

SOCIO 1C03 CANADIAN SOCIETY: SOCIAL PROBLEMS, POLICY, AND THE LAW

Winter 2020
Day and Time of Class: Tuesdays, 7-9pm
Class Location: JHE 376

Instructor: Dr. Jessica Braimoh
Office Hours: Tuesdays, 5pm-6pm
Office Location: KTH-643
Email Address: braimoja@mcmaster.ca

COURSE DESCRIPTION:

This course is an examination of social problems in Canada through various sociological perspectives. We will consider how social problems in Canada are shaped by broader interrelated systems of power – sexism, racism, classism, heterosexism, and so forth. This focus will allow us to consider how social policies and legal responses effectively respond and/or maintain these social issues. Specifically we will focus on these areas: (1) economic inequality, (2) race and ethnicity, (3) addictions, (4) families, (5) work, (6) the education system (7) the criminal justice system, and (8) cities.

LEARNING OBJECTIVES:

From a sociological perspective, students in this course will learn about social problems in Canada and the various social policy and legal responses to confronting them. This focus addresses three University Undergraduate Degree Level expectations (see <http://ccl.mcmaster.ca/COU/degree/undergraduate.html>): (1) developing a depth and breadth of knowledge, (2) application of knowledge and (3) communication skills

REQUIRED READING:

- Tepperman, L., Guzman, C., & Sendroiu, I. (2019). Picturing Social Problems. Oxford University Press. ISBN: 9780199016297. **Note:** this is a custom courseware that is only available at the McMaster bookstore.
- All other assigned readings will be posted on Avenue to Learn and are available through the McMaster library databases.

METHOD OF EVALUATION:

Item	Date	Value
Tutorial Mark (attendance & participation)	Ongoing	10%
Mid-term Exam (held in lecture)	Feb 11	30%
Final Term Paper	Mar 10	30%
Final Exam (non-cumulative)	TBD (during exam period)	30%
TOTAL		100%

DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF ASSESSMENTS:

Tutorial Attendance and Participation (10%)

- Tutorials will take place weekly starting in the third week of class. During tutorials, students will engage in discussions and small learning activities that correspond with the topic of the lecture. Some tutorials will require individual reflections to be written, but most will involve group.
- Tutorial participation will be graded on the quality of the work, not simply its completion. Attendance will be graded in terms of arriving on time and staying for the duration of tutorial. No bonus marks will be given for extra activities completed.

Mid-Term Exam (30%)

- The mid-term exam will take place during lecture on **February 11, 2020.**
- The mid-term will include the following types of questions: multiple choice, true/false, and short answer questions.

Term Paper (30%)

- The final paper will be used to demonstrate the student's learnings on issues related to social problems, social policy, and the law in Canada society. Dr. Braimoh will review instructions for the assignment early in the semester.
- TAs and Dr. Braimoh will be available upon request for consultation regarding the paper. Tutorials will also provide opportunities to discuss the details of the paper.
- Papers will be submitted individually. The assignment will be submitted through Avenue to Learn and will be checked for originality. More detailed information on the assignment can be found on Avenue to Learn.
- The final paper is due on **March 10, 2020.**

Final Exam (30%)

- The final exam for this course will not be cumulative.
- The final exam will include only include multiple choice and true/false questions,
- The final exam will be scheduled by the Registrars Office and will take place during the final exam period.

