

McMaster University
Department of Sociology
SOCIOLOGY 2JJ3:
Race, Class, Gender & Sexuality
Winter 2020

Instructor: Dr. Stephen Lin

Lectures: Friday: 12:30pm – 2:20pm

Tutorial: Wednesday: 11:30am - 12:20pm

Class Location: KTHB 135

Email: slin0899@gmail.com

Office Hours: By appointment (KTH 607)

Teaching Assistant: Sarah Lindsay

Email: lindsays@mcmaster.ca

Office Hours: 12:30pm – 1:30pm or By Appointment (KTH 621)

Course Description

Race, class, gender, and sexuality are salient markers that help us to study and understand social stratification, individuals' identity, and experiences. This course will address the multiple and intersecting ways these concepts illustrate structured social relations, individual life-chances, and daily social interactions. First, we will closely examine each of those concepts: race, class, gender, and sexuality, by asking what meanings and values have been attached to them by our society and its members. Then, we will investigate how those concepts have been historically used as political instruments for creating different power dynamics in societal, institutional and community levels. Next, we will study how different forms of social inequalities result from the intersectionality of race, class, gender and sexuality. Case studies will be used to demonstrate intersectionality of social inequalities. Finally, we will discuss solutions to social inequality and strategies for social changes.

Prerequisite(s): One of SOCIOL 1Z03, 1A06 A/B Antirequisite(s): SOCIOL 2Q06 A/B

Course Learning Objectives

Develop your ability to study social problems using a sociological lens.

- Understand the importance of race, class, gender, and sexuality as distinct and interrelated aspects of social life.
- Examine how race, class, gender, and sexuality are socially constructed categories by exploring what gives them meaning, how the categories are maintained or transformed, and how they are related to inequality.
- Explore the significance of race, class, gender, and sexuality in social institutions and individual experiences, interactions, and identities.
- Improve your ability to articulate thoughts about course material during class discussions and in written assignments.
- Develop analytical skills and the ability to apply sociological concepts to a wide range of social situations, including your personal life experiences.

Reading

Newman, D.M. (2016). *Identities & Inequalities: Exploring the Intersections of Race, Class, Gender, and Sexuality*, 3rd Edition. McGraw Hill Education. (ISBN: 978-0-07-802-703-1)

**Additional readings are available on AVENUE

Method of Evaluation

Test #1	20%
Test #2	20%
Final Exam	30%
Tutorial Participation	15%
Conceptual Map Assignment	15%

Evaluation Details

1. Test #1 (20%) – February 7

This test covers **Chapter 1, 2, 3, 4 plus lecture materials from January 8 to January 31**. It will be **50 minutes** in length and consists of **multiple-choice questions only**.

2. Test #2 (20%) – March 13

This test covers **Chapter 5 & 6 plus additional readings and lecture materials from February 12 to March 6**. It will be **50 minutes** in length and consists of **multiple-choice questions only**.

3. Final Exam (30%) – April Exam Period

This final exam covers everything you have learned in this course. It will be **2 hours** in length and consists of **multiple-choice questions only**.

4. Tutorial Participation (15%)

Every Wednesday afternoon (except the reading week), you are required to attend the weekly tutorial in which your TA will review the class material and provide opportunities for you to reflect upon the weekly topic. Your tutorial participation mark may be in the form of group presentations and individual written reflection. Your TA will provide further details in the tutorial session.

5. Conceptual Map Assignment (15%) – April 3

Close to the end of this semester, students will submit a conceptual map that captures the major concepts or themes you have learned from this course. You must include **race, class, gender and sexuality** in the conceptual map. You can be creative by using diagrams or flow charts to show and connect key concepts. You also need to provide relevant empirical examples (e.g., case studies) you have learned to support the concepts you use. Evaluation is based on critical and logical thinking as well as organization of your map. This assignment should be 2 pages maximum. Please submit it through the Avenue dropbox by April 3, before 11:59pm.

**See more details in the Assignment Folder on Avenue

Course Schedule & Readings

PART 1: INTRODUCTION & THEORETICAL ORIENTATION

Week 1 (January 8 & 10: Introduction to Identities)

Introduction of Course Material and Expectation
Chapter 1: Differences & Similarities

Week 2 (January 15 & 17: Structured Social Relations)

Chapter 2: Manufacturing Identities: The Social Construction of Race, Class, Gender, and Sexuality

Documentary: “Dearborn, Michigan” <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GEoVHfgxHio&t=331s>

Week 3 (January 22 & 24: Identity Construction in Language and Mass Media)

Chapter 3: Portraying Identities: Race, Class, Gender, and Sexuality in Language and the Media

Week 4 January 29 & 31: Identity and Social Institutions

Chapter 4: Learning Identities: Families, Schools and Socialization

Week 5 February 5 & 7: Test #1 Preparation

**Test #1 (February 7: 12:30pm – 1:20pm) / No Lecture After Test

PART 2: SOCIAL INEQUALITIES

Week 6 (February 12 & 14: Prejudice and Discrimination)

Chapter 5: Inflicting Inequalities: Prejudice and Discrimination in Everyday Life

Week 7 (February 19 & 21)

Reading Week (No Class and Tutorial)

Week 8 (February 26 & 28: Prejudice and Discrimination in Labour Force - Part 1)

Chapter 6: Inequalities in Economics and Work

Week 9 (March 4 & 6: Prejudice and Discrimination in Labour Force - Part 2)

Basok, T. (2002). Captive Labour, Tortillas and Tomatoes: Transmigrant Mexican Harvesters in Canada (pp.106-128). McGill-Queens University Press. – Available through Avenue

[Film: “El Contrato”]

Week 10 (March 11 & 13: Prejudice & Discrimination in Legal System)

****Test # 2 (March 13: 12:30pm – 1:20pm) / Lecture: 1:30pm – 2:20pm**

Chapter 7: Inequalities in Law and Justice

Week 11 (March 18 & 22: Social Inequalities of Health)

Chapter 8: Inequalities in Health and Illness

Week 12 (March 25 & 27: Social Inequalities of Health – Case Studies)

Butsch, C., Sakdapolrak, P., & Saravanan, V.S. (2012). Urban Health in India. Internationales Asienforum, 43 (1-2), 13-32. -Available through additional reading on Avenue

Decker, M. et al. (2011). Sex Trafficking, Sexual Risk, STI and Reproductive Health among a National Sample of FSWs in Thailand. Journal of Epidemiology and Community Health, 65(4), 334-339. -Available through additional reading on Avenue

PART 3: CONCLUSION

Week 13 (April 1 & 3: Looking Forward)

Chapter 9: The Futures of Identities and Inequalities

***Conceptual Map Assignment Due: April 3 by 11:59pm (Avenue Dropbox Submission)*

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. (Insert specific course information, e.g. style guide)
2. Improper collaboration in group work.
3. Copying or using unauthorized aids in tests and examinations.

(If applicable) In this course we will be using a software package designed to reveal plagiarism. Students will be required to submit their work electronically and in hard copy so that it can be checked for academic dishonesty.

DEPARTMENTAL 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.

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 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. 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 (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.

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.

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.

Please review the [RISO information for students in the Faculty of Social Sciences](#) about how to request accommodation.

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.