**Sociology 2JJ3 Sociology of Race Class Gender Sexuality**

**McMaster University**

**Winter Term (January 2021-April 2021)**

**Class Location:** ONLINE (Lectures on Echo 360 Avenue to Learn)

Class Tests will be conducted during lecture time - **Tuesday, 7:00pm -9:00pm**

**Course Instructor:** Dr. Lina Samuel

**Email:** lsamuel@mcmaster.ca

**Office Hours**: Recurring Zoom Office hours TBA (Please make an appointment by email)

**Office:** KTH 632

**Teaching Assistants:** Vergil Welcome- welcomev@mcmaster.ca; Rachel Bipatnath-bipatnar@mcmaster.ca

**Course Description:**

This course examines the ways in which race, class, gender and sexuality frame individual and group experiences. How does social positioning impact our life chances and how have existing structural and cultural inequities exacerbated these challenges? As a class we will examine these issues from both an historical and contemporary standpoint. As scholars points out, recognizing [and appreciating] constructions of difference and resulting systems of inequality assist in understanding both privilege and oppression (Ore, 2019). Further, a person may occupy the position of oppressor, oppressed or both (Collins 1991). This potential for being both is important, and it is through the *intersectionalist* perspective that we are able to gauge the ways in which our multiple positionings impact our life chances. Situated within an *intersectionalist* perspective, the course will explore how race, class, gender and sexuality intersect to influence the social positioning and conditioning of groups. In this course we will explore the social theories that inform the study of identities and inequities, as well, specific institutions such as: the media, education, the workplace and the justice system, and the ways in which these reaffirm or challenge social constructions of race, class, gender and sexuality.

**Course Objectives**:

Through this course, students will:

* Develop an understanding of the historical and social construction of race, class, gender and sexuality.
* Become familiar with contemporary research on individual and group identities and inequalities
* Learn to apply sociological theories to analysis of issues around race, class, gender and sexuality
* Learn to critically analyze the social forces which shape social positioning of groups.
* Discuss and debate the consequences of existing structural and cultural inequities.

**Course Format:** Pre-recorded lectures on Echo 360 posted weekly.

**Course Texts**

Newman, David M. 2017. *Identities and Inequalities: Exploring the Intersections of Race, Class,*

*Gender and Sexuality 3rd Edition.* New York: McGraw Hill Education.

For the tests you will be responsible for both the required readings as well as lecture material.

**Evaluation**:

Evaluation is based on two written assignments and two in-class tests. **Class Tests will be conducted during lecture time.**

Test 1: 25% (Tuesday Feb. 23, 2020) 90 mins, all MCQs

Test 2: 25% (Tuesday April 6, 2020) 90 mins, all MCQs

Writing Assignment 1: 25% (Tuesday Feb. 9, 2020)

Writing Assignment 2: 25% (Tuesday March 23, 2020)

**Please keep back-up copies of all your written work on separate file/ memory key.**

**Procedures and Rules**

# University Policies

## Academic Integrity Statement

You are expected to exhibit honesty and use ethical behaviour in all aspects of the learning process. Academiccredentials 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 academiccredit or advantage. This behaviour 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

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

## Academic Accommodation of Students with Disabilities

Students with disabilities who require academic accommodation must contact [Student Accessibility Services](https://sas.mcmaster.ca/) (SAS) at 905-525-9140 ext. 28652 or [sas@mcmaster.ca](mailto:sas@mcmaster.ca%20) to make arrangements with a Program Coordinator. For further information, consult McMaster University’s [*Academic Accommodation of Students with Disabilities*](http://www.mcmaster.ca/policy/Students-AcademicStudies/AcademicAccommodation-StudentsWithDisabilities.pdf)policy.

## Academic Accommodation for Religious, Indigenous or Spiritual Observances (RISO)

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](https://secretariat.mcmaster.ca/app/uploads/2019/02/Academic-Accommodation-for-Religious-Indigenous-and-Spiritual-Observances-Policy-on.pdf) 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.

## Conduct Expectations

As a McMaster student, you have the right to experience, and the responsibility to demonstrate, respectful and dignified interactions within all of our living, learning and working communities. These expectations are described in the [Code of Student Rights & Responsibilities](https://secretariat.mcmaster.ca/app/uploads/Code-of-Student-Rights-and-Responsibilities.pdf) (the “Code”). All students share the responsibility of maintaining a positive environment for the academic and personal growth of all McMaster community members, whether in person or online.

