

St. Francis Xavier University
Department of Sociology

Sociology 100: Introduction to Sociology – 2013-14

Dr. John Phyne
Annex 110A

Class Times: Tuesday: 11:15 AM to 12:30 PM; Friday: 12:15 PM to 1:30 PM

Office Hours: First Semester Only: Monday: 1:30 to 3:00; Thursday: 10:00 to 12:00 Noon;
Friday: 10:00 AM to 12:00 Noon or by appointment.

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E-mail Policy: Please restrict your e-mails to necessary communications. These include extended absences from class (more than one week) and family emergencies. I refuse to use the e-mail to cover lectures from missed classes. My office hours or the phone should be used to cover materials pertaining to the course. Also, **NO LAPTOPS** are to be used in the class. Refer to my information and communications technology policy guidelines on p. 5 of this syllabus.

Course Outline

This course introduces students to the social scientific study of society. The major objective is to get students to place their own circumstances within a wider social context. Students will gain an understanding of social structures, institutions, norms, values, beliefs, and interaction. These concepts form the basic building blocks of sociological analysis. At the end of the course, students should be able to think sociologically, and grasp some of the basic tools necessary for engaging in sociological analysis.

The course is divided into six sections: **First**, students are introduced to the nature of sociological analysis and its relevance for understanding the world within which we live. **Second**, we explore the nature of 'culture' as a set of beliefs, norms and practices influencing everyday life. Students are introduced to research on cross-cultural comparisons, the media and religion. **Third**, we focus upon the *institutions* that form the basis of contemporary society (families, education, work and occupations). **Fourth**, the philosophical and methodological context of sociological research will be covered. **Fifth**, we explore the nature of *social inequality*. This includes the various dimensions of social stratification (class, ethnic/racial, gender and global). **Sixth**, the processes of *social conflict and social change* will be discussed (population and urbanization, the environment and globalization).

Textbook

Robert J. Brym, ed. *New Society: Sociology for the 21st Century*. Toronto: Harcourt, Brace & Company, Seventh Edition, 2013.

Evaluation

There are two examinations in the fall semester and three in the winter semester. The schedule for the examinations is listed below.

Fall Semester

Exam 1 – Tuesday, October 1 (10 marks – Two compulsory essays).

Exam 2 – Tuesday, November 5 (15 marks – Two out of Three Essays).

First Term Examination: 25 marks – based upon first term.

Winter Semester

Exam 1 – Tuesday, February 18 (20 marks – Two out of Three Essays).

Final Examination: 30 marks – based upon second term.

Required Readings

The readings listed below are mostly from your textbook. In addition, there are required readings [noted by an *] in the course's moodle page. Finally, materials will be placed in moodle over the course of the year that will be supplementary to class lectures. These materials will also be e-mailed to you.

Section One: Introduction: The Study of the 'Social' (September 6 to 13)

Robert J. Brym, 'Chapter One: Introducing Sociology', pp. 2-26.

Section Two: Cultural Practices and Institutions (September 17 – October 18)

1. Culture

Robert J. Brym, 'Chapter Two: Culture', pp. 28-49.

Ralph Linton, '100 Per Cent American.' **The American Mercury**, 1937, pp. 927-29. *

Horace Miner, 'Body Ritual Among the Nacirema.' **American Anthropologist**, 58(3), 1956, pp. 503-507.*

2. The Mass Media

Josh Greenberg and Graham Knight and, 'Chapter Five: Communication and the Mass Media', pp. 100-124.

C. Clayton Childress, 'All Media are Social.' **Contexts**, 2012, Vol. 11, pp. 55-57.*

Eric. Schoon and Cindy I. Cain, 'Facebook's Boundaries.' **Contexts**, 2011, Vol. 10, pp. 1-3.*

3. Religion

Reginald W. Bibby, 'Chapter Thirteen: Religion', pp. 310-338.

Section Three: Moving Through Society: Social Institutions (October 22 to November 15)

1. Families

Sandra Colavecchia, 'Chapter Ten: Families', pp. 232-255.

2. Work and Occupations

Sandy Welsh, 'Chapter Eleven: Work and Occupations', pp. 256-285.

3. Education

Scott Davies, 'Chapter Twelve: Education', pp. 286-309.

Section Four: Investigating the 'Social': Research Methods (November 19 to 29)

Neil Guppy, 'Chapter Twenty: Research Methods', pp. 492-520.

Section Five: Locating Our Place in Society: Social Inequality (January 7 to February 21)

1. Social Stratification

Harvey Krahn, 'Chapter Six: Social Stratification', pp. 126-155.

2. Gender Inequality

Monica Boyd, 'Chapter Seven: Gender Inequality: Economic and Political Aspects', pp. 156-181.

3. Race and Ethnic Relations

Vic Satzewich, 'Chapter Eight: Race and Ethnic Relations', pp. 182-209.

4. Global Inequality

Anthony Winson, 'Chapter Nine: Development and Underdevelopment', pp. 210-230.

Section Five: Social Conflict and Social Change (March 4 to April 4)

1. Population and Urbanization

John Hannigan, 'Chapter Fifteen: Population and Urbanization', pp. 368-393.

2. The Environment

S. Harris Ali, 'Chapter Sixteen: Sociology and the Environment', pp. 394-415.

3. Globalization

Josée Johnston, 'Chapter Nineteen: Globalization', pp. 462-489.

Technology and this Course

1. **E-mail:** Please restrict your e-mails to necessary communications. This includes extended absences from class (more than one week) and family emergencies. I refuse to use e-mail to cover lectures from missed classes. My office hours or the phone should be used to cover materials pertaining to the course. Unnecessary e-mails will remain unanswered.
2. **Cell phones:** Please turn off all cell phones before the commencement of class. If you need to have your cell phone turned on, please let me know as soon as possible.
3. **No laptops in the classroom:** The surfing of the net, while in class, is a rude and disrespectful act. Despite my attempts over several years (2006 to 2010) to get students to use their laptops in a responsible manner, far too many students were not complying. The surfing of the net turned out to be a distraction that interfered with my ability to teach. It also interfered with the learning environment for the class as a whole. In 2010, I decided to ban the use of laptops in the classroom.
4. **No audio or video taping of lectures:** Under no circumstances are my lectures to be audio taped or video taped. If you require assistance in the taking of notes, I suggest that you seek the assistance of the Counseling Centre (867-2281).

If you want to use your laptop, cell phone, blackberry, etc., I suggest that you leave the class. If I catch someone using these devices, that person will be asked to leave the class. If that person refuses to leave, I will end the class immediately and report the matter to the Dean of Arts. I am very serious about this issue!