

# 202110-SOCI-101.18-Introduction to Sociology I

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## Topic outline

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### [Course Materials](#)

The following files are guidelines and resources to help you do well in the course.

October Grade – 39%

Reading Quizzes (7) – 7%

Participation in [forums](#) and [in class](#) – 7%

[Assessment of Hobbes](#) (3 pages on September 28) – 5%

[Assessment of Hobbes, Solnit and Junger](#) (4 ½ pages on October 14) – 10%

Critical Thinking – Individual in Society (3 pages on October 19) – 10%

Remainder of the Term – 61%

Participation in [forums](#) and [in class](#) – (October 22 to November 29) – 12%

Random Reading quizzes – 5%

Critical Thinking – Society in the Individual (3 pages on November 2) – 14%

Macro-Structure Essay (4 pages on November 23) – 14%

Exam Essay (December) – 16%

-  [Syllabus -- Printable File](#)

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Grading scheme for the class

- [Assignments Folder](#)

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-  [ASA Citation Format File](#)

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This is how you cite books and articles in everything you post or submit in this course.

-  [Plagiarism File](#)

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How to avoid plagiarism.

-  [Participation on Moodle File](#)

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-  [Participation in Class File](#)

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- [Announcements Forum](#)

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[0 - Introduction to the Class - September 7](#)

#### **Required Reading:**

- Nutt, Amy Ellis. 2018. "Why Kids and Teens May Face Far More Anxiety These Days." *The Washington Post*. Retrieved: August 31, 2020 (<https://www.washingtonpost.com/news/to-your-health/wp/2018/05/10/why-kids-and-teens-may-face-far-more-anxiety-these-days/>).
- #TheSchoolOfLife. 2015. *SOCIOLOGY - Émile Durkheim*. YouTube video (7:47 min). (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=z9W0GQvONKc>).
- #TheSchoolOfLife. *POLITICAL THEORY - Karl Marx*. YouTube video (9:27 min). ([https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fSQgCy\\_ilcc](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fSQgCy_ilcc))
- Sweeney, Nicole. 2017. *Max Weber & Modernity: Crash Course Sociology #9*. YouTube video (7:47 min). (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=69VF7mT4nRU>)

**Concepts:** sociological explanation;

#### **Questions:**

- How could we explain increasing rates of anxiety? What changes in society could be affecting these rates?
- What ideas of Durkheim might apply to this question?
- What ideas of Marx might apply to this question?
- What ideas of Weber might apply to this question?

## Recommended Reading:

- [Meet Your Group Forum](#)

[Edit](#)

- [Opening Discussion Forum](#)

[Edit](#)

Discussion forum about society today.

- [External structure Choice](#)

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[1 - Human Nature and Social structure - September 14](#)

## Required Reading:

- Solnit, Rebecca. 2009 "[Prelude: Falling Together](#)" *A Paradise Built in Hell: the Extraordinary Communities That Arise in Disasters*. New York: Viking.
- Solnit, Rebecca. 2009 "[The Mizpah Cafe,](#)" "[Pauline Jacobsen's Joy,](#)" "[General Funston's Fear,](#)" *A Paradise Built in Hell*

**Concepts:** anarchism, altruism /egoism, mutual aid /exploitation, equality /hierarchy, common property, self-fulfilling prophecy, moral economy, public space,

privatization, Hobbes vs Rousseau re: human nature, nature vs nurture, socialization, ideology

**Questions:**

- How do people behave in the absence of external social control? What does that tell us about human nature and about structures of social control?
- Are humans naturally altruistic or naturally self-interested?
- Is there such a thing as human nature; or are humans entirely shaped by their social environment?

