

SOC100H1F
INTRODUCTION TO SOCIOLOGY
Summer 2017
University of Toronto, St. George Campus

Course Director: Dr. Jasmin Hristov

Class Time and Location: Mon and Wed 6-9pm, Location: MP 102

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Office Hours: Fri 2-4pm; Room 389, Department of Sociology, 725 Spadina Avenue.

TAs: Lance Stewart and Taylor Price

Course Description

This course introduces students to the discipline of sociology by looking at key theoretical perspectives, concepts, and fields of inquiry in the study of society and social life. Topics include social inequality, globalization, race and ethnicity, culture, families, the mass media, gender and sexuality, and crime and deviance among others. The course is designed to: 1) actively promote the development of a wide range of skills essential to academic success including effective reading and note-taking, exam preparation, concept application, and critical thinking; 2) encourage students to reflect on what it means to think sociologically and analyze their daily interactions, experiences and world news through sociological lenses; 3) provide students with a sense of what they may expect in subsequent levels sociology courses across the various subject areas.

Learning Objectives

- Gain a broad understanding of major theoretical approaches to the study of society, social life, and social change
- Learn about the major fields of sociological inquiry along with some of the main questions within each
- Develop an ability to grasp the connections between: small-scale (micro) issues and structural (macro) social processes; local and global phenomena; different forms of social inequality; social structure and agency
- Acquire basic knowledge of macro-level historical processes that have shaped our present-day world
- Develop skills that can enhance academic performance

Course Format

Lecture

The lecture will consist of an interactive presentation by the professor, with the first 5-10 minutes of spent on a brief overview of what was covered the previous class. Students are expected to engage seriously with the assigned readings before attending lecture.

Tutorials

Tutorials will be held by the professor at the same location as the lecture, between 8:10 and 9pm. Three types of activity will take place during tutorial: 1) 15-min Learning Reflection; 2) Skills Development OR 'A Glimpse into the Field'; 3) open Q&A session. The Learning Reflections are a form of exercise that enables students to practice numerous skills including: strategic reading and synthesizing; reflection

and application of concepts to reality; and written communication. The Skills Development will be in the form of a workshop where the professor will provide strategies and guidance for building core skills and allow students to practice these through short in-class exercises. A Glimpse into the Field sessions will give students an idea of the topics that would be covered in a subsequent level course within that specific field of sociological inquiry. In other words, students will find out what to expect if they were to take future courses on that subject. The Q&A part will be for students to ask any questions about the lecture or tutorial content.

Required Readings

- Brym, R. and Lie, J. (2017). *SOC+ Introduction to Sociology. 3rd Edition*. Toronto: Nelson.
- Few articles available online on Blackboard at NO COST for students enrolled in the course.

Evaluation

Type	Weight	Date
IN-CLASS LEARNING REFLECTIONS	20%	Every class starting May 24th
IN-CLASS TEST	30%	MAY 31
DISCUSSION QUESTION	10%	JUNE 21
FINAL EXAM	40%	During examination period

- The test and the final exam will consist of a combination of multiple-choice and written-answer questions.
- Any documentaries shown in class form an integral part of the course material. The test and final exam may require you to incorporate the knowledge gained from documentaries into your answers.

15-minute In-class Written Learning Reflections

During every tutorial, starting May 24, students are required to write a learning reflection on the assigned readings for that day. The reflection should consist of:

- an overview of what you consider to be the key themes/concepts in the readings (this should make-up two-thirds of the content of your reflection);
- a personal statement about / opinion on the themes (this should be about one-third of the content of your reflection).

You will be submitting 8 reflections for the entire semester. The submission of reflections is worth a total of 8%. The content quality of these will be evaluated cumulatively at the end of the course and is worth an additional 12% (for a total of 20% of the final grade). The first three reflections will be returned with feedback; the rest will be retained by the TAs.

Learning Reflections will be evaluated in terms of:

- Coverage of material
- Analytical engagement with the content of the reading
- Drawing connections between the readings and material taught in previous lectures / shown in the documentaries as well as the application of concepts to everyday reality
- Clarity

Discussion Question (DQ) due June 21

Students are required to submit a discussion question based on any one or more of the readings and documentaries shown in class. The DQ should be preceded by a brief background (preamble) that situates us in terms of the topic on which it is based. The question itself may consist of more than one part. ***It should not have a right or wrong answer, not ask for clarification or factual information, but instead should invite us to think critically and creatively.*** The DQs will be evaluated in terms of their clarity, creativity, and engagement with the documentaries.

E-mail /Online Communication

E-mail communication is for providing short answers to any clarification questions regarding the course content and/or organization and should be directed to the professor. Your emails will be responded within 2 days. Please check Blackboard regularly for course announcements.

