**Sociology 4E03**

**Sociology of Self and Identity**

**Winter, 2021**

**Instructor:** Dr. Carlos Torres

**Time**: Wednesday 11:30AM-2:30PM

**Office:** KTH 607

**Email:** [torresc@mcmaster.ca](mailto:torresc@mcmaster.ca)

**Course Description and Learning Objectives:**

Welcome to the Sociology of Self and Identity (Soc4E03)! This course will be conducted through remote learning. Accordingly, there will be weekly meetings through zoom during our allotted class time, Wednesday 1130-230. This course will explore the dialectical relationship between self, identity and society within Canada and globally. The first part of the course provides students with core theoretical perspectives that will familiarize students with the dynamic relationship between self, identity and society. The second part of the course will provide students with a material approach towards the experiences of self and identity today. This course encourages students to ask the following questions: How are notions of the self” formulated? What does identity mean? How are concepts about the self and identity used by power interests to control groups? Conversely, how are concepts about the self and identity used as strategies of resistance? Students will learn the complex process by which perspectives about the self and identity are fluid and mediated by context.

For more insights on learning outcome, please consult:. [http://www.sociology.mcmaster.ca/undergraduate-program/course%20outlines](https://univmail.cis.mcmaster.ca/Redirect/www.sociology.mcmaster.ca/undergraduate-program/course%20outlines)

**Avenue to Learn**

Class notes will be posted and presentations will too. Students can access me through email via McMaster’s system.

**Course text:**

Brekhus, Wayne H *The Sociology of Identity* Polity Press, U.K (2020).

**Grade Breakdown:**

**30% for Seminar participation.** There are three components to this section of the course. One component consists of student presentation on weekly topics. Students are required to sign up for a presentation on a topic and led class discussions for about 30-45 minutes. Presentations can be done in groups, maximum of 3 students. I will elaborate more on the requirements on our first day.

Another component of seminar mark consists of student engagement. What does the latter imply? That students are able to raise questions in the seminar or that they can synthesize what are the main claims in the text for an assigned reading. If students are uncomfortable speaking in class, they can email me their thoughts after class. Student choosing this option should aim to write about one paragraph comment/reflection on the class. The point though, is that students explore the readings and articulate their reflections in a concise and cogent manner. Students are encouraged to bring questions to class. Additional directions will be addressed in class.

The last part of the mark comes from seminar attendance. Students are not obliged to have their cameras on, but, it is important to maintain consistent engagement with the class so that it is known that you’re present.

**Test 1 20%** The test will be a take home test and will be uploaded to Avenue to Learn. Students will have one week to complete the test. The test will require that students engage all course content covered in class. It will also require that students evaluate all perspectives pertaining to the issues that the questions ask. Finally, students are required to engage pertinent concepts/terms in their response. The length of the response shall be provided later on.

**Summary** **20% on a selected reading**. This assignment should be 3 pages, double spaced. Students are to select a reading of their choice and are to hand in a reflection on it on the day that the reading will be covered in class. Students cannot hand in a reflection for a reading that has already been covered. The reflection should identify key questions and/or claims the reading postulated and demonstrate knowledge of evidence for those arguments. The standpoint of the student entering the course relative to what has been covered in class should be explored.

**30% is allotted to final essay**. Students are required to hand in an analytical research essay. Students are encouraged to select their own topic, but, must obtain approval from the instructor to proceed. A topic list will be compiled within the first few weeks of class. Students must have 4-6 external sources and must utilize at least one reading from the course. The essay should be 10 - 12 pages double spaced. I will elaborate more on the requirements on the first day.

**Reading Schedule**

**January 13, 2021** Introduction to course

**January 20, 2021** Introduction of book on Self and Identity pp. 1-17

**January 27, 2021** Sociological Approaches to the study of Self and Identity

Chapter 1

**February 3, 2021** Beyond the Individual: Collective Identities - Chapter 2

**February 10, 2021** Performing Authenticity: Negotiating the Symbolic - Chapter 3

**February 17, 2021** No class, academic recess

**February 24, 2021** Test 1 will be uploaded to Avenue to Learn.

**March 3, 2021** Multidimensionality, Intersectionality and Power: Identities and

Inequalities - Chapter 4

**March 10, 2021** Wesley Crichlow, “Weaponization and Prisonization of Toronto’s

Black Male Youth in International Journal for Crime, Justice and

Social Democracy 3, 3 pp. 113-131 (2014),

**March 17, 2021** Mobility and Fluidity: The Omni-contextual nature of identity - Chapter

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**March 24 2021** Documentary on Opioid Crisis will be uploaded to Avenue to Learn

**March 31, 2021** De Giorgi A Immigration, Post Fordism and less eligibility: A Materialist

Critique of the Criminalization of Immigration Across Europe” in Punishment and Society, 12 (2) pp. 147-167

**April 7, 2021** T.B.A

**April 14, 2021** Essays are due

**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. (Insert specific course information)

3. Copying or using unauthorized aids in tests and examinations.

**DEPARTMENTAL/UNIVERSITY POLICIES:**

Do NOT email 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. (INSTRUCTORS: *Please make arrangements for returning assignments in class, or use the utilities of Avenue to Learn for submitting, returning, and grading student assignments electronically. See information under Electronic Course Support.*

**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 (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.

**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.

**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.

**Faculty of Social Sciences E-mail Communication Policy**

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.

**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+ |
| 85-89 | 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 |