



Sociology UNIVERSITY OF TORONTO

Introduction to Sociology: Social Institutions and Processes SOC 103 H1S

Riva Lieflander
Winter, 2015

Class schedule: Lecture L2001, L2002, L5101: Tuesday, 18:00-20:00 in CH

Tutorial times and locations TBD

Professor's office hours: Tuesday, 14:00-17:00, Room 389 (725 Spadina Ave.)

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All questions sent by email should receive a response within two working days or by the next class if it takes place within the 48 hours following your email. Please note that the professor and TA's reserve the right not to respond to an email if the language used is not appropriate, or if the required information is contained in this syllabus or provided on BlackBoard. Please use your utoronto e-mail account only.

On virtual campus: Yes

Students are expected to check the course web site on a regular basis, and to read all posted announcements and other course materials (e.g. lecture notes).

OFFICIAL COURSE DESCRIPTION

Operating through economic, educational, political, religious, familial and other institutions, society opens up some opportunities and closes off others, thus helping to make us what we are and influencing what we can become. This course explores how social institutions work and how they structure our lives.

PREREQUISITES

Exclusion: [SOC101Y1](#); SOCA02H3

Distribution Requirement Status: This is a Social Science course

Breadth Requirement: Society and its Institutions (3)

GENERAL COURSE OBJECTIVES

By the end of the course, students will have a strong familiarity with a wide variety of interacting and intersecting social institutions, including: the family, the economy and the labour force, education, religion, communications and the mass media, and politics. They will additionally recognize the ways in which social institutions shape the contours of individual and corporate freedom, and they will consider questions of individual and corporate responsibility.

TEACHING METHODS

The course consists of lectures, four occasional tutorials (consisting of: one tutorial at the beginning of the course, to explain administrative course procedures and the process for participating in the BlackBoard Learn Discussion Forum, one tutorial held before Midterm Test #1, one tutorial held before Midterm Test #2, and one tutorial held before the Final Exam), participation in the BlackBoard Learn course site Discussion Forum, and assigned readings. Office hours will also regularly be held by the professor and TA's, to assist students on an individual and/or group basis.

STUDENTS ARE EXPECTED TO READ THE ASSIGNED TEXTBOOK CHAPTERS before the lecture for which they have been assigned. POSTED LECTURE SLIDES AND/OR NOTES DO NOT CONTAIN ALL INFORMATION NEEDED TO SUCCEED IN THIS COURSE, AND CANNOT REPLACE REGULAR ATTENDANCE AT LECTURES, AND TIMELY STUDY OF THE REQUIRED COURSE READINGS. Students are also expected to participate in tutorial discussions, and to ask questions as they arise.

ASSESSMENT METHODS

Students will be evaluated on the basis of: two mid-term tests, one final exam, and regular participation in the BlackBoard Learn course site Discussion Forum, as follows:

Components of Final Mark¹

| Evaluation format | Weight | Date |
|-----------------------------------|--------|----------------------|
| Participation in Discussion Board | 15 % | Assessment ongoing |
| Mid-Term Test #1 | 25 % | February 10 2015 |
| Mid-Term Test #2 | 25 % | March 10 2015 |
| Final Exam | 35 % | TBA: April 8-30 2015 |

¹ Students wishing to appeal a grade must do so within two weeks of the date of return of the graded assessment.

MAKE-UP TESTS

Students who miss a test will receive a mark of zero unless, **within three days of the missed test**, students who wish to write the make-up test give their professor a written request for special consideration which explains why the test was missed, accompanied by **proper documentation from a physician or college registrar (please see below)**.

Reasons such as travel, employment, personal plans, or any misreading of the examination timetable are not acceptable.

You should advise your professor as early as possible if a religious holiday or a religious event will force you to be absent during an evaluation.

DOCUMENTATION FROM YOUR PHYSICIAN OR COLLEGE REGISTRAR

If you miss a test or a paper deadline, you **must** provide the documentation described below. Merely telling the professor or TA why you missed a deadline or a test will not be considered.

- In case of **illness**, you must supply a duly completed **Verification of Student Illness** or Injury form (available at www.illnessverification.utoronto.ca). A doctor's note is not acceptable. **The form must be placed in a sealed envelope, addressed to the instructor, and submitted to the instructor** at class or during the professor's office hours.
- If a **personal or family crisis** prevents you from meeting a deadline, you must get a letter from your college registrar (it is a good idea anyway to advise your college registrar if a crisis is interfering with your studies). **The letter must be placed in a sealed envelope, addressed to the instructor, and submitted to the instructor** at class or during the professor's office hours.

CLASSROOM COMPUTER USE

If and when (at the instructor's discretion) laptop usage is allowed in class, laptops should be used **for notes and class presentations only**. Other uses (e.g. emailing, web surfing) will result in the student's being required to turn off the laptop.

POLICY ON ELECTRONIC RECORDING AND TRANSMISSION OF COURSE MATERIALS

Videotaping and recording lectures is strictly forbidden without written permission from the instructor.

Posting and/or other transmission of lecture slides, assignments, and/or other course material to any electronic or other forum, excluding the BlackBoard Learn course site, is also strictly forbidden without written permission from the instructor.

SCHEDULE

The actual schedule may vary slightly from the following outline. Any changes will be announced on the BlackBoard Learn course web site, and at the lectures/tutorials.

