Sociology of work & Occupations

Winter 2022

**Instructor:** Jacqueline Kutt

**E-mail:** kuttj@mcmaster.ca

**Lecture:** Wed., 11:30 a.m. – 1:20 p.m.  
**Room:** \*Combination of remote learning and Burke Science Building, Room 108

**Office:** Kenneth Taylor Hall, Office 614

**Office Hours:** Wed., 1:30–2:30 p.m.; Zoom drop-in session & by individual appointment  
**Tutorial:** Friday, 1:30–2:20 p.m.  
**Tutorial:** Zoom meeting/break out rooms

# Course Description

This course examines the nature and meaning of work in relation to the labour market, economic, and demographic changes in Canada over the last century. First, we will examine the ways in which early scholars such as Karl Marx, Max Weber, and Émile Durkheim analyzed economic crises and the significance of stability and demography for understanding the division of labour and different types of human society. Then we will make a transition into later generations of sociologists that continued with analytic and interpretive work, hence learn about competing theories, critiques, and current empirical research findings relative to Canadians.

\*During scheduled remote learning period, January 10 – February 7: Echo 360 prerecorded main lectures will be posted on Avenue to Learn each week; the recorded lecture will remain available on Avenue to Learn for student viewing for a full two weeks; as well, weekly Office Hours will be conducted through a Zoom link located on Avenue to Learn and I encourage all students to virtually drop-in during office hours to say hello, even if you do not have any specific questions to ask! Please strive to keep yourself up-to-date with weekly readings and lecture content throughout the Winter term, thank you.

# Course Objectives

By the end of the course students should be able to:

* Identify with historical societal changes and present-day labour market system of relations
* Consider multiple factors which are part of social stratification, standardization, and work
* Differentiate between skilled and unskilled labour in the human order of nature, that is, in in space and in time, and with internal and external relations
* Understand workplace transitions, nexus between paid and unpaid labour and employability

# Required Text

* *The Sociology of Work: Continuity and Change in Paid and Unpaid Work*, 3rd ed., by Stephen Edgell and Edward Granter, SAGE, 2020.

# Class Format

During remote learning, weekly prerecorded didactic lectures will be posted on Avenue to Learn for student viewing; when classes return to in-person learning, weekly didactic lectures will be held in-person and live streamed from BSB 108. Friday tutorials will be accomplished most times through real-time Zoom meetings with the added benefit of small break out groups to facilitate student discussion of weekly topics, please see course schedule below for exceptions, such as for the mid-term exam, and for submitting and returning of written essay. Avenue to Learn is to be the main digital platform for course updates, course material beyond the required text related to lecture content, tutorial topics, and ongoing communication of group discussions. As well, links to any documentaries which are a part of main lecture content and course grades up to the final examination can be located on Avenue to Learn, please routinely check your Avenue to Learn student account for this course.

# Course Evaluation – Overview

1. Mid-term exam – 25%
2. Written essay – 25%
3. Participation/attendance of tutorial – 20%
4. Final examination – 30%

# Course Evaluation – Details

## Mid-term Exam (25%): Friday, February 18, 2022

Multiple-choice questions, true/false questions, short answer questions

## Written Assignment (25%): Friday, March 25, 2022

Topic Essay, 8 to 10 pages in length; detailed instructions will be provided on Avenue to Learn

## Participation/attendance of tutorial (20%): Whole term

Weekly focus on discussion questions, selected topics part of break out rooms into smaller student groups

## Final Examination (30%): TBD (scheduled by Office of the Registrar)

Multiple-choice questions, true/false questions, short answer questions

# 2022 Winter term – Important Dates & Deadlines

Last day for enrolment and course changes: Tuesday, January 18

Last day for withdrawing from courses without failure by default: Friday, March 18

Classes end: Tuesday, April 12

Final examinations: Thursday, April 14 to Friday, April 29

Deferred examinations: Monday, June 20 to Friday, June 24

Procedures for deferrals: https://socialsciences.mcmaster.ca/current-students/deferred-exams

For a complete list of dates and deadlines: https://registrar.mcmaster.ca/dates-and-deadlines/

# Weekly Course Schedule and Approximation of Readings

## Week One: January 12 (Echo 360 lecture, posted on Avenue to Learn) & \*14

### *The Historical Transformation of Work*

Read chapter 1 in Edgell & Granter (2020); \*Zoom real-time tutorial: introductions, group discussion, and questions; Zoom link located on Avenue to Learn