**Recommended Reading:**

- Bowles, Samuel, and Herbert Gintis. 2011. "[A Cooperative Species](#)." in *A Cooperative Species: human reciprocity and its evolution*. Princeton: Princeton University Press.
- [Understanding Solnit Forum](#)

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- [Quiz: Solnit](#)

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- [Hobbes and Rousseau Choice](#)

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- [Question Box Forum](#)

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## [2 - Human Nature and Society - September 21](#)

### **Required Reading:**

- Hobbes, Thomas. 1651. "Chapter XIII Of the Natural Condition of Mankind as Concerning Their Felicity and Misery." in *Leviathan*. London: Andrew Crooke. [[click here for a modern edition](#)]
- Junger, Sebastian. 2016. "[The Men and the Dogs](#)." in *Tribe: On Homecoming and Belonging*. New York: Harpercollins.
- #TheSchoolOfLife. 2015. *SOCIOLOGY - Émile Durkheim*. YouTube video (7:47 min). (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=z9W0GQvONKc>).

**Concepts:** Equality of condition; pre-social self; competitive individualism; authoritarian state; law and order; hunting and gathering societies; egalitarianism; alienation; anomie; biological evolution; natural selection; evolution of co-operation; co-evolution with the social environment; the body /embodiment

### **Questions:**

- Why, if Hobbes is right that we are equal in our natural capacities, are there enormous inequalities in society?
- Why according to Junger do modern societies have high rates of anxiety, depression and suicide?
- What are the similarities and differences between Junger's diagnosis of the ills of modern societies and Durkheim's?

### **Recommended Reading:**

- Bowles, Samuel and Herbert Gintis. 2011. "A Cooperative Species." in *A Cooperative Species: Human Reciprocity and Its Evolution*. Princeton: Princeton University Press.

- [Quiz-Hobbes and Osnos](#)

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- [Question Box Forum](#)

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- [Understanding Hobbes and Junger Forum](#)

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[3 - The Individual In Society - September 28](#)

**Required Reading:**

- Berger, Peter L. 1963. "Man in Society." pp. 66-76 in [Invitation to Sociology/ a Humanistic Perspective](#). Garden City, N.Y., Doubleday.
- Wedderburn, Alister. 2020. "Pandemic Time." Lawrence & Wishart. Retrieved: August 31, 2020 (<https://www.lwbooks.co.uk/soundings/blog/pandemic-time>).
- Scales, Kailee. 2020. "What Defunding the Police Really Means - Black Lives Matter." Black Lives Matter. Retrieved: August 31, 2020 (<https://blacklivesmatter.com/what-defunding-the-police-really-means/>).

**Concepts:** social order; social location; circles of social control; means of social control (sanctions); violence; time structuring; money; social recognition; social inclusion; ostracism; legitimization; penal state; welfare state

**Questions:**

- What does Max Weber mean by saying that state power is "guaranteed" by violence?
- Why does Weber think that violence without legitimacy is an unstable and short lived form of governance?
- How can the structuring of time be a means of social control in the 21st century?

- [Question Box Forum](#)

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- [Assessment of Hobbes Assignment](#)

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[4 - The Individual in Society - October 5](#)

**Required Reading:**

- Berger, Peter L. 1963. "Man in Society." pp. 77-92 in [Invitation to Sociology/ a Humanistic Perspective](#). Garden City, N.Y., Doubleday.
- Trottier, Daniel. 2012. "[Interpersonal Surveillance on Social Media](#)." *Canadian Journal of Communication* 37(2):319-32. doi: <http://dx.doi.org/10.22230/cjc.2012v37n2a2536>.

**Concepts:** reference group; primary group; occupational group; stratification; social class; race; racism; family; social sanctions in the "sphere of the intimate": love, respect, shame; definition of the situation; institution

**Questions:**

- Why, according to Berger is the "sphere of the intimate" the most powerful circle of social control?
- What does Durkheim mean by saying that social facts are "external and constraining?" Why, in the sphere of the intimate are we less likely to experience social controls as external and constraining?
- How does surveillance act as a force of social control? How do social media intensify this form of social control? Who is controlling and who is being controlled here?

- [Question Box Forum](#)

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[5 - Colonialism and Race - October 14](#)

**Required Reading:**

- Canada, Truth and Reconciliation Commission of. 2015. [\*Honouring the Truth, Reconciling for the Future: Summary of the Final Report of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada\*](#). Winnipeg. [Read the Introduction only.]