COURSE SCHEDULE:

Date	Topic	Reading (TXT = assigned text ATL = avenue to learn)	Due
W1: Jan 7	Course Introduction	TXT – Chapter 1	
W2: Jan 14	Economic Inequality Part 1: Poverty and Social Welfare	TXT – Chapter 2	
W3: Jan 21	Economic Inequality Part 2: Homelessness Note: Tutorials start today!	ATL – O’Grady et al. (2013). Tickets.... and more tickets	
W4: Jan 28	Multiculturalism and Hate Crimes	TXT – Chapter 3 ATL – Perry (2015). Disrupting the Mantra of Multiculturalism: Hate Crime in Canada	
W5: Feb 4	Addictions	TXT – Chapter 8 ATL – Zaric (2012). The Cost of Providing Methadone Maintenance Treatment in Ontario, Canada	
W6: Feb 11	Mid Term Exam (Held during regular lecture time)	No assigned readings. No tutorials this week.	Mid-Term Exam (30%)
W7: Feb 18-21	READING WEEK. NO CLASSES THIS WEEK		
W8: Feb 25	Families and the Child Welfare System	TXT – Chapter 11 ATL – Government of Canada. Affirming and recognizing Indigenous jurisdiction over child and family services: An Act respecting First Nations, Inuit and Métis children, youth and families	
W9: Mar 3	Work, Disability, and the Employment Equity Act	TXT – Chapter 12 (pgs: 272-281 and 287) ALT – Collin et al. (2013). Persons with Disabilities in the Canadian Labour Market	

W10: Mar 10	Education and Safe Schools	TXT – Chapter 13 ATL – Iskander & Shabtay (2018). LGBTQ youth activism and Ontario’s Bill 13	Term Paper (30%)
W11: Mar 17	Youth and the Criminal Justice System	ATL – Youth Justice. Pre-trial Detention Fact Sheet ATL – Myers & Dhillon (2013). Criminalizing Ordinary Behaviour with Youth Bail Conditions	
W12: Mar 24	Cities	Chapter 14	
Final Exam Period	Final exam (30%) scheduled by the Registrars Office during this period		

This course schedule is subject to change based on the needs of the class and on circumstances beyond my control (e.g., inclement weather). Changes, if any, will be announced to the class and will be posted on our Avenue to Learn course page

COURSE POLICIES:

Office Hours

The TAs and Dr. Braimoh are available to meet during their scheduled office hours. If scheduled office hours do not correspond with your schedule, every attempt will be made to arrange an alternative time.

If a meeting is scheduled and you are no longer able to attend, please email Dr. Braimoh or your TA ASAP. If you do not attend a scheduled meeting, subsequent meetings may not be arranged.

Submission of Assignments

Please review the assignment instructions found on Avenue to Learn for submission instructions.

Staff in the Department of Sociology **do not** date-stamp assignments, nor do they monitor the submission or return of papers. **Do not** email assignments. **Do not** submit assignments under the office doors of Dr. Braimoh or the TA.

Students who do not write the tests during the scheduled time will receive a zero. Students whose absence for missed tests is supported by university approved documentation will be scheduled to write a make-up test either through the Department of Sociology or through the Associate Dean Academic’s Office.

Make up-Tests

All make-up tests will be short-answer format only. No reweighting will occur.

Late Submissions

There is a 5% per day (including weekends) deduction for late submissions of all assignments. Late assignments will not be accepted after 7 days (i.e., 35% deduction). All late submissions will only be accepted via electronic submission to the dropbox in Avenue to Learn. No email or hard copy late submissions are allowed.

Review of Grades

Graded written assignments and tests should first be reviewed with your TA. Review of papers will not take place within the first 48 hours of papers being returned. If after meeting with your TA you would like to meet with Dr. Braimoh, please send her an email to arrange a date and time. Please note, when a review of grade reaches Dr. Braimoh the new grade may be lower than the original.

To request a review of a mark, please write a short paragraph describing your concern regarding the marking error. You may submit your requests to your TA via email; Dr. Braimoh should also be cc'd on this email. You may submit requests for a review of grade no later than two weeks after assignments/test grades have been handed back to the class.

Avenue to Learn

This course uses Avenue to Learn to post course material including the syllabus, lecture outlines, additional readings, and assignment instructions. It will also be used as a way to keep you up to date on issues related to the course – for example, class cancellations, office hours, and course reminders. Go to <http://avenue.mcmaster.ca> to log on.

