SOCIOL 1C03: Canadian Society, Social Problems, Social Policy and the Law

Summer Term

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**Office:** Unavailable **Office Hours:** By Appt via Skype/Zoom  
**Lecture:** Mondays and Wednesdays

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# Course Description

In this course, we will explore social problems in the Canadian context using various sociological lenses to better understand them. We will also be considering how social policy and the law can both solve, as well as exacerbate, certain social problems. During the semester, we will pay particular attention to: (1) economic inequality, (2) intimate relations, (3) work, (4) immigration, (5) health and illness, (6) and the criminal justice system.

# Course Objectives

By the end of the course students should be able to:

* Understand the dominant theoretical and methodological perspectives that are utilized to study social problems, as well as appreciate the strengths and limitations of these approaches
* Gain a critical understanding of the impact that the individual and society has on shaping and responding to social problems
* Be able to apply concepts learned to current situations and events in the community and around the world.
* Enhance students’ critical thinking, writing, and organizational skills through course assignments

# Class Format

This course will be entirely delivered via Avenue to Learn. While there will be no live lectures, there will be some video content (either brief portions of the lecture or other related video links). Our lectures are scheduled for Monday and Wednesday evenings, so notes and slides will be posted prior to those times.

# Course Materials and Texts

Kendall, Diana, Edward G. Thompson, and Vicki L. Nygaard. 2015. *Social Problems in a Diverse Society, Fourth Canadian Edition.* Pearson Canada

* Note that this is **REQUIRED** reading for the course
* Both hard copies and online versions can be found for purchase or to rent

# Avenue to Learn

One our site, you will find announcements related to class, lecture slides, information regarding the week’s readings, as well as any interesting links that come up during the course of the semester. Students will also be taking all quizzes and exams on Avenue.

Students should be aware that, when they access the electronic components of this course, private information such as first and last names, user names for the McMaster e-mail accounts, and program affiliation may become apparent to all other students in the same course. The available information is dependent on the technology used. Continuation in this course will be deemed consent to this disclosure. If you have any questions or concerns about such disclosure please discuss this with the course instructor.

# Course Evaluation – Overview

* **4 Quizzes (10% Each)**
* **Midterm Exam (30%)**
* **Final Exam (30%)**

# Course Evaluation – Details

## Quizzes (10% Each – 40% Total)

Quizzes will consist of Multiple Choice and True or False questions that will be administered on Avenue to learn. Below, you will find the scheduled dates of the quizzes:

1. June 29, 2020
2. July 8, 2020
3. July 22, 2020
4. July 29, 2020

## Mid-Term Exam (30%) July 13, 2020

The exam will be a take-home exam format and will consist of Short and Long answer questions.

## Final Exam (30%) August 5, 2020

The exam will be a take-home exam format and will consist of Short and Long answer questions.

# Course Policies

## Grades

Grades will be based on the McMaster University grading scale:

| **MARK** | **GRADE** |
| --- | --- |
| 90-100 | A+ |
| 85-90 | A |
| 80-84 | A- |
| 77-79 | B+ |
| 73-76 | B |
| 70-72 | B- |
| 67-69 | C+ |
| 63-66 | C |
| 60-62 | C- |
| 57-59 | D+ |
| 53-56 | D |
| 50-52 | D- |
| 0-49 | F |

## Grade Adjustment Techniques

In the event that a student disagrees with their mark on a quiz or exam, the student must adhere to the following procedure:

1. The student must write a detailed one-page note outlining the reason for the review of the mark. This note must be attached to the original assignment and handed in to the instructor

2. The instructor will review the request and review the original assessment and provide the student with written feedback

3. Students must not submit a request for review any earlier than 1 week after the paper/exams are returned and no later than 2 weeks after

4. Please note that upon re-review, there is a chance that the new grade may be lower than the original grade received

***Late Assignments and MSAF***

The due dates for assessments are fixed and non-negotiable, unless you submit a McMaster Student Absence Form (http://www.mcmaster.ca/msaf).The MSAF is a self- reporting tool for Undergraduate Students to report absences for medical or other reasons that last up to 3 days and provides the ability to request accommodation for any missed academic work worth less than 25% of your overall. In these cases, students should review and follow the Academic Regulation in the Undergraduate Calendar “Requests for Relief for Missed Academic Term Work”. Please note these regulations have changed beginning Fall 2015.

This form should be filled out when you are about to return to class after your absence. If you are absent for more than 3 days, or exceed one request per term, you MUST visit your Associate Dean’s Office. You may be required to submit supporting documentation.

