

McMaster University
Department of Sociology
Sociology 1A06 Introduction to Sociology
May 1, 2017- August 2, 2017

Lecture: Mondays and Wednesdays 6:30pm – 9:30pm
Class Location: BSB 106

Course Instructor: Dr. Lina Samuel

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Office: KTH-632

Office Phone Number: ext. 23617

Office Hours: Mondays 5:00pm till 6:00pm, please make an appointment first

Course Description:

This course offers an introduction to the study of sociology. Sociology is the systematic study of human groups and their social interactions (Ravelli and Webber, 2015: 3). Through the course students will gain an understanding of many of the key areas of social research in this discipline. After beginning with an understanding of both the classical and contemporary sociological theories, we then move on to gain an appreciation for the ways in which social research is conducted. With this grounding in theory and methodology, students will be introduced to some of the key substantive areas of sociological research: culture, socialization, social inequality, gender, families, race and racialization, education, religion, crime and deviance, work and occupations, collective movements, and globalization. The strength of sociology as an academic discipline is its ability to not only expose us to the social world, but also understand our particular positioning with that world. Sociology brings attention to the connections between individuals, groups, institutions, states, civil society organizations and the larger social world. Through this course, students will not only gain an understanding of the discipline and important sociological concepts, but also what it means to *be* a sociologist.

Course Objectives:

This course addresses University Undergraduate Degree Level Expectations (see, [University Undergraduate Degree Level Expectations](#)):

Through this course, students will:

- Debate and apply dominant sociological theories in understanding the social world
- Recognize the diversity in the different subfields within the discipline of sociology
- Be familiar with some of the classical and contemporary research in the field of sociology
- Identify how culture, socialization, social institutions and social structure influence personal behaviour, ideas, choices, and social opportunities
- Demonstrate an awareness of social justice and social inequality, and recognize our role as sociologists in working for social change

The URL cited above is accessible at the bottom of the department's "Course Outlines" web-page: <http://www.sociology.mcmaster.ca/undergraduate-program/course%20outlines>. Click on "Learning Outcomes".

Course Format: 2-2 hour lecture plus 50 minute tutorial, twice per week (Monday and Wednesday) I do not give breaks during lectures. We go straight through.

Course Texts

Ravelli, Bruce and Michelle Webber. 2016. *Exploring Sociology: A Canadian Perspective 3rd Edition*. Toronto: Pearson Publishing.

My SocLab Course ID: samuel51241 (you need your course ID to register)

Spring and Summer session courses move quickly. It is important you keep up with the readings and attend lectures. I encourage students to ask questions, and discuss work with other students. For the tests you will be responsible for both the required readings as well as lecture material. There is a participation grade of 10% and I hope this encourages student engagement in class.

Grading:

The grades are based on six in class term tests, and tutorial participation. Tests will consist of multiple choice questions only.

Evaluation:

Term 1 Test: 15%

Term 2 Test :15%

Term 3 Test: 15%

Term 4 Test: 15%

Term 5 Test: 15%

Term 6 Test: 15%

Tutorial Participation: 10 (in class participation: think-pair shares, reflective writing, class discussions...) All reflections need to be submitted at the end of tutorials. Thanks.

Procedures and Rules

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:

Do NOT fax assignments. Please see your instructor for the most appropriate way to submit assignments.

The Sociology staff do NOT date-stamp assignments, nor do they monitor the submission or return of papers.

1a. Missed tests

Students who miss a term test will be assigned a mark of zero for that test unless their absence is supported by university approved documentation, and the student has written an accommodated make-up test.

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 lectures or 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.

If your Request is APPROVED and a make-up test is required, you will write the make-up test on the **designated date selected by the instructor.** No student is automatically entitled to a second make up test. It is your responsibility to write the tests on the day in which they are scheduled. I do not reweight any tests. You must make sure you have written all the required tests to obtain a grade.

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 (eg. class scheduling information, location of mailboxes and offices, tutorial information, class cancellations, TA job postings, etc.).

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.

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.

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.**

1b.Late assignments

- You are expected to complete assignments on time.

Assignments are due at the beginning of the class lecture on the due date. Late assignments will be subject to a penalty of **5%** per day. The Penalty period does include weekends and holidays. **Please make every effort to hand assignments in on the due date.**

Please come see the instructor if you are experiencing any difficulty with the assignment or the material presented in class. Only hard copies will be graded.

Please note that only McMaster emails will be considered official. Emails from other addresses may disappear into the black hole of spam filters.

- You are expected to keep a back-up, hard copy of your assignment in case it is lost.

- **Accommodation provision:**

Medical Certificate must state that you were ill on the due date of the assignment for a one day extension. For a longer extension you must prove that you were sick during a longer period or prove an exceptional, unforeseen circumstance.