Attendance

Regular attendance at lectures is required in order for you to do well in the course. Lectures explain ***as well as supplement*** the readings. One does not substitute for the other. If you need to miss lecture, you will not be penalized, however you should ensure that you know someone in the class from whom you can borrow lecture notes. Lecture ***power-points*** will be posted on Blackboard. Keep in mind that these ***do not contain all lecture content or explanations*** but rather constitute an outline/point-form organization of the content, including some key definitions.

Use of Electronic Devices in Class

The use of electronic devices for purposes other than note-taking / course-related work is not allowed. It inhibits learning and is also disruptive and disrespectful.

Talking during Lecture

Talking to your classmates during lecture (even if you are whispering) is disturbing. Please refrain from talking unless you have been invited to do so by the instructor. If you are unclear about something that was said by the instructor, please put up your hand instead of asking your classmates. This will ensure that you or your classmates do not miss anything important and fall behind during lecture.

Taping / Recording / Photographing Lectures

Lectures and course materials prepared by the instructor are the instructor's intellectual property covered by the Canadian Copyright Act. Students wishing to record lecture or other course material in any way are required to ask the instructor's explicit permission and may not do so unless permission is granted. This includes tape recording, filming, photographing PowerPoint slides, Blackboard materials, etc. Once obtained, such permission is only for that individual student's own study purposes and does not include permission to "publish" them in any way. It is absolutely forbidden for a student to publish an instructor's notes to a website or sell them in other form without formal permission.

Blackboard

Announcements, lecture power-points, and any additional learning aids will be posted here, so please check the website a few times a week.

Policy on Disputing Test Grades

If you disagree with the grade you were given on the written portion of your answer, you must present your argument in writing to the instructor **within one week** after the grades have been posted on Blackboard /tests have been returned.

Missed / Late Work

Missed Test

Students who miss a test will receive a mark of zero.

If you miss a test for a legitimate reason, you must follow the steps described below. Telling the professor or TA why you missed a test will not be considered.

Students who miss a test due to a medical or family crisis, will be given the opportunity to write a make-up test if **within three days** they provide the professor with a written request for special consideration which explains why the test was missed, **accompanied by proper documentation from a physician or college registrar**. A request should be accompanied by contact information (the student's telephone number and email address) so the date, time and place of the make-up test can be communicated to the student. **In case of illness, you must supply a duly completed *Verification of Student Illness or Injury Form* (available at www.illnessverification.utoronto.ca).** A doctor's note is not acceptable. The form must be placed in a sealed envelope and submitted to Meghan Dawe. If a family crisis prevents you from meeting a deadline, you must get a letter from your college registrar.

Discussion Question

If you are unable to submit the Discussion Question on time for a legitimate reason, please provide the instructor with the above documentation. She will then communicate with the TA to accept a late submission from you. Late Discussion Questions without an official documentation will be penalized 5% per day and DQs more than two days late will not be accepted.

The last day to submit a late DQ (with documentation) is June 25th.

Missed /Late Reflections

Reflections can only be written and submitted in class. Not attending class on which a reflection is due, will lead to losing 1%. However, students have the right to miss ONE class for the entire course without documentation and not lose marks, *provided* that they submit their reflection to the professor at the beginning of the subsequent class. Late reflections without official documentation will not be accepted.

If you are unable to submit a reflection on time for a legitimate reason, please provide the professor with the above documentation. She will then communicate with the TA to accept a late submission from you. Note that a proper documentation entitles you to a late submission of a reflection, but not to miss a reflection altogether. Failure to submit a reflection will lead to losing 1% for submission and it will also affect to some extent the quality of content grade that you will receive at the end.

Please note that the last day to submit a late reflection (provided that you have submitted the official documentation indicating your eligibility for an extension) is June 25th. No assignments will be accepted during the official examination period (June 26-30).

Accessibility Needs

Students with diverse learning styles and needs are welcome in this course. In particular, if you have a disability or health consideration that may require accommodations, please feel free to approach me and/or Accessibility Services at (416) 978-8060 or visit: <http://studentlife.utoronto.ca/accessibility>

ACADEMIC INTEGRITY

The University of Toronto treats cases of academic misconduct very seriously. Academic integrity is a fundamental value of learning and scholarship at the U of T. Participating honestly, respectfully, responsibly, and fairly in this academic community ensures that your U of T degree is valued and respected as a true signifier of your individual academic achievement.

The University of Toronto's *Code of Behaviour on Academic Matters* outlines the behaviours that constitute academic misconduct, the processes for addressing academic offences, and the penalties that may be imposed. ***You are expected to be familiar with the contents of this document.*** Potential offences include but are not limited to:

In papers and assignments:

- Using someone else's ideas or words without appropriate acknowledgement.
- Copying material word-for-word from a source (including lecture and study group notes) and not placing the words within quotation marks.
- Submitting your own work in more than one course without the permission of the instructor.
- Making up sources or facts.
- Including references to sources that you did not use.
- Obtaining or providing unauthorized assistance on any assignment including:
 - working in groups on assignments that are supposed to be individual work;
 - having someone rewrite or add material to your work while "editing".
 - lending your work to a classmate who submits it as his/her own without your permission.

