

SOCIOLOGY 101Y: INTRODUCTION TO SOCIOLOGY, 2013-14
12:00–14:00, Wednesdays, Convocation Hall

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Course Goal

This course will challenge your views on a wide range of issues that affect us all. It will also excite your interest in a unique sociological way of understanding your world. The course showcases the eclectic nature of the discipline and the contemporary debates that animate it. We will analyze the globalization of culture, emerging patterns of class and gender inequality in Canada and internationally, the redefinition of sexuality, changes in the organization of the family, the social dimension of environmental problems, criminal and deviant behaviour, and so on. You will learn to understand these and other pressing social issues by analyzing the way the social world is organized. We may like to think of ourselves as perfectly free but powerful social forces open up some opportunities and close off others, constraining our freedom and helping to make us what we are. By examining the operation of these social forces, sociology can help us know ourselves.

Course Organization

The organizing principle of this course is that learning is a social process, one that takes place not only from readings, the lectures, the teaching assistants, but also from each other. To foster a cooperative learning environment, this course is organized around a mix of lectures, in-class engagement, and outside-of-class assignments and participation. The course will rely heavily on Blackboard (<https://weblogin.utoronto.ca/>) to facilitate this “study group” atmosphere. On Blackboard you will find this syllabus, PowerPoint slides, assignments, announcements, grades and student-generated content on a series of discussion boards.

Communication

All course-related questions of a non-personal nature should be submitted to the *Questions about the Course* discussion board on the course’s Blackboard page: questions about course content, activities, assignments, tests, exam, deadlines and so on. E-mail correspondence and telephone should be used for questions of a personal nature regarding illness, special accommodation, grade review and so on.

Required Course Material

1. Christian Caron and Robert Brym, eds. *Commit Sociology*, 1st Custom Edition, vol 1 (Toronto: Nelson, 2013). Main fall textbook.
2. Christian Caron and Robert Brym, eds. *Commit Sociology*, 1st Custom Edition, vol 2 (Toronto: Nelson, 2013). Main winter textbook.
3. Robert Brym *Sociology as a Life or Death Issue*, 2nd Canadian ed. (Toronto: Nelson, 2012). A book of linked readings.
4. Ian Hay et al. *Making the Grade: University of Toronto Custom Edition* (Don Mills: Oxford University Press Canada, 2013). A guide to academic success.
5. iClicker remote control. Please bring your iClicker to every lecture. It will be used every week.

All of these items can be purchased at the U of T Bookstore, 214 College Street. Items 1, 2, and 3 are bundled together at a discount while items 4 and 5 are sold separately. You are responsible for all the material just listed, which you will need for the assignments, the tests and the exam.

Evaluation

In-Class Activities (20%)

Except for the first class on Sept 11th, tests on Oct 16th and Feb 12th, and the last class on Apr 2nd, in-class activities will take place during each lecture. They will involve collaboratively discussing, and individually answering, a series of questions related to the week’s course material. There will be 20 of these in-class activities, each worth 1%. You should thus plan to attend each lecture.

Online Participation (5%)

Five percent of your grade will come from making 20 “significant contributions” to any of the online forums for this course on Blackboard. Significant contributions include: (1) helping other students with their questions; (2) offering clarification or additional

thoughts and information on some aspect of the readings or course material; (3) submitting a link to a website containing documents or video clips with a few sentences describing its relevance to course material; (4) linking something students saw in the mass media, a news article, or content from another course to some relevant aspect of course material; or (5) fostering or participating in discussions that highlight an issue touched upon in the readings or course material. Contributions are credited as significant if they are deemed useful to their fellow students by meeting one of these criteria. All posts, other than answering colleagues' questions, including all links to other sources, should be well annotated with no less than 100 words discussing their relevance to course material. Contributions of less than 100 words, or contributions not furthering the understanding of course material, will not be credited as significant. Students will be updated on the status of their significant contributions on a regular basis so they can keep track of their progress.

Tests (30%)

Three, 60-90 minute multiple-choice tests will be worth 10% each. Test 1 is Oct 16th. Test 2 is in the December exam period (scheduled by the university). Test 3 is Feb 12th.