2. Grade appeals. The instructor and teaching assistant(s) take(s) the marking of assignments very seriously, and will work diligently to be fair, consistent, and accurate. Nonetheless, mistakes and oversights occasionally happen. If you believe that to be the case, you must adhere to the following rules:

- If it is a mathematical error simply alert the instructor of the error
- In the case of more substantive appeals, you must:
 1. Wait at least 24 hours after receiving your mark.
 2. Carefully re-read your assignment, all assignment guidelines and marking schemes and the grader's comments.

If you wish to appeal your assignment grade:

- A. You must submit to the instructor a written explanation of why you think your mark should be altered. Please note statements such as "I need a higher grade to apply to X" are not compelling. Also, please note that upon re-grade your mark may go down, stay the same, or go up.
- B. Attach to your written explanation your original assignment, including all of the original comments. Submit a hardcopy of the package to the instructor during office hours or after the lecture.
- C. You will receive a response via email or in person about your re-grade.

3. Electronic communication and electronic learning technology: Email communication is rapid, convenient, and efficient—and you are encouraged to use it to enhance your learning and experience in the course. With that said, it is essential that you follow a few rules:

- Assignments will not be accepted via email. You must submit hard copies of your assignments
- All emails must include the course code (Soc. 1A06) in the subject line.
- All emails should be signed with the student's full name and student number.
- Emails from students will generally be answered within 24 hours of receipt.
- Treat emails as you would any other professional communication.
- All general questions about the course that are NOT addressed on the syllabus and course website should be asked in class. If you cannot figure something out, chances are your inquiry will be useful for the entire class.

Emails that do not follow these guidelines will not receive a response.

4. Classroom etiquette

Students are expected to arrive at class on time. Laptops are allowed in class and should be used for taking notes. Other uses, emailing, web surfing will result in the student's being required to turn off the laptop and it may affect your final grade.

Coming to lectures late, leaving early, not attending tutorials will impact your final grade.

Videotaping and recording lectures is **strictly forbidden** without written permission from the instructor.

Lecture Schedule Monday May 1- Wednesday, August 4, 2017: (Subject to adjustments as we progress through the course)

Monday May 1 Lecture 1 Introduction to the course, course expectations, course assessments

Wednesday May 3 Lecture 2

Chapter 1 Understanding the Sociological Imagination Pages 2- 29

Monday May 8 Lecture 3

Chapter 2 Classical Social Theories Pages 30-65

Wednesday May 10 Lecture 4

Chapter 2 Classical Social Theories Pages 30-65

Monday May 15 Lecture 5

Chapter 3 Contemporary Social Theories pages 66-91

Wednesday May 17,

Test 1 (Chapters 1-3)

Monday May 22 HOLIDAY VICTORIA DAY

Wednesday May 24 Lecture 6

Chapter 4 Research, Methodology and Ethics pages 92-119

Monday May 29, Lecture 7

Chapter 5 Culture pages 120-141

Wednesday May 31, Continuation of Culture Chapter 5

Monday June 5, Lecture 8

Chapter 6 Socialization pages 142-164

Wednesday June 7 Test 2 (Chapters 4-6)

Monday June 12 Lecture 9

Chapter 7 Social Inequality pages 166-197

Wednesday June 14 Lecture 10

Chapter 8 Gender pages 198-223

Chapter 9 Sexualities pages 224-245 [selected pages]

Monday June 19 Lecture 11

Chapter 10 Race and Racialization pages 252-283

Wednesday June 21 Test 3 (Chapters 7-10)

Monday June 26 Lecture 12

Chapter 11 Families pages 284-307

Wednesday June 28 Lecture 13

Chapter 12 Education pages 308-332

Monday July 3 Canada Day! NO CLASSES!

Wednesday July 5 Lecture 14

Chapter 13 Religion pages 334-361

Monday July 10 Test 4 (Chapters 11-13)

Wednesday July 12 Lecture 15

Chapter 14 Crime, Law and Regulation pages 362-385

Monday July 17 Lecture 16

Chapter 16 Work and the Political Economy pages 416-445

Wednesday July 19 Test 5 (Chapter 14, 16)

Monday July 24 Lecture 17

Chapter 18 Social Change, Collective Behaviour, and Social Movements pages 474-500

Monday July 26 Lecture 18 and Lecture 19

Chapter 19 Globalization pages 502-527

Chapter 20 Challenges to the Global Environment pages 541-553 [selected pages]

Wednesday July 31 Lecture 20 Test 6 (Chapters 18-20)

Monday August 2 Review of course and Extended office hours.

Any issues with the course please come see me immediately!