

SOCIOLOGY 102

Introduction to Sociology II

St. Francis Xavier University

Fall Term 2020

Mondays 11:15—12:05; Tuesdays 13:15—14:05 Thursdays 12:15—13:05

Schwarz 215

Instructor: Peter Lenco

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Office hours: Mondays 12:00—14:00, Wednesdays 11:00—13:00 and Fridays 10:00—12:00

Course Description

This course builds on the foundations of sociological theory, methods and historic considerations established in SOCI 101. Students will explore a range of topics dealing with various aspects of social inequality, culture, integration, and ideological conflict in both a Canadian and global context. This is a chance for new sociology students to engage with the issues and themes of sociology and will rely on only original texts as course material. An emphasis will be placed on critical analysis combined with a sociological perspective. The goal is that students see the real, topical focus of sociology and how it is different from other disciplines. There is a lot of room here for lively discussion and debate so it is hoped that students come to see the appeal of sociology and have fun with it.

By the end of the course students will have had the opportunity to develop what they have learned about the foundations and scope of sociology as well as improve their familiarity with the ideas of some of its key thinkers. Because the readings are primary sources students will improve their ability to engage with technical, social scientific literature. Finally, and no less importantly, students will develop their ability to discuss complex topics, improve their group work skills, and some time will be spent on developing students' ability to read and to write effectively in an academic setting.

Course Form

The sessions will consist of informal introductory lectures with room for questions and open discussion. Please note that the lectures will not be summaries of the texts, but are rather meant to supplement the texts and initiate analysis. Indeed, the goal of the classes will be to engage with the texts in a rigorous and thoughtful manner. We will also make extensive use of group discussions and problem-based learning. There are a number of guidelines that we will all follow to help ensure success for all in this course:

- If you have a question about the course, consult this syllabus carefully. There is a good chance you will find all the information you need.
- We will adhere to the highest standards of personal communication and strive to be 100 per cent present for each other, which means listening attentively to whomever is speaking, no use of mobile devices, laptops, etc.
- There will be few slides and no overhead-presentations on the readings, so do be ready to take your own notes. To succeed in this course you need to engage with all aspects of it: readings, lectures and discussions. These last are an important way for you to explore – and so get to know and use – the variety of material. In sum: come to class and be ready to focus and participate.
- For reasons of class size but especially fairness there will be no make-ups or alternative assignments, unless for specific reasons you need accommodation (see below). Each student is responsible for what happens in class. If you are obliged to be absent, find another student who can catch you up.
- Please note that all aspects of this course adhere to the principle of equitable learning. Therefore I invite each member of the class to strive to promote a respectful, safe and equitable learning environment, free from any form of discrimination and harassment, both in person and online. Feel free to discuss any concerns regarding our learning environment with me, either in or before/after class, during office hours, or by phone or email.

Text

There is one reader for this course, available through the Campus Store:

Macionis, John, et al., eds. 2014. *Seeing Ourselves: Classic, Contemporary, and Cross-cultural Readings in Sociology*. 4th Canadian ed. Toronto: Pearson.

Evaluation

Attendance/Participation—10%
Reading reflections (due 8 October, 12 November)—20%
Midterm (22 October)—20%
Paper (due 26 November)—20%
Final Exam—30%

Attendance for the course is mandatory. Be sure to contact me in advance if you are going to be absent for any length of time (see Accommodation below). Participation is an important element of the course (not just for your participation mark), and students should make every effort to ask questions and to engage in discussions and group work.

For the two reading reflections students are asked to write three pages (~1000 words) on any reading in the syllabus. There is no set template, I am merely looking for evidence of your thoughtful analysis. What caught your interest in the reading? Why is it important? How does it relate to other sociological themes and other readings? Avoid summaries or “rehearsals”; I am interested here in what you can do

with the content, not with your ability to describe it.

The paper should be a formal analysis of one of the themes of the course (gender, education, etc.). Why is it of interest for sociologists and how do they go about addressing it? Why else is it important (culturally, economically, politically, etc.)? To help you along there is a list of sample questions on Moodle. Alternatively, students may develop their own paper topics, but I recommend checking with me before you do this. In all cases try to have a clear thesis statement and remember that papers that argue or try to establish a point are easier to write and easier to read. The papers should be approximately 1600 words in length.