Written assignments (due Dec 4th and April 2nd) (20%)

You will be responsible for completing a two-part project, each part worth 10% and consisting of 5-6 pages. The project involves a sociological content analysis of a movie. The assignment will be completed in stages, including topic submission, mini-proposal submission, first part submission, design of second part, meeting with TA, and final submission. Each stage is mandatory. You cannot move to the next stage without completing the previous one. Assignments must be submitted through Blackboard. Details will be discussed in the early weeks of the fall semester. Assignments will not be accepted past the due date without submission of medical documentation.¹

Final Exam (in April, scheduled by the university) (25%)

A three-hour, cumulative, multiple-choice exam drawing on material from the whole course.

Tutorials

Teaching Assistants (MA and PhD sociology students) lead tutorials. They will be held six times during the course. Everyone in the class can and should attend tutorials. You can sign up for your tutorial on Blackboard after September 11th. Tutorials are used to help prepare for tests and the exam, offer instruction and guidance for assignments, and review material covered in lectures and readings.

	MONDAYS Groups 1 – 5	TUESDAYS Groups 6-12	WEDNESDAYS Groups 13 – 16	THURSDAYS Groups 17 – 21
TUTORIAL 1	23 September	24 September	25 September	26 September
TUTORIAL 2	7 October	8 October	9 October	10 October
TUTORIAL 3	25 November	26 November	27 November	28 November
TUTORIAL 4	3 February	4 February	5 February	6 February
TUTORIAL 5	3 March	4 March	5 March	6 March
TUTORIAL 6	24 March	25 March	26 March	27 March

Weekly Lecture Topics and Readings

Sept 11th – Introduction to Sociology (Caron)

“Introducing Sociology,” in *Commit Sociology*, vol 1

“Sociology as a Life or Death Issue,” in *Sociology as a Life or Death Issue*

“Starting Out: University Study and You,” in *Making the Grade*

Sept 18th – Sociological Knowledge and Science (Caron)

“An Idea Whose Time Has Come,” in *Commit Sociology*, vol 1

“Human Inquiry and Science,” in *Commit Sociology*, vol 1

“Clocking In: Managing Your Time,” in *Making the Grade*

Sept 25th – Culture (Caron)

“Culture,” in *Commit Sociology*, vol 1

“Global Culture: Sameness or Difference,” in *Commit Sociology*, vol 1

“Reading Up: Strategic Reading,” in *Making the Grade*

¹ Complete and submit the form at <http://www.illnessverification.utoronto.ca/>.

Oct 2nd – Socialization and Social Interaction (Caron)

“Socialization,” in *Commit Sociology*, vol 1

“Society, Social Structure, and Interaction,” in *Commit Sociology*, vol 1

“Thinking Through: Critical Thinking,” in *Making the Grade*

Oct 9th – Groups & Organizations (Caron)

“Groups and Social Organizations,” in *Commit Sociology*, vol 1

“McJobs: McDonaldization and the Relationship to the Labor Process,” in *Commit Sociology*, vol 1

“Facing Up: Coping with Tests and Exams,” in *Making the Grade*

Oct 16th – Test #1

Oct 23rd – Social Stratification I (Brym)

“Social Stratification,” in *Commit Sociology*, vol 1

Oct 30th – Social Stratification II (Brym)

“Hip Hop from Caps to Bling,” in *Sociology as a Life or Death Issue*

“The Social Bases of Cancer,” in *Sociology as a Life or Death Issue*

Nov 6th – Race and Ethnicity (Caron)

“Ethnic Relations and Race,” in *Commit Sociology*, vol 1

“Multiculturalism or Vertical Mosaic? Occupational Stratification among Canadian Ethnic Groups,” in *Commit Sociology*, vol 1

Nov 13th – No Class – Fall Convocation

Nov 20th - Gender (Caron)

“Gender,” in *Commit Sociology*, vol 1

“Sex and Gender through the Prism of Difference,” in *Commit Sociology*, vol 1

Nov 27th – Sexual Orientation (Caron)

“Sexualities,” in *Commit Sociology*, vol 1

“Doing It’: The Social Construction of S-E-X,” in *Commit Sociology*, vol 1

Dec 4th – Deviance & Crime (Caron)

“Defining Deviance,” in *Commit Sociology*, vol 1

“Crime and Deviance,” in *Commit Sociology*, vol 1

Second Half

Jan 8th – Globalization (Caron)

