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# 201910-SOCI-101.13-Introduction to Sociology I

## 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 – 30%

Reading Quizzes (7) – 8%

Participation in [forums](#) and [in class](#) – 8%

In-Class Essay (October 15) – 14%


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

Random Reading quizzes – 5%

[Sociology Book Choice](#) (October 29) – 6%

[Research Proposal](#) (November 19) – 17%

Final Exam – 30%

- [Announcements Forum](#)
-  [Syllabus -- Printable File](#)

Grading scheme for the class

-  [Sociology Book Choice File](#)

This is the first part of your research assignment.

-  [Research Proposal File](#)

Instructions for the second part of your research assignment.

- [Announcements Forum](#)
-  [Book Publisher rankings File](#)



Use these rankings to assess the academic value of your [sociology book choice](#).

-  [ASA Citation Format File](#)

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

-  [Plagiarism File](#)

How to avoid plagiarism.

-  [Participation on Moodle File](#)
-  [Participation in Class File](#)

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## **1 -- Human Nature and Modernity -- September 4**

**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.
- [External structure Choice](#)
- [Hidden from students:ForumUnderstanding Solnit Forum](#)

Available until end of **10 September 2018**

- [Quiz: Solnit](#)

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**2 -- Human Nature and Evolution -- September 10**

**Required Reading:**

- Bowles, Samuel, and Herbert Gintis. 2011. "[1. A Cooperative Species](#)," and "2. Conclusion: Human Cooperation and its Evolution." in *A cooperative species: human reciprocity and its evolution*. Princeton: Princeton University Press.

**Concepts:** hunting and gathering societies; culture; sociobiology; evolutionary biology; evolution of altruistic co-operation; gene-culture co-evolution; self-interested axiom of homo economicus

**Questions:** How did altruistic co-operation evolve through the Darwinian principle of "survival of the fittest?"

- [Hidden from students:ForumUnderstanding Bowles and Gintis Forum](#)

Discussion questions on the reading *A Cooperative Species*

Available until end of **16 September 2018**

- [Quiz -- Evolution of Co-operation](#)

Quiz on Bowles and Gintis

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### **3 -- Human Nature and Modernity -- September 17**

#### **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](#)]
- Osnos, Evan. 2017. "Doomsday Prep for the Super-Rich." *The New Yorker*, 30 January. Retrieved 3 August, 2017(<http://www.newyorker.com/magazine/2017/01/30/doomsday-prep-for-the-super-rich>).

**Concepts:** competitive individualism; social class; class conflict; corporate elite; fear of the "crowd" (or the public); (dis-)trust in systems: the market, the state; civil society; private solutions to public problems

#### **Questions:**

- Why, if Hobbes is right that we are equal in our natural capacities, are there enormous inequalities in society?
- What are the systems that maintain social order in the 21st century?
- Are any of these systems fragile and at risk of collapse in the 21st century?

### Recommended Reading:

- [Hobbes and Rousseau Choice](#)
- [Quiz-Hobbes and Osnos](#)
- [Understanding Hobbes Forum](#)

## 4 -- Colonialism and Race -- September 24

### 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.]
- Reeve, Elspeth. 2016. "White Nonsense: Alt-Right Trolls Are Arguing over Genetic Tests They Think "Prove" Their Whiteness " Vice News, Oct 9. Retrieved August 3, 2017(<https://news.vice.com/story/alt-right-trolls-are-getting-23andme-genetic-tests-to-prove-their-whiteness?cl=fp>).

**Concepts:** Colonialism; racism; assimilation; cultural genocide; modern subjectivity; collective identity; sovereignty; social construction of race; sociobiology; social darwinism; eugenics

### Questions:

- In what ways do states attempt to shape the identities of their citizens?
- Why was the Canadian state so hostile to First Nations identities?
- 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](#)

- [Colonialism and Race Quiz](#)

## 5 -- The Sociological Imagination -- October 5

### Required Reading:

- Gladwell, Malcolm. 2008. "[The Mathew Effect](#)." in *Outliers: The story of success*. London: Allen Lane.
- Durkheim, Emile. 1964. "[What is a Social Fact?](#)" in *The Rules of Sociological Method*. New York: Free Press of Glencoe.

**Concepts:** sociological imagination; social fact; social structure; blaming the victim

### 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.
- [Hidden from students:ForumDurkheim and Social Facts Forum](#)
- [Quiz-Social Facts](#)

## 6 -- The Sociological Imagination -- October 9

### Required Reading:

- Durkheim, Emile. 1897. "[Egoistic Suicide](#)." in *Suicide: A Study in Sociology*. Glencoe, Ill: Free Press.
- Durkheim, Emile. 1897. "[Anomic Suicide](#)." in *Suicide: A Study in Sociology*. Glencoe, Ill: Free Press.

- Junger, Sebastian. 2016. "[The Men and the Dogs](#)." in *Tribe: on homecoming and belonging*. New York: Harpercollins.

**Concepts:** Social cohesion; social regulation; suicide rates; egoism; anomie; hunting and gathering societies; altruism; individualism; inequality; evolution of co-operation;

**Questions:**

- What was it about industrialization in Europe that increased the suicide rate?
- Is individualistic, privatized modern society bad for humans?
- If Durkheim's theory is correct, what changes could be made to society to reduce the suicide rate?

**Recommended Reading:**

- [Hidden from students:ForumSuicide and Modern Societies Forum](#)
- [Durkheim and Junger Quiz](#)

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## 7 -- Micro Order and Interaction -- October 15

**Required Reading:**

- Geiser, Saul. 2001. "[Goffman: Rituals of Interaction](#)." in Conflict, order and action readings in sociology, edited by David Liu and Edward Ksenych. Toronto: Canadian Scholars' Press.
- 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>).