## Week Two: January 19 (Echo 360 lecture, posted on Avenue to Learn) & \*21

### *What is Alienation?*

Read chapter 2 in Edgell & Granter (2020); \*Zoom real-time tutorial: link and weekly topic questions located on Avenue to Learn

## Week Three: January 26 (Echo 360 lecture, posted on Avenue to Learn) & \*28

### *The Labour Process*

Read chapter 3 in Edgell & Granter (2020); \*Zoom real-time tutorial: link and weekly topic questions located on Avenue to Learn

## Week Four: February 2 (Echo 360 lecture, posted on Avenue to Learn) & \*4

### *Industrial Work: Fordism*

Read chapter 5 in Edgell & Granter (2020); \*Zoom real-time tutorial: link and weekly topic questions located on Avenue to Learn

## Week Five: February 9 (In-person, BSB 108) & \*11

### *Culture at Work*

Read chapter 4 in Edgell & Granter (2020); \*Zoom real-time tutorial: link and weekly topic questions located on Avenue to Learn

## Week Six: February 16 (In-person, BSB 108) & \*18 (mid-term exam)

### *Review of readings and lectures*

Review chapters 1 to 5 in Edgell & Granter (2020)**; \*in-person mid-term exam**, ROOM LOCATION: T13 123

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- - - - - - - - - - - Mid-term recess: Monday, February 21 to Sunday, February 27 - - - - - - - - - - - \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

## Week Seven: March 2 (In-person, BSB 108) & \*4

### *Service Work: How has it changed?*

Read chapter 6 in Edgell & Granter (2020); \*Zoom real-time tutorial: link and weekly topic questions located on Avenue to Learn

## Week Eight: March 9 (In-person, BSB 108) & \*11

### *Workplace Transitions vs. Self-employment*

Read chapter 7 in Edgell & Granter (2020); \*Zoom real-time tutorial: link and weekly topic questions located on Avenue to Learn

## Week Nine: March 16 (In-person, BSB 108) & \*18

### *Intersectionality, Unemployment, and Professionalization*

Read chapter 8 in Edgell & Granter (2020); \*Zoom real-time tutorial: link and weekly topic questions located on Avenue to Learn

## Week Ten: March 23 (In-person, BSB 108) & \*25 (printed essay due)

### *Domestic Work: insourcing, outsourcing, and the family unit*

Read chapter 9 in Edgell & Granter (2020); **\*printed essay due in tutorial in BSB–108**

## Week Eleven: March 30 (In-person, BSB 108) & \*April 1

### *Transformation of Paid and Unpaid Work in Canada*

Read chapter 10 in Edgell & Granter (2020); \*Zoom real-time tutorial: link and weekly topic question located on Avenue to Learn

## Week Twelve: April 6 (In-person, BSB 108) & \*April 8 (return of essay)

### *Cumulative review of course content*

Review all course readings and lecture content; **\*final tutorial held in BSB–108**

# Course Policies

## Schedule of Activities

This lecture schedule is based upon current university and public health guidelines and may be subject to changes during the term. Any changes to the schedule or course delivery will be communicated on the course announcements section on Avenue to Learn. Please check the announcements prior to attending class.

## Submission of Assignments

Printed assignments due in tutorial on designated date. In the event ALL classes are held online, an alternative submission of assignments would be provided for the whole class.

## Late Assignments

The McMaster Student Absence Form (MSAF) is a self-reporting tool in Mosaic. It is for Undergraduate Students to report absences that last up to 3 days and provides the ability to request accommodation for any missed academic work. The MSAF cannot be used during any final examination period.

You may submit a maximum of ONE MASF request per term. It is YOUR responsibility to follow up with your instructor immediately (normally within 2 working days) to discuss possible consideration.

IMPORTANT: Any consideration that may be provided for missed work is the decision of the instructor. Failure to follow these instructions may result in no consideration given for missed work.

Please review the MSAF Exception Checklist, to help guide your decision-making:

[https://socialsciences.mcmaster.ca/current-students/absence-form]

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.

## Absences, Missed Work, Illness

In the event of an absence for medical or other reasons, students should review and follow the Academic Regulation in the Undergraduate Calendar “Requests for Relief for Missed Academic Term Work”.

**Departmental/University Policies**

Do NOT e-mail 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.

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.

## 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.

# 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+ |
| 85-89 | 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 |