## Absences, Missed Work, Illness

In the event of an absence for medical or other reasons, students should review and follow the Academic Regulation in the Undergraduate Calendar “Requests for Relief for Missed Academic Term Work”. In addition, please contact me via email as soon as possible.

## Turnitin.com

In this course we will be using a web-based service (Turnitin.com) to reveal plagiarism. To see the Turnitin.com Policy, please go to www.mcmaster.ca/academicintegrity.

# University Policies

## Academic Integrity Statement

You are expected to exhibit honesty and use ethical behavior in all aspects of the learning process. Academic credentials you earn are rooted in principles of honesty and academic integrity.

Academic dishonesty is to knowingly act or fail to act in a way that results or could result in unearned academic credit or advantage. This behavior can result in serious consequences, e.g. the grade of zero on an assignment, loss of credit with a notation on the transcript (notation reads: “Grade of F assigned for academic dishonesty”), and/or suspension or expulsion from the university.

It is your responsibility to understand what constitutes academic dishonesty. For information on the various types of academic dishonesty please refer to the [Academic Integrity Policy](http://www.mcmaster.ca/academicintegrity).

The following illustrates only three forms of academic dishonesty:

1. Plagiarism, e.g. the submission of work that is not one’s own or for which credit has been obtained.
2. Improper collaboration in group work.
3. Copying or using unauthorized aids in tests and examinations.

## Academic Accommodation of Students with Disabilities

Students who require academic accommodation must contact Student Accessibility Services (SAS) to make arrangements. Academic accommodations must be arranged before classes or academic work begins, and for each term of study. Student Accessibility Services can be contacted by phone 905-525-9140 ext. 28652 or e-mail [sas@mcmaster.ca](mailto:sas@mcmaster.ca). For further information, consult McMaster University’s Policy for [Academic Accommodation of Students with Disabilities.](http://www.mcmaster.ca/policy/Students-AcademicStudies/AcademicAccommodation-StudentsWithDisabilities.pdf)

## Academic Accommodation for Religious, Indigenous and Spiritual Observances

Students who require academic accommodation due to an Observance must submit a RISO form to their Faculty office, electronically or in person, normally within ten working days from the beginning of each term in which they are anticipating a need for Accommodation. For further information, consult McMaster University’s [Policy on Academic Accommodation for Religious, Indigenous and Spiritual Observances](https://www.mcmaster.ca/policy/Students-AcademicStudies/AcademicAccommodation-Observances.pdf).

## Faculty of Social Sciences E-mail Communication Policy

Effective September 1, 2010, it is the policy of the Faculty of Social Sciences that all e-mail communication sent from students to instructors (including TAs), and from students to staff, must originate from the student’s own McMaster University e-mail account. This policy protects confidentiality and confirms the identity of the student. It is the student’s responsibility to ensure that communication is sent to the university from a McMaster account. If an instructor becomes aware that a communication has come from an alternate address, the instructor may not reply at his or her discretion.

## Course Modification

The instructor and university reserve the right to modify elements of the course during the term. The university may change the dates and deadlines for any or all courses in extreme circumstances. If either type of modification becomes necessary, reasonable notice and communication with the students will be given with explanation and the opportunity to comment on changes. It is the responsibility of the student to check his/her McMaster email and course websites weekly during the term and to note any changes.

# Weekly Course Schedule

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| DATE | TOPIC | READINGS | DUE |
| June 22 | Introduction to the Course  What are Social Problems? | **No Readings** |  |
| June 24 | Understanding Social Problems | Chapter 1 |  |
| June 29 | Economic Inequality | Chapter 2 | **Quiz 1 (10%)** |
| July 1 | **No Class** | **No Readings** |  |
| July 6 | Racism and Ethnic Inequality | Chapter 3 |  |
| July 8 | Immigration | Reading Available on Avenue to Learn  Documentary | **Quiz 2 (10%)** |
| July 13 | **Midterm Exam** | **No Readings** | **Midterm Exam (30%)** |
| July 15 | Gender Inequality | Chapter 4 |  |
| July 20 | Intimate Relations and Families | Chapters 6 AND 11 |  |
| July 22 | Health and Illness | Chapter 10 | **Quiz 3 (10%)** |
| July 27 | Crime and Criminal Justice | Chapter 9 |  |
| July 29 | Media | Chapter 14 | **Quiz 4 (10%)** |
| August 3 | **No Class** | **No Readings** |  |
| August 5 | **Final Exam** |  | **Final Exam (30%)** |