Classroom Management and Equity

This class seeks to create a learning environment that encourages participation, through the inclusion of multiple voices and diverse perspectives. In this class we will explore topics that may be personal or difficult for some people. Please recognize and reflect on how your comments may exclude or demean your others diverse and intersecting identities. **Disrespect will not be accepted in this class**.

Accessibility

The instructor is committed to creating a learning environment that is equitable and accessible so that learning occurs for all students. Every effort will be made to support students in an appropriate and confidential manner. If you require accommodations (instructional, curricular, or test) please approach Student Accessibility Services (<https://sas.mcmaster.ca/>). While every effort will be made to support students, it is the student's responsibility for arranging these accommodations.

ACADEMIC DISHONESTY:

Academic dishonesty consists of misrepresentation by deception or by other fraudulent means and 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 kinds of academic dishonesty please refer to the Academic Integrity Policy, specifically Appendix 3, located at <http://www.mcmaster.ca/policy/Students-AcademicStudies/AcademicIntegrity.pdf>

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 other credit has been obtained.
2. Improper collaboration in group work.
3. Copying or using unauthorized aids in tests and examinations.

DEPARTMENTAL/UNIVERSITY POLICIES:

McMaster Student Absence Form (MSAF)

The McMaster Student Absence Form (<http://www.mcmaster.ca/msaf/>) is a self reporting tool for Undergraduate Students to report absences that last up to 3 days and provides the ability to request accommodation for any missed academic work. Please note, this tool cannot be used during any final examination period.

You may submit a maximum of 1 Academic Work Missed request per term. It is YOUR responsibility to follow up with your instructor immediately regarding the nature of the accommodation.

If you are absent more than 3 days, exceed 1 request per term, or are absent for a reason other than medical, you MUST visit your Associate Dean's Office (Faculty Office). You may be required to provide supporting documentation.

This form should be filled out when you are about to return to class after your absence.

Students should check the web, the white board and the Undergraduate Bulletin board outside the Sociology office (KTH-627) for notices pertaining to Sociology classes or departmental business (e.g., class scheduling information, location of mailboxes and offices, tutorial information, class cancellations, TA job postings, etc.).

Computer Use

Computer use in the classroom is intended to facilitate learning in that particular lecture or tutorial. At the discretion of the instructor, students using a computer for any other purpose may be required to turn the computer off for the remainder of the lecture or tutorial.

Course Modifications

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 their McMaster email and course websites weekly during the term and to note any changes.

Religious, Indigenous and Spiritual Observances (RISO)

The University recognizes that, on occasion, the timing of a student's religious, Indigenous, or spiritual observances and that of their academic obligations may conflict. In such cases, the University will provide reasonable academic accommodation for students that is consistent with the Ontario Human Rights Code.

Students requiring academic accommodation based on religious, indigenous or spiritual observances should follow the procedures set out in the RISO policy. Students requiring a RISO accommodation should submit their request to their Faculty Office normally within 10 working days of the beginning of term in which they anticipate a need for accommodation or to the Registrar's Office prior to their examinations. Students should also contact their instructors as soon as possible to make alternative arrangements for classes, assignments, and tests.

Academic Accommodation of Students with Disabilities

Students with disabilities who require academic accommodation must contact Student Accessibility Services (SAS) to make arrangements with a Program Coordinator. Student Accessibility Services can be contacted by phone 905-525-9140 ext. 28652 or e-mail sas@mcmaster.ca. For further information, consult McMaster University's Academic Accommodation of Students with Disabilities policy.

Email Communication

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 their discretion.

Please consider the following expectations with regards to email communication:

- All emails should have the course code in the subject – SOCIO 1C03
- All emails should include your first and last name.
- All emails should include a greeting, such as "Hello Dr. Braimoh"
- All emails will be responded to within 72 hours.

- Please review the syllabus and Avenue to Learn before sending an email. Your question may have already been answered. Emails containing questions that can be answered elsewhere may not be answered.