

SOC101.16: Foundations of Sociology
Instructor: Dr. P. Cormack
Fall Term, 2017
Department of Sociology, St. Francis Xavier University

Office: 112A Annex

Office hours: Monday: 10:00-12:00; Tuesday: 12:30-1:30; Wednesday: 12:30-1:30; Friday: 10:15-12:15

Email: pcormack@stfx.ca

Classroom: Bruce Brown 237

Section: K (Tuesday, 8:15; Wednesday 10:15; Friday, 9:15)

This course will introduce you to thinking and researching sociologically. Topics include questioning everyday ideas (vs sociological thought), inequalities (race, gender, social class, etc.), and modern life. This is a reading-based course, so come to class having read the assigned texts.

Required Reading: SOC101: Foundations of Sociology. Dr. Patricia Cormack. Canadian Scholars Press.

Evaluation:

You are allowed to bring in a one "cheat sheet" for your quizzes and exams with any information you like on it. I will hand out an index card for you to use as your cheat sheet. You may either write on it or paste your computer notes on it. Your six quizzes cover *only* the assigned reading since your previous quiz. The final exam will cover all lecture and reading material.

Part of your grade is based on class participation. You will be divided into working groups. Please sit with your group each class. Groups will be asked to begin class discussion of the day's assigned reading. On moodle you will find a list of general questions to help you with your reading and your group responses.

Grade Breakdown:

- **Quizzes* 6 x 10 = 60 points**
- **Class participation** - 10 points**
- **Final exam - 30 points**

*Missed quizzes **cannot be taken**. Your grade and will be prorated to account for missed quizzes.

** If you miss more than 5 classes you will forfeit your participation grade. You may write an essay to make up for the participation grade. If you would like to do this, please come to see me about making this arrangement before classes end.

READING AND QUIZ SCHEDULE

Pre-sociological thought

- Hobbs, Book XIII, Leviathan.
- Rousseau, Chapter One, The Social Contract.

QUIZ 1 - SEPTEMBER 20

Thinking sociologically

- Miner, "Body Ritual Among the Nacirema".
- Mills, "The Sociological Imagination".
- Durkheim, from Suicide.

QUIZ 2 - OCTOBER 4

- Durkheim, "Second Preface", The Rules of Sociological Method.
- Sartre, "Anti-Semite and Jew".
- Parnis and Du Mont, "Symbolic Power and the Institutional Response to Rape: Uncovering the Cultural Dynamics of a Forensic Technology".

QUIZ 3 - OCTOBER 18

Everyday Life and Common Sense

- Merton, "The Self-Fulfilling Prophecy".
- Gladwell, "The Matthew Effect".
- Patry, Stinson & Smith, "The Reality of the CSI Effect".
- Brym, "Hurricane Katrina and the Myth of Natural Disasters".
- Klineberg, "Denaturalizing Disaster: A Social Autopsy of the 1995 Chicago Heat Wave."

QUIZ 4 - NOVEMBER 1

Inequalities

- DuBois, W.E.B. "Souls of Black Folk".
- "The Journey", The Survivors Speak: A Report of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada.
- Sennett and Cobb, "Some Hidden Injuries of Class".
- De Beauvoir, "Introduction" to The Second Sex.

QUIZ 5 – NOVEMBER 15

Classic Statements on Modern Life

- Weber, "Science as a Vocation".
- Marx and Engels, "The Communist Manifesto".
- Simmel, "The Stranger".

QUIZ 6 – NOVEMBER 29

FINAL EXAM – TBA

"Everyone learns more effectively in a respectful, safe and equitable learning environment, free from discrimination and harassment. I invite you to work with me to create a classroom space – both real and virtual – that fosters and promotes values of human dignity, equity, non-discrimination and respect for diversity. Please feel free to talk with me about your questions or concerns about equity in our classroom or in the STFX community in general. 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. Please note that a Human Rights and Equity Advisor will soon be appointed. In the meantime, students, faculty, or staff may also contact the Director of Human Resources at hr@stfx.ca or the Office of the AVP&P".