**Concepts:** Colonialism; racism; structural racism; assimilation; cultural genocide; internalized colonization; inter-generational trauma; modern subjectivity; collective identity; sovereignty; social construction of race; sociobiology; social darwinism; eugenics

**Questions:**

- What were the subtle and not-so subtle ways that the Canadian state imposed "whiteness" (an white Anglo-saxon culture and identity) on Indigenous people?
- What were the subtle and not-so subtle ways that the Canadian state imposes "whiteness" on non-Indigenous people?
- Why was the Canadian state so hostile to First Nations cultures and identities?
- Was the aim of assimilation to enable Indigenous people to compete on an equal footing in a capitalist economy; or was it to eliminate a collective identity at odds with liberal individualism?
- Are racial categories natural or social?
- How can we explain racism sociologically?

**Recommended Reading:**

- Morning, Ann. 2014. "Does Genomics Challenge the Social Construction of Race?". *Sociological Theory* 32(3):189-207. doi: 10.1177/0735275114550881.
- Conley, Dalton and Jason Fletcher. 2017. "What Both the Left and Right Get Wrong About Race: Setting the Scientific Record Straight on Race, IQ, and Success." *Nautilus*, June 1. Retrieved August 3, 2017(<http://nautil.us/issue/48/Chaos/what-both-the-left-and-right-get-wrong-about-race>).

- [Colonialism and Race Forum](#)

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- [Colonialism and Race Quiz](#)

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- [Question Box Forum](#)

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- [Assessment of Hobbes, Solnit and Junger Assignment](#)

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[6 - Society in the Individual - October 19](#)

#### **Required Reading:**

- Berger, Peter L. 1963. "Society in Man." in [Invitation to Sociology/ a Humanistic Perspective](#). Garden City, N.Y., Doubleday.
- Solon, Olivia. 2016. "[How Facebook Plans to Take over the World.](#)" *The Guardian*. Retrieved: 27 August, 2016 (<https://www.theguardian.com/technology/2016/apr/23/facebook-global-takeover-f8-conference-messenger-chatbots>).
- Roberts, Simon. 2018. "What Is the Cambridge Analytica Scandal? - Video Explainer." Retrieved: 2018-03-19

<http://www.theguardian.com/news/video/2018/mar/19/everything-you-need-to-know-about-the-cambridge-analytica-expose-video-explainer>)

**Concepts:** Role theory; internalization; identity; world view; ideology; significant other; looking-glass self; targeted marketing; filter bubbles; fake news; the social construction of (social) reality; consumer identity; internal colonization; sex roles; toxic masculinity

**Questions:**

- Is there a "real" self and many social selves, or just many social selves? How is the real self formed?
- What determines the set of roles that a society has to offer?
- Women were critical of the way that sex roles were socially defined in the 1960s and set out to change them. How?
- How do consumerist societies create consumer identities?
- How and why do organizations like Cambridge Analytica attempt to create far-right political identities?
- How do ideologies of the far right "systematically distort social reality"?
- How do we know the truth about social reality?

- [Question Box Forum](#)

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[7 - Society in the Individual - October 26](#)

**Required Reading:**

- Berger, Peter L. 1963. "Society in Man." in [Invitation to Sociology/ a Humanistic Perspective](#). Garden City, N.Y., Doubleday.
- Gladwell, Malcolm. 2008. "[The Mathew Effect](#)." in *Outliers: The story of success*. London: Allen Lane.

**Concepts:** Role theory; identity; significant other; looking-glass self; internalization; sociological imagination; internal colonization; social structure; structural explanation; temporal structure (of hockey training); class structure; individualistic explanation; individualistic ideology; "self-made man"

**Questions:**

- How much of personal achievement can be explained by social structural conditions?
- How much is personal achievement determined by social categories (e.g. citizenship (i.e. within a given nation), race, class, gender)?
- Why is it difficult to see how social facts condition individual experience?

**Recommended Reading:**

- Mills, C. Wright. 1959. "[The Promise](#)." in *The Sociological Imagination*. New York,; Oxford University Press.