It is essential that students be mindful of their interactions online, as the Code remains in effect in virtual learning environments. The Code applies to any interactions that adversely affect, disrupt, or interfere with reasonable participation in University activities. Student disruptions or behaviours that interfere with university functions on online platforms (e.g. use of Avenue 2 Learn, WebEx or Zoom for delivery), will be taken very seriously and will be investigated. Outcomes may include restriction or removal of the involved students’ access to these platforms.

## Copyright and Recording

Students are advised that lectures, demonstrations, performances, and any other course material provided by an instructor include copyright protected works. The Copyright Act and copyright law protect every original literary, dramatic, musical and artistic work, **including lectures** by University instructors

The recording of lectures, tutorials, or other methods of instruction may occur during a course. Recording may be done by either the instructor for the purpose of authorized distribution, or by a student for the purpose of personal study. Students should be aware that their voice and/or image may be recorded by others during the class. Please speak with the instructor if this is a concern for you.

## 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.

## Extreme Circumstances

The University reserves the right to change the dates and deadlines for any or all courses in extreme circumstances (e.g., severe weather, labour disruptions, etc.). Changes will be communicated through regular McMaster communication channels, such as McMaster Daily News, A2L and/or McMaster email.

## 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 |

**Course Procedures and Policies:**

**1a. Please submit all assignments on the Avenue Assignment Page prior to the deadline.** Do not submit assignments to my email address.

**1b. 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.**

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.

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.

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.

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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.

**1c. Late assignments**

* You are expected to complete assignments on time. Assignments are due 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 form 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 be accepted via Avenue to Learn.
* All emails must include the course code (Soc. 2JJ3) 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.

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

## 4. Avenue to Learn

In this course we will be using Avenue to Learn. 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.

**5. 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.**

**Test Schedule: All tests held on Avenue to Learn**

***Test 1: Tuesday February 23 (90mins available at 7pm)***

***Test 2: Tuesday April 6 (90 mins available at 7 pm)***

**Lecture Schedule *(Subject to adjustments as we progress through the course)***

**Tuesday January 12**

**Lecture 1: Introduction to the course, course expectations, course assessments/evaluation**

**Tuesday January 19**

**Lecture 2**

**Chapter 1 Differences and Similarities**

**Tuesday January 26**

**Lecture 3**

**Chapter 2 Manufacturing Identities: the social construction of race, class, gender and sexuality**

**Tuesday February 2**

**Lecture 4**

**Chapter 3 Portraying Identities: race, class, gender and sexuality in language and the media**

**+ Documentary (on Kanopy) “Miss Representation” – linked on Avenue**

**Tuesday February 9**

**Lecture 5**

**Chapter 4 Learning Identities: families, schools and socialization**

**\*Writing Assignment 1 due**

**MID-TERM RECESS. Monday February 15 to Sunday February 21**

**Tuesday February 23 TEST 1 (Based on lectures and chapters 1, 2, 3, 4)**

**Tuesday March 2**

**Lecture 6: Writing Assignment 2 Guide**

**Options for Writing Assignment 2 (Take this week to choose your documentary and watch it)**

**+Documentary (on Kanopy) “The Mothers of Bedford”**

**+Documentary (on Kanopy) “El Contrato”**

**+Documentary Standing on the Line (on NFB)**

**+ Documentary (on Kanopy) “Miss Representation” – linked on Avenue**

**Tuesday March 9**

**Lecture 7**

**Chapter 5 Inflicting Inequalities: prejudice and discrimination in everyday life**

**Tuesday March 16**

**Lecture 8**

**Chapter 6 Inequalities in Economics and Work**

**+Documentary (on Kanopy) “El Contrato”**

**Tuesday March 23**

**Lecture 9**

**Chapter 7 Inequalities in Law and Justice**

**\*Writing Assignment # 2 Due**

**Tuesday March 30**

**Lecture 10**

**Chapter 9 The Future of Identities and Inequalities**

**Tuesday April 6 TEST 2 (Based on lecture and chapters 5, 6, 7, 9)**

**Tuesday April 13 Last class: review, handing back final assignments.**

***Have a restful spring and summer!***