902-867-2445
Office: Nicholson Tower 610
Office Hours: Tues. 11:00-12:00;
Wed. 2:00-4:00; Thurs. 11:00-12:00

Lecture Schedule

Z7/Z8 Tuesday 3:45-5:00; Thursday 2:15-3:30; MULH2032

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.

Required Texts

1. Johnson, Allan. 2014. *The Forest and the Trees: Sociology as Life, Practice, and Promise*. 3rd edition. Philadelphia: Temple University Press.
2. A course pack of readings is available at the Campus Store. Make sure you purchase the correct book for this section of Sociology 101.

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 8** and **November 7** and a closed-book exam will be held in the December exam period. A study guide for the final exam will be distributed during the final class.

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, and providing relevant comments on the material discussed in lecture and the class readings. Please bring the readings to class and be prepared to offer your questions and insights.

IMPORTANT COURSE INFORMATION AND POLICIES

Academic Honesty and Plagiarism

Please ensure that you fully understand StFX's Academic Integrity Policy (see section 3.8 in the calendar). If you have questions about the policy, you can speak with me before or after class or during my office hours.

Classroom Technology

If you use a laptop for note taking, please do so in a way that does not distract others. Audio or video recording of this class is not permitted.

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 speak with me early in the term so that appropriate arrangements can be made.

LECTURE SCHEDULE AND READINGS

Sept 3 & 5 Introductions – What is Sociology? Why Study It?

Johnson. The Forest and the Trees. Pp. 1-30

Sept 10 & 12

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.

Sept 17 & 19

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.

Hochschild, Arlie. 1992. “The Managed Heart: Commercialization of Human Feeling.” Pp. 136-148 in *Social Interaction: Readings in Sociology*, edited by C. Clark and H. Robboy. New York: St. Martin’s Press.

Sept 24 & 26

Culture, Symbols, and Meaning

Johnson. Chapter 2. Pp. 31-62.

Becker, Howard. 2009. “Culture a Sociological View.” Pp. 220-225 in *The Meaning of Social Life: A Reader*. Upper Saddle River, NJ: Pearson.

Oct 1 & 3

The Structures of Social Life

Johnson. Chapter 3. Pp. 63-90.

Milgram, Stanley. 1973. “The Perils of Obedience.” *Harper’s Magazine*, December: 62-77.

Oct 8* & 10

Population and Human Ecology

Johnson. Chapter 4. Pp. 91-106.

*Test 1 Tuesday October 8

Oct 15 & 17 **Fall Study Break**

No classes – Enjoy!

Oct 22 & 24 **Families and Personal Life**

Cherlin, Andrew. 2004. “The Deinstitutionalization of American Marriage.” *Journal of Marriage and Family* 66(4): 848–61.

Hochschild, Arlie. 2003. “The Economy of Gratitude.” Pp. 104-118 in *The Commercialization of Intimate Life*. Berkeley, CA: University of California Press.

Oct 29 & 31 **Social Interaction**

Johnson. Chapter 5. Pp. 107-124.

Goffman, Erving. 1959. *The Presentation of Self in Everyday Life*. Toronto: Doubleday. Pages: 1-16.

Nov 5 & 7* **Total Institutions**

Goffman, Erving. 1997 [original 1961]. “The Mortified Self.” Pp. 55-71 in *The Goffman Reader*, edited by C. Lemert and A. Branaman. Malden, MA: Blackwell.

*Test #2 Thursday November 7

Nov 12 & 14 **Class, Culture, and Social Inequality**

Bourgois, Philippe. 2009. “Poverty at Work: Office Employment and the Crack Alternative.” Pp. 227-239 in *Conformity and Conflict*, edited by J. Spradley and D. McCurdy. Upper Saddle River, NJ: Pearson.

Hamilton, Laura and Elizabeth Armstrong. 2012. “The (Mis)Education of Monica and Karen.” *Contexts* 11(4): 22-7.

Nov 19 & 21 Racism and White Privilege

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.

Johnson. Chapter 7. Pp. 147-159.

Nov 26 Objectivity and Bias in Social Research

Becker, Howard. 1967. "Whose Side are We On?" *Social Problems* 14(3): 239-247.

Nov 28 Conclusion to the Course

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