On tests and exams:

- Using or possessing any unauthorized aid, including a cell phone;
- Looking at someone else's answers;
- Letting someone else look at your answers;
- Misrepresenting your identity;
- Submitting an altered test for re-grading.

Misrepresentation:

- Falsifying or altering any documentation required by the University, including doctor's notes.
- Falsifying institutional documents or grades.

**Students who commit an academic offence face serious penalties. All suspected cases of academic dishonesty will be investigated following the procedures outlined in the *Code of Behaviour on Academic Matters*. The consequences for academic misconduct can be severe, including a failure in the course and a notation on your transcript. Avoid plagiarism by citing properly: practices acceptable in high school

may prove unacceptable in university. If you have questions about appropriate research and citation methods, seek out additional information from me, or from other available campus resources like the U of T Writing Website.

SCHEDULE OF READINGS AND COURSE WORK

MAY 15 Introduction

- Introduction to course objectives, expectations, and organization

MAY 17

Lecture Topic: What is Sociology and Why Do We Need a Sociological Imagination?

- Brym, R. and Lie, J. (2017). Ch.1: Introduction to Sociology, pp. 3-15
- Mills, C.W. (1959). The Promise. In *The Sociological Imagination*. Oxford: Oxford University Press.

Tutorial Objective: Skills Development - Critical Thinking through a Relational Approach

MAY 22 Holiday

MAY 24

Lecture Topic: Social Stratification: Historical and Theoretical Background

- Thomas, M. (2012). Class, State, and Power: Unpacking Social Relations in Contemporary Capitalism. In Brock, D., Raby, R. and Thomas, M.P. (Eds.). *Power and Everyday Practices*. Toronto: Nelson, pp.110-127.
- Brym, R. and Lie, J. (2017). Ch.6: Social Stratification, pp. 111-120
 - In-class Learning Reflections Begin

Tutorial Objective: Skills Development - Effective Reading, Active Listening and Note-taking

MAY 29

Lecture Topic: Colonialism, Slavery, and Racism

- McNally, D. (2002). The Colour of Money: Race, Gender, and the Many Oppressions of Global Capital. In *Another World is Possible*. Winnipeg: Arbeiter Ring Publishing, pp. 105-116.
- Brym, R. and Lie, J. (2017). Ch.6: Social Stratification, pp. 129-132

Tutorial Objective: Skills Development - Studying for Exams and Preparing for Written-answer Questions

MAY 31 MID-TERM EXAM IN CLASS

JUNE 5

Lecture Topic: Globalization and Social Inequalities

- McNally, D. (2011). Debt, Discipline and Dispossession: Race, Class and the Global Slump. In *Global Slump: The Economics and Politics of Crisis and Resistance*. Oakland, CA: PM Press, pp. 113-119; 126-139
- Hickel, J. (2012). A Short History of Neoliberalism and How We Can Fix It.

Tutorial Objective: Skills Development – Applying a Relational Analytical Approach

JUNE 7

Lecture Topic: Race and Ethnicity

- Brym, R. and Lie, J. (2017). Ch.7: Race and Ethnic Relations
- McNally, D. (2011). Debt, Discipline and Dispossession: Race, Class and the Global Slump. In *Global Slump: The Economics and Politics of Crisis and Resistance*. Oakland, CA: PM Press, pp. 120-126.

Tutorial Objective: Taking up Test Answers

**June 9 is the last day to drop a course from academic record*

JUNE 12

Lecture Topic: Culture, Socialization and the Media

- Brym, R. and Lie, J. (2017). Ch. 2: Culture, pp. 27-38; 43-45
- Brym, R. and Lie, J. (2017). Ch. 3: Socialization
- Brym, R. and Lie, J. (2017). Ch. 12: The Mass Media

Tutorial Objective: A Glimpse into the Field

JUNE 14

Lecture Topic: Family, Religion and Education

- Brym, R. and Lie, J. (2017). Ch. 9: Families
- Brym, R. and Lie, J. (2017). Ch. 10: Religion and Education

Tutorial Objective: A Glimpse into the Field

JUNE 19

Lecture Topic: Gender, Sexuality, and Inequality

- Brym, R. and Lie, J. (2017). Ch.8: Sexualities and Gender

Tutorial Objective: A Glimpse into the Field

JUNE 21

Lecture Topic: Deviance and Crime

- Brym, R. and Lie, J. (2017). Ch. 5
 - Discussion Question Due

Tutorial Objective: Final Exam Directions and Tips