

**St. Francis Xavier University**  
**SOCIOLOGY 302: Topics in Contemporary Theory (Everyday Life)**  
**Instructor: Dr. P. Cormack**  
**First term, 2012**

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*Office hours:* Monday: 11:15-1:15, Tuesday: 9:10-11:00, Friday: 10:10-12:15.

This course is meant to introduce students to some contemporary sociological thinkers, as organized around a particular topic. This year I have designed the course around the general topic of the *everyday* and everyday life. Here are some questions that you can use as you read the assigned authors:

- What is the everyday experience of people in our modern society?
- What or who organizes these experiences?
- How are things like knowledge, risk, trust, authority, intimacy, and self experienced in our time?
- What are the implications of these experiences for being productive and happy in our time?

We will be reading only four authors: Giddens, Goffman, Foucault, and Smith. We will have approximately three weeks to cover each author, so we will be able to discuss each book in detail. You will be expected to know the texts at a detailed level for exams. Toward this end, there is a 15-point participation grade in the course. You are expected to bring a question about the text to class to be discussed. Please write your *question, with your name, and the date* on a piece of paper and leave it at the front of the class for me to read at the beginning of each class. I am not looking for general questions, but questions about a particular paragraph or sentence in the assigned reading that you would like to clarify. For full marks, you will not only submit a question, but take a crack at answering it too. Incorrect answers will not count against you. If you miss a class, submit two questions the following class (on the assigned reading for that day). If you miss a number of classes, you may write a research paper to make up for the lost grades (as long as you submit a doctor's note).

Grade Breakdown:

Participation	15 points (1 point per class)
Mid-term exam	20 points (Friday, October 23rd)
Essay	15 points (due November 2nd) – late penalty, 2 points per day
Final	50 points

Reading Schedule:

Giddens, A. The Consequences of Modernity (5 classes)

pp. 1- 54 (“Modernity or Post-Modernity” section can be skipped.)

pp. 55-78

pp. 79-92

pp. 92-111

pp. 112-150

Goffman, E. The Presentation of Self in Everyday Life (6 classes)

pp. 1- 16 and pp. 252 – 255 (to peek ahead at his definition of self)

pp. 17-76

pp. 76-105

pp.106-140

pp.141-166

pp.167-207

pp. 207-255

MIDTERM EXAM

Foucault, M. History of Sexuality, Vol. 1 (5 classes)

pp.3-35

pp.36-73

pp.77-114

pp.115-131

pp. 135-159

Smith, D. The Everyday World as Problematic (5 classes)

pp. 1-36

pp. 45-100

pp. 105-145

pp. 147-178

pp. 181-225

FINAL EXAM