- [Question Box Forum](#)

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[8 - Control from a Distance: The Market - November 2](#)

**Required Reading:**

- Smith, Adam. 1993. [1776] "[The Division of Labour](#)" *An Inquiry into the Nature and Causes of the Wealth of Nations*. Project Guttenburg. [Just read chapters 1 and 2]
- Barker, Eric. 2014. "How to Find Fulfilling Work, According to Science." *The Week*. Retrieved: September 5, 2020 (<https://theweek.com/articles/444815/how-find-fulfilling-work-according-science>).
- #TheSchoolOfLife. POLITICAL THEORY - Karl Marx. YouTube video (9:27 min). ([https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fSQgCy\\_iIcc](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fSQgCy_iIcc))

**Concepts:** face-to-face (local) vs distanced social relations; division of labour in detail, deskilling, cheapening of tasks, gift vs contract, egoism, market logic, liberalism, neo-liberalism, alienation, citizenship, commodification

**Questions:**

- How are relationships between large numbers of people across vast distance supposed to be co-ordinated by [the market](#)?
- What makes work fulfilling? What, by contrast, makes work alienating?
- How did Karl Marx think that the division of labour in detail created alienation and exploitation of the worker?
- Dostoevsky said that the most cruel thing you could do to a person was make them do work that was "completely and utterly devoid of usefulness and meaning." Individually, we want to avoid such work, but what if, as Marx believed, those are the sorts of jobs our economy demands, and provides for most people?
- How did Karl Marx think that the market created alienation of the capitalist?
- Both Karl Marx and Adam Smith thought that what was good for the economy was not always good for the worker, or for democracy. How did Adam Smith think that we could fix this flaw of capitalism? How did Marx think we could fix it?
- How does liberalism function as the ideology of the market?

**Recommended Reading**

- Monbiot, George. 2014. "Put a Price on Nature? We Must Stop This Neoliberal Road to Ruin " The Guardian, 4 July. Retrieved August 3, 2017(<https://www.theguardian.com/environment/georgemonbiot/2014/jul/24/price-nature-neoliberal-capital-road-ruin>).

- [Division of Labour and the Market Forum](#)

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- [Quiz - Adam Smith](#)

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- [Question Box Forum](#)

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[9 - Control from a Distance: Surveillance - November 9](#)

### **Required Reading:**

- Bentham, Jeremy. 1791. *Panopticon or, the Inspection-House*. Dublin: Thomas Byrne. (Read only letters I and II.)
- Harari, Yuval Noah. 2018. "Why Technology Favors Tyranny." *The Atlantic* (October). Retrieved: 27 August, 2020 (<https://www.theatlantic.com/magazine/archive/2018/10/yuval-noah-harari-technology-tyranny/568330/>).
- Sweeney, Nicole. 2017. *Max Weber & Modernity: Crash Course Sociology #9*. YouTube video (7:47 min). (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=69VF7mT4nRU>)

**Concepts:** asymmetrical surveillance, panopticism, punishment: retributive vs rehabilitative, centralized social control, atomization, mass society, autonomization of power, internalization, transparency

### **Questions:**

- What is the difference between 'natural policing' (face-to-face, personal) and panopticism (at-a-distance, automated)? How does each work? What are the social consequences when societies rely on impersonal surveillance for social control?
- How can panopticism be designed so that power is not abused (i.e. who watches the watchers)?
- Who (in social class terms) was supposed to be controlled and who was meant to do the controlling in Bentham's time? Is there still class inequality in the way that surveillance works?
- What is the value of democracy to humanity? What are the threats to democracy in the 21st century? How can we address those threats?

- What are the social implications of increasing technological powers of surveillance?
- How can citizens use surveillance in the 21st century to limit abuses of power?