**Concepts:** performance of self, team, front-stage vs backstage, giving vs giving off impressions, micro-order, symbolic interactionism, dramatization/dramaturgy, face-to-face vs distanced interaction, myth of authenticity, trust, civil inattention, rituals: maintenance, presentation, access, ratification, avoidance

**Questions:**

- How do people construct (dramatize) and maintain the micro-order?
- How do people construct (dramatize) and maintain their identities within the micro-order

- What are the similarities and differences in the construction and maintenance of identity online and offline?
- What are the social implications of private firms owning an increasingly complete record of mediated human interactions?

**Recommended Reading:**

- Goffman, Erving. 1959. *Presentation of self in everyday life*. Garden City: N.Y.
- [Quiz-Goffman](#)
- [Hidden from students:ForumUnderstanding Goffman Forum](#)

Available until end of **26 October 2017**

-  [In-Class Essay Questions 2017 File](#)

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**8 -- The Market and Liberalism -- October 22**

**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]

**Concepts:** 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 are the societal costs of market relations according to Adam Smith?
- How does he think that these costs can be minimized?

**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](#)

## 9 -- Community and Civil Society -- October 29

### Required Reading:

- Kropotkin, Petr Alekseevich. 1910. "[Chapter 7: Mutual Aid Amongst Ourselves \[pre-Industrial\]](#)." in *Mutual Aid*. London: W. Heinemann.
- Kropotkin, Petr Alekseevich. 1910. "[Chapter 8: Mutual Aid Amongst Ourselves \[Industrial\]](#)." in *Mutual Aid*. London: W. Heinemann.
- Chen, Michelle 2015. "Are These Strikes a Sign of Growing Militancy among China's Workers?" *The Nation*, April 9. Retrieved August 4, 2017(<https://www.thenation.com/article/are-these-strikes-sign-growing-militancy-among-chinas-workers/>).

**Concepts:** Mutual aid; common property; state coercion; unions; co-operatives; civil society; public space

### Questions:

- How and why have states historically opposed people's organizations?
- How have people's organizations helped to create social order?
- How have people's organizations helped to create social change?
- Are people less organized in the 21st century? If so, what are reasons for and social implications of this change?

### 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.
- [Understanding Kropotkin Forum](#)

## 10 -- Systems of Domination: Surveillance -- November 5

### Required Reading:

- Bentham, Jeremy. 1791. [\*Panopticon or, the Inspection-House\*](#). Dublin: Thomas Byrne. (Read only letters I and II.)
- Rule, James B. . 2017. "When the Surveillance State Meets Donald Trump." Dissent, August 2. Retrieved August 4, 2017(<https://www.dissentmagazine.org/blog/surveillance-state-meets-donald-trump-repression>).

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

**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 are the social implications of increasing technological powers of surveillance?

**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
- [My Sociology Book Choice Forum](#)
- [Understanding Bentham Forum](#)

**11 -- Systems of Domination: Bureaucracy -- November 13**

**Required Reading:**

- Weber, Max. 1946. "[Bureaucracy](#)." *From Max Weber: Essays in Sociology*, ed H. H. Gerth and C. W. Mills. New York: Oxford University Press.
- Heer, Jeet 2017. "The Scary Power of Nepotism in Trump's White House." *New Republic*, April 4. Retrieved 3 August, 2017(<https://newrepublic.com/article/141835/scary-power-nepotism-trumps-white-house>).

**Concepts:** systems of domination, patrimonialism, [bureaucracy](#), hierarchy, division of labour, separation of office and incumbent, meritocracy (inequality of condition and equality of opportunity), corruption, accountability, bureaucratization, state, violence

**Questions:**

- In what ways is [bureaucracy](#) more efficient and stable than patrimonialism? Is it more fair?
- How, according to Weber, does the process of cultural evolution favour [bureaucracy](#)?
- What is the difference between [bureaucracy](#) and democracy?
- Is [bureaucracy](#) necessary in order to co-ordinate the actions of millions of people over great distances?

**Recommended Reading:**

- Bantjes, Rod. 2007. "Bureaucratization and Anarchist Resistance." in *Social Movements in a Global Context Canadian Perspectives*. Toronto: Canadian Scholars' Press.
- [Bureaucracy Forum](#)

## 12 -- Gender Inequality and Social Change -- November 19

**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

**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?

**Recommended Reading:**

- [Gender Equality Forum](#)

**13 -- Altering the Planetary Environment -- November 26**

Required Reading:

- McKibben, Bill. 2010 "[A New World.](#)" *Eaarth: Making a Life on a Tough New Planet.* Toronto: Knopf Canada.
- Video: Do The Math. 350.org

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?

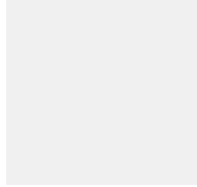
Recommended Reading:

- [Climate Change Forum](#)

## Review

-  [Study Questions File](#)

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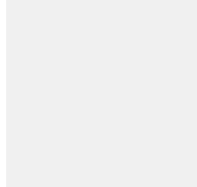


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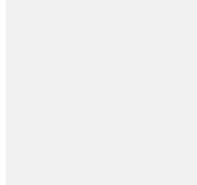


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## Upcoming events

### [2018 Homecoming](#)

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» [Sunday, 30 September](#), 3:00 PM

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### [December exam schedule available](#)

[Friday, 28 September](#), 12:00 AM

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### [Fall Study Day](#)

[Friday, 5 October](#), 12:00 AM

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### [Thanksgiving Day, no classes](#)

[Monday, 8 October](#), 12:00 AM

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### [HKIN Outdoor Camp session 1 begins](#)

[Friday, 12 October](#), 12:00 AM

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