“Globalization,” in *Commit Sociology*, vol 2

“Multinational and Global Corporations,” in *Commit Sociology*, vol 2

Jan 15th – Global Inequality (Brym)

“Development and Underdevelopment,” in *Commit Sociology*, vol 2

Jan 22nd – Politics (Brym)

“Politics and Social Movements,” in *Commit Sociology*, vol 2

“Explaining Suicide Bombers,” in *Sociology as a Life or Death Issue*

Jan 29th – Mass Media (Caron)

“Mass Media,” in *Commit Sociology*, vol 2

“Social Media: Implications for Social Life,” in *Commit Sociology*, vol 2

Feb 5th – The Body (Caron)

“Sociology of the Body: Disability, Aging and Death,” in *Commit Sociology*, vol 2

“Be Thin: Contradictions Within the Social Construction of Beauty and Happiness,” in *Commit Sociology*, vol 2

Feb 12th – Test #3

Feb 19th – No Class - Winter Break

Feb 26th – Environment (Brym)

“Sociology and the Environment,” in *Commit Sociology*, vol 2

“Hurricane Katrina and the Myth of Natural Disasters,” in *Sociology as a Life or Death Issue*

Mar 5th – Religion (Caron)

“Religion,” in *Commit Sociology* vol 2

“Religion: The Comeback,” in *Commit Sociology*, vol 2

Mar 12th – Education (Caron)

“Education,” in *Commit Sociology*, vol 2

“Learning the Student Role,” in *Commit Sociology*, vol 2

Mar 19th – Family (Caron)

“Families,” in *Commit Sociology*, vol 2

“The Changing Face of Matrimony: Same-Sex Civil Marriage in the Twenty-First Century,” in *Commit Sociology vol 2*

Mar 26th – Research Methods (Brym)

“Research Methods,” in *Commit Sociology*, vol 2

“Sociology as a Vocation,” in *Sociology as a Life or Death Issue*

April 2nd – Committing Sociology (Caron)

“The Sociological Eye,” in *Commit Sociology*, vol 2

Make-Up Term Tests and Deadline Extension

A make-up test may be written only in *documented* cases of illness or *immediate* family tragedy that took place *before* a given text. The same goes for deadline extension for assignments. You *must* follow these steps or you will not be allowed to write a make-up test or be able to turn in an assignment passed its due date. (1) To download and print the necessary forms, you need Adobe Reader, which is available free of charge at <http://get.adobe.com/uk/reader/>. (2) Fill out UofT's “Verification of Student Illness or Injury” form (see footnote 1, p.2, above). (3) Fill out the form “Petition to Write SOC101Y Make-Up Test”. (4) Submit both forms to the 100-level courses mailbox in the Dept. of Sociology, Rm. 225, 725 Spadina Ave. Room 225 is accessible from 9 am to 5 pm Monday to Friday except public holidays. *You must submit both forms within two working days of the missed test or deadline of an assignment or you will not be allowed to write the make-up test or turn in a late assignment.* You are not entitled to write a make-up test if you write the regularly scheduled test. Only one make-up test will be scheduled for each term test. All requests will be screened by the Course Coordinator. Students eligible to write a make-up will be informed by e-mail.

Plagiarism

Cheating and misrepresentation will not be tolerated. Students who commit an academic offence face serious penalties. Avoid plagiarism by citing properly. Practices acceptable in high school may prove unacceptable in university. Know where you stand by reading the “Code of Behaviour on Academic Matters” at <http://www.governingcouncil.utoronto.ca/policies/behaveac.htm>

Turnitin

Students agree that by taking this course all required papers may be subject to submission for textual similarity review to *Turnitin.com* for the detection of plagiarism. All submitted papers will be included as source documents in the *Turnitin.com* reference database solely for the purpose of detecting plagiarism of such papers. The terms that apply to the University's use of the *Turnitin.com* service are described on the *Turnitin.com* web site.

Accessibility

The University of Toronto is committed to accessibility. If you require accommodation or have any accessibility concerns, please visit <http://studentlife.utoronto.ca/accessibility>. If you have documentation certifying that you are a special needs student, please see an instructor as soon as possible to discuss how you can best be assisted.