



SOCI 102: 24

Introduction to Sociology II



Instructor:

Dr. Joel Z. Garrod
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Location:

MULH 2032
W7/W8

Office Hours:

By appointment

In this course, we will expand on the key thinkers, concepts, and subfields of sociology that you explored in SOC 101 through the context of comedy.

Looking at how comedy reveals the taken-for-granted aspects of our social lives—from issues of class, gender, and race, to culture, inequality, and the construction of knowledge—we will pay particular attention to the ways in which comedy acts as a form of social critique, speaking truth to power.

We will also explore the implications of power relations in our society, and the ways in which sociology can be a valuable tool for orienting us toward an alternative future, or a sense that things could be different.

Course Objectives & Textbook

By the end of this course, you should have:

- A broad grasp of the history of sociological thinking
- A general knowledge of sociological concepts and theories
- A critical view of the meaning and nature of power and power relations
- An understanding of some of the major issues facing contemporary global society



How Societies Work (5th Edition), by Joanne Naiman (2012)

All other readings can be found on Moodle



I truly believe that this course is relevant to your lives. If, at any time during this course, you feel that what we're learning isn't useful, I urge you to ask me: "Why should I give a damn?"

I'll gladly take time to explain why I believe what we're learning is important for you to know. And if I can't explain why, I'll amend that section of the course.

Requirements

Attendance is absolutely vital to this course, and will likely be a necessary part of getting a good grade. In return for attending, I promise to make the course interesting, and worthwhile. If you are unable to attend regularly, please talk to me about possible accommodations.

The **Comedy Comment** asks you to consider whether humour has any place in sociology. Your response should be one to two pages long. **Due January 20**

Quizzes are based off of the readings for their relevant class. They will take the form of a multiple-choice test available on Moodle.

The **Comedy Paper** will evaluate your ability to reflect on the relationship between comedy and social critique. You will choose one comedy clip, and write four to six pages about how that clip relates to a taken-for-granted aspect of contemporary life. **Due February 1**

The **Film Review** will assess your ability to review and critique a body of work using course materials and concepts. We will watch the film, *The Yes Men Fix the World*, and you will produce a four to six page critical review. More details will be provided on Moodle. **March 3**

The **Final Paper** will assess your understanding of the course material from the entire term. In an eight to ten page paper, you will be asked to consider the following questions: (1) Why is the study of power important?; (2) How can the sociological imagination be utilized to do so? **Due April 7**

Grading		
✓	Attendance:	10%
✓	Comedy Comment:	5%
✓	Quizzes:	10%
✓	Comedy Paper:	20%
✓	Film Review:	25%
✓	Final Paper:	30%

**All citations in
APA Style**

**Double-spaced,
12 point, Times
New Roman font**

**Late items lose 5
marks per day**

Class Schedule

Date	Topic	Readings
Jan 13	Introduction	Syllabus
Jan 18	Humour and sociology	Cormack et al., "A funny thing happened on the way to sociology" Brigstocke, "Can comedy help create change in society?"
Jan 20	Sociology and the study of society Comedy Comment due	Naiman, Chapter 1 Mills, "The promise"
Jan 25	Is human behaviour really the result of our biology?	Naiman, Chapter 2 Steinworth, "Jordan Peterson needs to reconsider the lobster"
Jan 27	Culture, society, history	Naiman, Chapter 3
Feb 1	The basis of modern societies Comedy Paper due	Naiman, Chapter 4
Feb 3	The agrarian origin of capitalism	Wood, "The agrarian origin of capitalism"
Feb 8	Analyzing social class	Naiman, Chapter 5

