

St. Francis Xavier University
Soci 216 -- Canadian Society
Course Syllabus Winter 2022

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Office Hours: Tues 11am-12:30
Wednesday by appointment 12:30-2:30
Thursday 9:30am-12
Also available via email any time.
*Virtual office hours for the month of January

Introduction: This course will introduce students to some of the most salient social issues in Canadian society. This course applies a critical sociological lens to the society in which we live. The topics in this course are designed to challenge common-sense notions about Canadian society. We will explore many of the central social issues shaping Canadian society today, including what it means to be a Canadian, problems in Canadian society including the decline of democracy, education, colonialism, multiculturalism, racism, sexism, food security, the environment, poverty, globalization & more. Drawing on theories of intersectionality, we will also consider how power and privilege intersect along difference axes, particularly ethnicity, racialization, class and gender. We will examine why these issues are so important and how the state has traditionally attempted to resolve these matters. From our readings and class discussions, we will explore these issues by considering how various sociological theories approach them.

Class Preparation: You are expected to read all the required readings through the course so as to develop a sense of Sociology. It is expected that you will reflect and contemplate the readings by asking your own questions and examining your personal experiences. I expect students to be **active producers** rather than passive consumers of ideas. Thus, classes will involve online participation, discussions and lectures.

Class room etiquette/policies

- Be respectful of your classmates and avoid class disruption (leaving class early, late, talking, whispering).
- This class should be free from discrimination and harassment in accord with the *StFX Discrimination and Harassment Policy* which can be found at <http://www.mystfx.ca/campus/stu-serv/equity/>.
- Regular attendance at class is advised. (see calendar section 3.7) http://sites.stfx.ca/registrar/office/academic_calendar.
- Students are responsible for material discussed in class even when they are absent. Be sure to take notes as not all material covered in class will be in the readings. Always

bring a pen and paper to class. Note taking tips:

<https://lss.info.yorku.ca/resources/notetaking-at-university/#Intro>

- Avoid electronic devices in class

Required Materials:

Canadian Society Soci 216 READINGS are available on Moodle films, websites will be announced in class

Evaluation:

There are four requirements to complete this course.

Participation	10% Moodle Participation responses (5)
Paper	20% (March 24)
Quiz	30% (March 3)
Final Exam	40% (date determined by Registrar's office)

*Last day to drop course March 22

In the event of a class cancellation due to storm - please go to Moodle for class assignment (e.g., film, discussion)

Participation requirements:

You are expected to attend classes and to come to class **prepared**, having read the assigned readings and prepared to discuss the readings. You may be called upon at any time to respond to a question about the reading. You will also be participating in group discussions in class from time to time. To ensure you come to class prepared, you will submit a response to a question on Moodle prior to attending class (if there is no question you are required to submit a one-page response to the class readings) each week on Moodle (see syllabus) You will be evaluated on quality of your response (as well as the quantity of responses). You are required to submit 5 responses on Moodle. Responses will normally be submitted each Sunday – unless otherwise indicated see Moodle) Late responses will NOT be accepted even due to illness as you will have more opportunities to submit a response. The Moodle responses are not meant to replace attendance. Every effort should be made to attend classes and attendance will be taken into consideration in the participation grade. Accommodations: However, if you are not able to attend at least 75% of classes (missing 7 or more classes), as an alternative to participation you may submit an 8 page paper (SEE MOODLE). Please contact me at the outset of any prolonged illness or personal matter that might detract from your performance in the course. It is important to do this in a timely matter.

Reading schedule: Weekly Reading responses are due on Moodle by Sunday at noon (unless indicated otherwise), prior to the dates they are assigned on the syllabus. **ADDITIONAL REQUIRED (AND RECOMMENDED) READINGS WILL BE ADDED** or substituted at the instructors discretion (with advance notice).

Date

- Jan 18 Introduction to Course
- Jan 20-27 What does it mean to be a Canadian: Canadian Identity
Disenchanted Wonder: Collecting Canadian Identity through the CBC “Seven Wonders of Canada” Project by J. Cosgrave and P. Cormack (2017)
Role of the State in Canada by Leo Panitch (2006)

Canada US comparison (photo copy on Moodle)

Visual media and the construction of the benign Canadian border on National Geographic's Border Security by in Social & Cultural Geography May 2015
- Feb 1-3 Democracy and Individualism
Am I free by G. Pavlich
Rising Inequality, Declining Democracy by Bruce Campbell
How free is Canada?
- Feb 8 -17* Issues in Canadian Education
Knowledge Commodified and the New Economies of Higher Education by M. Lewis
The Privatization of our Public Universities
Neoliberalism and Education
- Feb 10 *Replaces Feb 10 class Dr. Agnes Calliste African Heritage Lecture is on Thursday, February 10 at 7:00, online.
- Feb 8-17 con't*
A Cultural Approach to a Canadian Tragedy: The Indian Residential Schools as a Sacred Enterprise by E. Woods
The apologizers Apology by Eva Mackey (Chapter 2) - *Aboriginal Peoples in Canada*
Reclaiming History: The residential school system in Canada
- **Reading Week****
- Mar 1 *Everyday Discrimination in Canada* by J. Godley
- Mar 3 Quiz

- Mar 8 *Immigrants and Immigration* by A. Fleuras
- Mar 10-17 *Violence Against Women in Canada* (2013) Statistics Canada
#Me too CBC pod cast “*Is Sexual Harassement in the workplace still a problem?*”
- Mar 22-24 “Problems in the Media” in *Social Problems in a Diverse Society* by D. Kendal et. Al.
- Paper due: Mar. 24
- Mar 29-31 *Food and Agriculture* by T. Wade et. Al.
- Apr 5-7 *The Environment and a Globalizing Sociology* Randolph Haluza-DeLay
Debra J. Davidson
- Apr.12-14 Chapter 5- *Canada-Building* by Augie Fleras
Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development (United Nations) 2015
The Sustainable development goals (2015) summary