There will be a brief midterm consisting of a choice of several short-answer questions. A closed-book, essay-style exam will be scheduled during the regular examination period. In the case of pandemic restrictions, these will be take-home assignments.

Guidelines for submission

Written assignments must be submitted in electronic copy only via Moodle fifteen minutes before class on the due date. Late assignments without valid (e.g. verified medical) excuse will be penalized five percentage points per business day. Follow the layout guidelines on the department website (under "Current Students") and as per department guidelines, I urge you to use the American Sociological Association's citation and referencing system. Otherwise use one clear referencing system consistently, but I insist that you include page numbers when citing sources. It is up to you to track your own grades; they will not be posted electronically nor will I respond to email queries regarding them.

Plagiarism

Plagiarism is the use of *any* source without acknowledging its author/creator and will not be tolerated in this course. Not only is it a serious breach of academic integrity, but it undermines the efforts of other course participants. Cases of plagiarism will be dealt with in the strictest possible manner and the instructor reserves the right to use all available technical assistance to discover plagiarists. You can read more about academic integrity in the current academic calendar in section 3.8. If you are unsure of anything, please ask see me about it. Remember: there is no justification for plagiarism.

Contact

Please only email me (with "SOCL 102" in the subject line) if I can quickly read your email and then answer in a few words. Do write your emails in a professional manner with a salutation, a clear, properly punctuated body, a complimentary close, etc. For any communication more complex, students are welcome to phone or MS Teams during office hours. Generally no appointment is necessary. If you have difficulty with these times, simply contact me to set up an alternative arrangement.

Accommodation

Any student that requires accommodation of any kind should contact me at the earliest opportunity so that the appropriate arrangements can be made. Also, please contact me at the outset of any prolonged illness or personal matter that might detract from your performance in the course. My goal is to help students navigate this course to a successful conclusion but you are responsible for communicating any potential challenges to me. I am here to support you but I cannot do this if I do not have all the information in a timely manner.

Copyright

There will potentially be considerable online content for this course. I remind you that course materials are designed exclusively for use in SOCI 102 at StFX University only and are the property of the instructor, unless otherwise stated by the instructor. Copying any material for distribution, online posting, or selling of this material to third parties without permission is strictly prohibited subject to Canadian copyright law.

Outline

Week 1: 14, 15, 17 September	Introduction, Gender	<i>Seeing Ourselves</i> , Chapters 31, 32 and 33.
Week 2 21, 22, 24 September	Race and Ethnicity	<i>Seeing Ourselves</i> , Chapters 34 and 35.
Week 3 28, 29 September, 1 Oct.	The Economy and Work	<i>Seeing Ourselves</i> , Chapters 38, 39 and 40.
Week 4 5, 6, 8 October	Politics, Government and Military ► Attn: 1st reading reflection due 8 October	<i>Seeing Ourselves</i> , Chapters 41, 42 and 43.
Week 5 13, 15 October	Religion	No reading
Week 6 19, 20, 22 October	Over-/ re-view. ► Attn: Midterm 22 October	<i>Seeing Ourselves</i> , Chapters 47, 48 and 49.
Week 7 26, 27, 29 October	Education	<i>Seeing Ourselves</i> , Chapters 50 and 51.
Week 8 2, 3, 5 November	Health and Medicine	<i>Seeing Ourselves</i> , Chapters 53, 54 and 56.
Week 9 9, 10, 12 November	Population and Urbanization ► Attn: 2nd reading reflection due 12 November	<i>Seeing Ourselves</i> , Chapters 57 and 59.
Week 10 16, 17, 19 November	Environment and Society	<i>Seeing Ourselves</i> , Chapters 61, 62 and 63.
Week 11 23, 24, 26 November	Social Change and Modernity ► Attn: Paper due 26 November	<i>Seeing Ourselves</i> , Chapters 66, 67 and 68.
Week 12 30 November, 1 December	Conclusion and review No reading	No reading