Date	Topic	Readings
Feb 10	The leisure class	Veblen, "Conspicuous consumption" Stoneman, "The new conspicuous consumption"
Feb 15	Nova Scotia Heritage Day	No readings
Feb 17	Living in capitalist societies	Naiman, Chapter 6
Feb 22	Film: <i>The Yes Men Fix the World</i>	No readings
Feb 24	Ideology	Marx & Engels, "Ruling class and ruling ideas" Williams, "Ideology"
Mar 1	The social construction of ideas and knowledge	Naiman, Chapter 7
Mar 3	The politics of capitalism	Heilbroner, "The politics of capitalism"
	Film Review due	
Mar 8	The role of the state	Naiman, Chapter 8
Mar 10	Paper writing workshop	Orwell, "Politics and the English language"
Mar 15	What is neoliberalism?	Harvey, "Freedom's just another word..."
Mar 17	Neoliberalism and globalization	Naiman, Chapter 9
Mar 22	Inequality of wealth and income	Naiman, Chapter 10

Date	Topic	Readings
Mar 24	Race and ethnicity	Naiman, Chapter 11 Huntley, "Unskilled foreigners seek move to Canada"
Mar 29	Environmental racism	Waldron, "Not in my backyard" Walking Eagle News, "Reconciliation now includes heavily armed police"
Mar 31	Gender issues	Naiman, Chapter 12
Apr 5	State violence	Maynard, "Misogynoir in Canada"
Apr 7	Looking toward the future	Naiman, Chapter 13

Final paper due



Additional Information

COVID-19

The 2020–2021 academic year is taking place during an exceptional period of human history. As the COVID-19 pandemic is still ongoing, we may have to adjust the course assessment plan and/or delivery method with little or no notice. You may also have to stay home from class for various reasons related to COVID-19 (such as simply feeling ill). If this happens to you, please contact me so that we can discuss an alternative to your attendance grade for that class. Lastly, it is important that you take care of yourself by getting adequate amounts of sleep, and by taking appropriate mental health breaks. The university website on COVID-19 provides more information and links (<https://www.stfx.ca/coronavirus>).

Academic Honesty and Plagiarism

As this course involves the production of written work, you should familiarize yourself with the standards for proper referencing of all cited materials, such as books, journal articles, newspaper articles, websites, and so on. Students that attempt to pass off someone else's work as their own (i.e., plagiarism) will be dealt with through the university policy on academic honesty. Please ensure that you fully understand this policy (see section 3.8 of the academic calendar, found at: <https://www2.mystfx.ca/registrars-office/academic-calendars>). Resources for avoiding plagiarism can be found on the library website (<https://www2.mystfx.ca/library/plagiarism>).

Writing Assistance

Despite the fact that this is a writing-intensive course, we will not be able to spend much time on the craft of writing. If you need assistance with your writing, I recommend booking an appointment with me or visiting the Student Success Centre (<http://www2.mystfx.ca/student-success/>).

Accommodations

If you have an injury, develop an illness, or encounter a personal crisis that will impact your progress in this course, please email me as soon as you are able. This will ensure that we find a way for you to complete the course. The Health and Counselling Centre is another resource available to you (<http://www2.mystfx.ca/health-and-counselling/>).

If you have any disabilities that require an accommodation in teaching style or evaluation, please speak to me as soon as possible so we can implement those accommodations. You may also want

to contact the Tramble Centre for Accessible Learning (<https://www2.mystfx.ca/accessible-learning/tramble-centre-accessible-learning>).

Equity and Discrimination

Everyone learns more effectively in a respectful, safe, and equitable learning environment free from discrimination or harassment. I invite you to work with me to create a classroom space that fosters and promotes values of human dignity, equity, non-discrimination and respect for diversity. These values and practices are in accord with the StFX Discrimination and Harassment Policy which can be found at (<https://www2.mystfx.ca/equity/policies>). Please feel free to discuss with me any questions or concerns you have about equity in our classroom or in the StFX community. If I cannot answer your questions or help you address your concerns, I encourage you to talk to the Chair/Coordinator of the Department/Program or the Human Rights and Equity Advisor.

Copyright

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Grade Scale

A+ = 90-100	B+ = 77-79	C+ = 67-69	D+ = 57-59
A = 85-89	B = 73-76	C = 63-66	D = 53-56
A - = 80-84	B - = 70-72	C - = 60-62	D - = 50-52
F = Below 50			