

Sociology of Work

Fall / Winter 2011-2012

Tuesday 9:45am

Thursday 8:15am

Instructor: Dr. Lynda Harling Stalker

Office: Annex 111B

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Office Hours: Thursdays 9:30-11:30; Wednesdays 9:30-11:30; Tuesday 11-12, 1-2; or by appointment

Course description



This course will look at the connection between work and society within a Canadian and global context. We will be looking at the theoretical and methodological underpinnings to this sub-discipline, how work has changed, and the various ways sociologists have come to understand work.

Course objective

The objective of this course is not only to encourage and engage critically with course material, but also to introduce students to a *reflexive* pedagogy. Reflexivity means that students start to see how their experiences come to shape their understanding of what they are learning. It is an objective of this course that students see how these experiences, whether personal / cultural / familial, can be connected with the material presented in this course. As such, students are strongly encouraged to contribute to class discussions and to make others feel welcome to do so as well. This is all in the hopes that by the end of the course students will see how they can take ownership of their learning, not only in this course but throughout their university career.

Textbooks

The following are required for this course:

-  *Work and society (Fall Term)*
-  *Interrogating the New Economy (Winter Term)*

They are available at the campus book store.

Evaluation

Major tests

You will write two major tests, each worth 20%, one in the December exam period and the other in the April one. They will be scheduled by the registrar's office. Each will require you to apply the knowledge you gained in each half of the course. You will be expected to draw upon readings, lectures and class discussions.

Mid-term tests

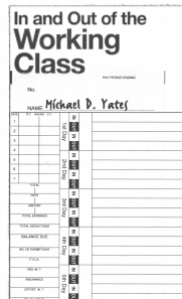
In each term you will do 1 test, each worth 10 % of your final grade. They will be concept-based and draw upon lectures and readings.

Writing assignments

Book review (due November 20)

Worth 15% of final grade.

In the fall term you are expected to write a critical book review of one of the following:



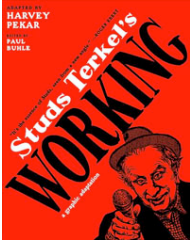
- *In and out of the working class.* M.D. Yates



- *More than a labour of love.* M. Luxton



- *Chocolate wars.* D. Cadbury



Studs Terkel's Working. H. Pekar

A limited number of each book is available at the book store. The books may be available via Novanet. You will have to sign up for one at the second class. There will be a specific question that must be dealt with each book.

Research Paper

Worth 25% of final grade

In the winter term you will be expected to do a research paper that deals with a question that came out of your book review. The question you wish to investigate must be indicated in your fall book review. This essay will be approximately 10-12 pages. You will be expected to incorporate a minimum of **5** academic sources (excluding course material). More details will be available to you early in the winter term.

Late penalties: For each day a paper is late, **5%** will be deducted from the assignment's grade.

Extensions: Extensions will only be granted with proper documentation.

N.B.: Be sure to retain a hard copy of all papers handed in.

Plagiarism

Copy of direct quotes or ideas without acknowledging the original author is considered plagiarism. Handing in a paper that you did not write, or a paper that you handed in for another class without permission of the instructor is also considered an infraction. These are serious academic offences. Any such offence will result in a **ZERO** in this course and referred onto university officials. For more information on plagiarism see the university calendar.

Special Needs

If a student requires special accommodations, please see the instructor as soon as possible.

Electronic guidelines for this course

Mobile communication devices are not permitted during class time. This includes cell phone and laptops. If you are noticed using one, you will be asked to leave the classroom. If you require a laptop for notetaking, please speak with the instructor. In such cases, you will be asked to sit in the first couple of rows of seats.

Class and reading schedule

First-term Class Schedule (The second-term class schedule will be distributed in January.)

09/13: Introduction to course

09/15: Introduction to work
S&W – Chapter 1

09/20: Theory – Classical
S&W – Chapter 2

09/22: Theory -- Contemporary

09/27: Methods
S&W – Chapter 3

09/29: Methods

10/04: Representations
S&W – Chapter 4

10/06: Representations

10/11: Industrialisation
S&W – Chapter 5

10/13: Industrialisation

10/18: Post-industrialisation
S&W – Chapter 6

10/20: Post-industrialisation

10/25: **TEST**

10/27: Divisions at work
S&W – Chapter 7

11/01: Divisions at work

11/03: Control at work
S&W – Chapter 8

- 11/08: Time and temporality
S&W – Chapter 9
- 11/10: Time and temporality
- 11/15: Domestic work
S&W – Chapter 10
- 11/17: Domestic work
- 11/22: Unemployment
S&W – Chapter 11
BOOK REVIEWS DUE
- 11/24: Unemployment
- 11/29: Culture
S&W – Chapter 12
- 12/01: Review
S&W – Chapter 13

SOCI 370 – Winter Term

In this term we will explore contemporary work issues in Canada. For this term, remember we are using *Interrogating the new economy: Restructuring work in the 21st Century* by Norene Pupo and Mark Thomas. The **evaluations** that are left in this term are:

Mid-term test (10% of final grade): February 9

Final test (20% of final grade): Scheduled by the Office of the Registrar

Term paper (25% of final grade): March 29

This is to explore a question that you had after reading your book in first term. You will be required to use a minimum of **5 academic sources**. The paper is to be about 10 double-spaced pages in length. You will be required to submit a thesis statement to Dr. Harling Stalker by February 28. If one is not submitted, the final paper will not be marked. More details will be presented during the week of February 14.

This term I have new office hours (AX111B):

Monday 11:15-12:15 and 1:15-2:15

Wednesday 9:30-11:30

Friday 9:30-11:30

Class Schedule and Readings

01/05: Introduction to the winter term

01/10: Neoliberalism

01/12: New Economy

Introduction

01/17: Capitalism

Chapter 1

01/19: Work and Welfare

Chapter 2

01/24: Work and Welfare

01/26: Restructuring – Education and Schooling

Chapter 3

01/31: Restructuring – Precarious

02/02: Occupational identities

Chapter 4

02/07: Subjective experience of work

02/09: TEST

02/14: Essay writing

02/16: Essay writing

02/28: Casualisation

Chapter 5

Thesis Statements Due

03/01: Call centres

Chapter 6

03/06: Age

Chapter 7

03/08: Generation Y

03/13: Foreigner workers

Chapter 8

03/15: "New" migrant workers

03/20: Taste and Distinction

Chapter 9

03/22: Cultural workers

03/27: Cultural economy

Chapter 10

03/29: Cultural economy

Paper Due

04/03: Labour militancy

Chapter 11

04/05: New forms of organizing

Chapter 12

04/10: Review