### **Recommended Reading:**

- Andrejevic, Mark. 2013. "Intelligence Glut: Policing, Security, and Predictive Analysis." in *Infoglut: how too much information is changing the way we think and know*. London: Routledge.
- Bradshaw, Elizabeth A. 2013. "[This is What a Police State Looks Like: Sousveillance, Direct Action and the Anti-corporate Globalization Movement.](#)" *Critical Criminology* 21:447–61

- [Understanding Bentham Forum](#)

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- [Quiz -- Panopticism](#)

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- [Question Box Forum](#)

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[10 - Class and Structural Change - November 16](#)

### **Required Reading:**

- Standing, Guy. 2012. "[The Precariat: From Denizens to Citizens?](#)". *Polity* 44(4):588–608.

**Concepts:** social class; individual vs collective identity; solidarity; precarious work; proletariat; precariat; time fragmentation; time famine; citizenship;

**Questions:**

- How did organized labour change western societies?
- How did organized labour become un-organized since the 1970s?
- Is it possible for workers to organize around precarity or AI redundancy?

**Recommended Reading:**

- Bantjes, Rod. "[Workers of the World Unite!](#)". In *Social Movements in a Global Context Canadian Perspectives*. Toronto: Canadian Scholars' Press, 2007.
- Marx, Karl, and Friedrich Engels. 1848. *Manifesto of the Communist Party*. London.
- [Question Box Forum](#)

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[11 - Gender Inequality and Social Change - November 23](#)

**Required Reading:**

- Guppy, Neil and Nicole Luongo. 2015. "[The Rise and Stall of Canada's Gender-Equity Revolution](#)." *Canadian Review of Sociology/Revue canadienne de sociologie* 52(3):241-65.

**Concepts:** gender, public sphere /private sphere, labour force participation, wage gap, occupational segregation, misogyny, sexism, sexualization, sexual harassment, sameness



/difference debate, inequality of condition vs inequality of opportunity, feminism, women's movement; research methodology; operationalization; sampling; statistics

**Questions:**

- What does it mean to be 'equal?' Have women achieved equality in Canadian society?
- Is sexualization a form of social control? If so, whose interests does it serve?
- Do women feel as safe in public space (online and physical public space) as men? If not, then why not?
- What methodologies do Guppy and Luongo use to assure us that their conclusions are not just biased opinions in a gender war?

**Recommended Reading:**

- [Gender Equality Forum](#)

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- [Quiz -- Gender Equality](#)

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- [Question Box Forum](#)

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## 12 - Altering the Planetary Environment - November 30

### **Required Reading:**

Szasz, Andrew. 2019. "A Sociology of Climate Change," online lecture, <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tCA6taOMOG&feature=youtu.be>

**Concepts:** anthropogenic climate change, climate change denial, social movements, greenhouse gasses, CO2 concentrations, feedback loops, carbon budget, Holocene, Anthropocene

### **Questions:**

- How have humans changed the planetary environment from that of the Holocene (the "natural" world to which human civilizations have adapted) to that of the Anthropocene (what McKibben calls "Eaarth")?
- What societal changes would have to take place to keep the global temperature increase below 2 degrees centigrade before 2050?
- What societal effects are likely to take place if we fail to keep the global temperature increase below 2 degrees centigrade before 2050?
- Why are we failing to act on what most experts agree is a challenge to the survival of human civilization?

### **Recommended Reading:**

- Sceptical Science. 2020. "Arguments from Global Warming Skeptics and What the Science Really Says." *Sceptical Science*. Retrieved: August 28, 2020 (<https://www.skepticalscience.com/argument.php>).
- Dunlap, Riley E. /Aaron M. McCright. 2012. "Organized Climate Change Denial." in *The Oxford Handbook of Climate Change and Society*, edited by R. B. N. John S. Dryzek, and David Schlosberg. Oxford: Oxford University Press.
- NASA. 2020. "Climate Change: Vital Signs of the Planet." @NASAClimate. Retrieved: August 28, 2020 (<https://climate.nasa.gov/>).
- IPCC. 2014. "Ar5 Synthesis Report: Climate Change 2014." www.ipcc.ch. Retrieved: August 28, 2020 (<https://www.ipcc.ch/report/ar5/syr/>).

- [Climate Change Forum](#)

[Edit](#)

Restricted Available until end of **14 December 2020**

- [Quiz -- Environment](#)

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- [Question Box Forum](#)