

Sociology 101: Foundations in Sociology
St. Francis Xavier University
Department of Sociology
Fall 2017

Instructor: Dr. Peter Mallory
Office Hours: Tues. 12:00-1:00;
Wed. 2:30-4:30; Thurs. 12:00-1:00
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Lecture Schedule

Q1 and Q2, Tuesday and Thursday 2:15-3:30

Course Description

This course introduces you to the most fundamental aspects of the discipline of sociology. We will explore the main theories, methods, and conceptual tools that sociologists use to understand our world. Sociology is a diverse discipline, and one aim of this course is to give you a sampling of the diversity of perspectives and insights in sociology. At the same time, we will also discuss what all sociologists have in common—that they all approach the study of human behaviour *socially*. Our central focus throughout this course will be the question of what it means to think sociologically about issues of our contemporary world.

Required Text

A course pack of readings is available at the Campus Store. Be sure the book you purchase is for this section of Sociology 101. Look for my name (P. Mallory) on the cover.

Course Evaluation

October Test	25%
Essay	25%
Final Exam	40%
Class Participation	10%

Essay:

There will be one short essay assignment, and a handout will be distributed in class. The completed papers will be between 4-5 pages in length (250 words per page, 12 point standard font, double spaced). It will be due on **Thursday, November 24**.

Tests and Exams:

There will be a mid-term test on **Thursday, October 13** and a closed-book exam will be held in the December exam period. A study guide for the final exam will be distributed during the final class.

Class Participation:

Active participation is an important part of this course. Participation comprises attendance, active listening, giving other students an opportunity to speak, raising and answering questions, and providing relevant comments on the material discussed in lecture. Please bring the readings to class and be prepared to offer your questions and insights.

IMPORTANT COURSE INFORMATION AND POLICIES**Late Policy**

Late papers submitted without prior permission will incur a late penalty of 5% of the total assignment per day, including weekends.

Academic Honesty and Plagiarism

Since this course requires you to complete a written assignment, you should familiarize yourself with standards for proper referencing of all materials cited (i.e. books, journals, newspaper articles, internet resources etc.). Students who attempt to pass off someone else's work as their own (plagiarism) will be dealt with through the university policy on academic honesty. Please ensure that you fully understand this policy (see section 3.8 in the calendar).

Classroom Technology

If you use a laptop for note taking, please do so in a way that does not distract others. Audio or video recording of this class is not permitted.

Special Accommodations

If you develop a prolonged illness or encounter a personal crisis that will impact your progress in the course, please contact me as soon as the problem becomes apparent. If you contact me early, we will have a better chance of developing a plan to help you complete the course in a way that is satisfactory to you.

Other Accommodations

If you are a student with physical, learning, or psychiatric disabilities that require reasonable accommodation in teaching style or evaluation, you should speak with me early in the term so that appropriate arrangements can be made.

That's all for now – Welcome to the Course!

LECTURE SCHEDULE AND READINGS

Sept 5 & 7

Introductions – What is Sociology? Why Study It?

Mills, C. Wright. 2008 [original. 1959]. “The Promise.” Pp 16-19 in *Rethinking Society*, edited by M. Webber and K. Bezanson. Toronto: Canadian Scholars Press.

Berger, Peter. 1998 [original. 1977]. “Sociology and Freedom.” Pp. 432-3 in *The Meaning of Sociology*, edited by J. Charon. Upper Saddle River, NJ: Prentice Hall.

Sept 12 & 14

Thinking Socially About “Natural” Disasters

Brym, Robert. 2008. “Hurricane Katrina and the Myth of Natural Disasters.” Pp. 53-78 in *Sociology as a Life or Death Issue*. Toronto: Pearson.

Klinenberg, Eric. 2004. “Denaturalizing Disaster: A Social Autopsy of the 1995 Chicago Heat Wave.” Pp. 308-317 in *Violence in War and Peace: an Anthology*, edited by N. Scheper-Hughes and P. Bourgois. Malden, MA: Blackwell Publishers.

Sept 19 & 21

Thinking Socially About Emotions

Hochschild, Arlie. 2011 [original 1979]. “Emotion Work and Feeling Rules.” Pp. 51-56 in *Inside Social Life*, edited by S. Cahill and K. Sandstrom. New York: Oxford University Press.

Hochschild, Arlie. 1992. “The Managed Heart: Commercialization of Human Feeling.” Pp. 136-148 in *Social Interaction: Readings in Sociology*, edited by C. Clark and H. Robboy. New York: St. Martin’s Press.

Sept 26 & 28

Classical Sociological Theory: Emile Durkheim

Durkheim, Émile. 1982 [original 1895]. “What is a Social Fact?” Pp. 51-59 in *The Rules of Sociological Method*. New York: The Free Press.

Durkheim, Émile. 1951 [original 1897]. *Suicide*. New York: The Free Press. Pages 246-254

Oct 3 & 5

Culture, Symbols, and Meaning

White, Leslie A. 2007 [original 1949]. “Symbol: The Basic Element of Culture.” Pp. 33-37 in *Seeing Ourselves: Classic*,

Contemporary, and Cross-Cultural Readings in Sociology, edited by J. Macionis et al., 2nd Canadian Edition. Toronto: Pearson.

Becker, Howard. 2002. "Culture: A Sociological View." Pp. 238-243 in *The Meaning of Sociology*. Upper Saddle River, NJ: Prentice Hall.

Miner, Horace. 1956. "Body Ritual among the Nacirema." *American Anthropologist* 58(3): 503-507.

Oct 10 & 12*

Self and Socialization

Mead, George Herbert. 2001 [orig. 1934]. "The Self" Pp. 71-78 in *Seeing Ourselves: Classic, Contemporary, and Cross-Cultural Readings in Sociology*, edited by J. Macionis and N. Benokraitis. Toronto: Pearson.

*Test – Thursday October 12

Oct 17 & 19

Total Institutions

Rosenhan, D.L. 1973. "On Being Sane in Insane Places." *Science* 179: 250-258.

Goffman, Erving. 1997 [original 1961]. "The Mortified Self." Pp. 55-71 in *The Goffman Reader*, edited by C. Lemert and A. Branaman. Malden, MA: Blackwell.

Oct 24 & 26

Obedience and Authority

Milgram, Stanley. 1973. "The Perils of Obedience." *Harper's Magazine*, December: 62-77.

Kelman, Herbert and Lee Hamilton. 2002. "The My Lai Massacres: Crimes of Obedience and Sanctioned Massacres." Pp. 195-222 in *Corporate and Governmental Deviance*, edited by M. Ermann and R. Lundman. New York: Oxford University Press.

Oct 31 & Nov 2

Classical Sociological Theory: Max Weber

Weber, Max. 1987 [original 1920]. "What is Social Action?" Pp. 44 in *The Meaning of Sociology*, edited by J. Charon. Englewood Cliffs, NJ: Prentice Hall.

Hale, Sylvia. 2011. "Max Weber and Rationality in Western Culture." Pp. 402-415 in *Contested Sociology*. Toronto: Pearson.

Nov 7 & 9

Classical Sociological Theory: Karl Marx

Marx, Karl and Friedrich Engels. 1978 [original 1848]. "The Communist Manifesto [selection]." Pp. 473-483 in *The Marx-Engels Reader*, edited by R. Tucker. New York: Norton.

Nov 14 & 16

Class, Culture, and Social Inequality

Bourgois, Philippe. 2009. "Poverty at Work: Office Employment and the Crack Alternative." Pp. 227-239 in *Conformity and Conflict*, edited by J. Spradley and D. McCurdy. Upper Saddle River, NJ: Pearson.

Sennett, Richard and Jonathan Cobb. 1981. "Some Hidden Injuries of Class." Pp. 223-233 in *Down to Earth Sociology*, edited by J. M. Henslin. New York: The Free Press.

Nov 21 & 23*

Class and Culture in Universities

Lehmann, Wolfgang. 2009. "Becoming Middle Class: How Working-Class University Students Draw and Transgress Moral Class Boundaries." *Sociology* 43(4): 631-647.

Hamilton, Laura and Elizabeth Armstrong. 2012. "The (Mis)Education of Monica and Karen." *Contexts* 11(4): 22-7.

Valenti, Jessica. 2014. "How to End the College Class War", *The Guardian*, May 27.

*Essay Due in Class – Thursday, November 23

Nov 28

Objectivity and Bias in Social Research

Becker, Howard. 1967. "Whose Side are We On?" *Social Problems* 14(3): 239-247.

Nov 30

Conclusion to the Course