*N.B.: All chapters indicated in the Readings column, below, refer to the **required** custom Brym textbook, and to the **required** online readings, listed in the course syllabus Bibliography.*

| DATE | TOPIC | LOCATION | READINGS |
|---|--|-------------------|--|
| Lecture 1 January 6 | Introduction to the course objectives and plan; Introduction to sociology | CH | Course syllabus; BlackBoard course site; "Introduction to Sociology"; "Sociology as a Life or Death Issue" |
| Lecture 2 January 13 | Culture | CH | "Culture"; "Hip Hop from Caps to Bling" |
| <i>WEEK OF</i> January 13 | Tutorial #1: The Course | TBD | Bring your syllabus and agenda planner.... |
| Lecture 3 January 20 | Socialization | CH | "Socialization" |
| Lecture 4 January 27 | Networks, Groups, Bureaucracies, and Societies | CH | "Networks, Groups, Bureaucracies, and Societies"; "Hurricane Katrina and the Myth of Natural Disasters" |
| Lecture 5 February 3 | Families | CH | "Families"; "Legal parenthood and the recognition of alternative family forms in Canada" |
| <i>WEEK OF</i> February 3 | Tutorial #2: Midterm Test #1 Review | TBD | Bring your questions from: Lectures 1-3 – including all lecture slides, notes, discussions, and required readings |
| Lecture 6 February 10 ** 19:45-21:45 ** | <u>Midterm Test #1</u> ** NOTE THE TIME CHANGE ** | Locations: TBA | Included from Lectures 1-3: all lecture slides, notes, discussions, and required readings; <u>Midterm Test #1</u> |
| <i>February 16</i> | Family Day | N/A | N/A |
| <i>February 17-20</i> | Reading Week | N/A | N/A |
| Lecture 7 February 24 | Work and Occupations | CH | "Work and Occupations"; "McJobs: McDonaldization and its relation to the labour process" |
| Lecture 8 March 3 | Education | CH | "Education"; "Public education: 'failure by design'" |
| <i>WEEK OF</i> March 3 | Tutorial #3: Midterm Test #2 Review | TBD | Bring your questions from: Lectures 4-5 & 7 -- including all lecture slides, notes, discussions, and required readings |

| | | | |
|--|--|-------------------|---|
| March 8 | Last day to drop courses with S section codes from academic record and GPA. After this deadline a mark is recorded for each course, whether course work is completed or not (a 0/zero is assigned for incomplete work), and calculated into the GPA. Note that some courses cannot be cancelled using the SWS and students must contact their College or Department to do so; refer to the Registration Instructions. Last day to add or remove a CR/NCR option for S section code courses. | N/A | N/A |
| Lecture 9 March 10 ** 19:45-21:45 ** | <u>Midterm Test #2</u> ** NOTE THE TIME CHANGE ** | Locations: TBA | Included from Lectures 4-5 & 7: all lecture slides, notes, discussions, and required readings; <u>Midterm Test #2</u> |
| Lecture 10 March 17 | Religion | CH | "Religion"; "Why bother with organized religion? A response to Joel Thiessen." |
| Lecture 11 March 24 | Communication and Mass Media | CH | "Communication and Mass Media" |
| Lecture 12 March 31 | Politics and Social Movements | CH | "Politics and Social Movements"; "Explaining Suicide Bombers" |
| WEEK OF March 31 | Tutorial #4: Final Exam Review | TBD | Bring your questions from: ALL lecture slides, notes, discussions, and required readings, but with emphasis on Lectures 8 & 10-12 |
| Exam period April 8-30 Date: TBA | <u>Final Exam</u> | Locations: TBA | All lecture slides, notes, discussions, and required readings, but with emphasis on Classes 8 & 10-12; <u>Final Exam</u> |

BIBLIOGRAPHY

Brym, Robert. (2014) *Custom Pub: Introduction to Sociology – SOC 103*. Toronto: Nelson Education. (ISBN: 0176685332)

Supplementary required readings (available online in the Zavitz CourseReader):

Lecture 5: Families

Bird, Alison. "Legal parenthood and the recognition of alternative family forms in Canada." *University of New Brunswick Law Journal* Annual 2010: 264+. Web. 15 May 2014.

<http://coursereader.galegroup.com/portal/ReaderPortal/viewDetails/DetailsWindow?action=2&searchId=201501120000573&documentId=A237838583>

Lecture 7:

Ritzer, George. "McJobs: McDonaldization and its relationship to the labour process." *CourseReader*. Detroit: Gale, 2010. Web. 15 May 2014.

<http://coursereader.galegroup.com/portal/ReaderPortal/viewDetails/DetailsWindow?action=2&searchId=201501120000584&documentId=AFAWWF454329462>

Lecture 8: Education

Chomsky, Noam. "Public education: 'failure by design'." *AMASS* 16.4 (2012): 28+. Web. 15 May 2014.

<http://coursereader.galegroup.com/portal/ReaderPortal/viewDetails/DetailsWindow?action=2&searchId=201501120000577&documentId=A294369965>

Lecture 10: Religion

Bibby, Reginald W. "Why bother with organized religion? A response to Joel Thiessen." *Canadian Review of Sociology* 49.1 (2012): 91+. Web. 15 May 2014.

<http://coursereader.galegroup.com/portal/ReaderPortal/viewDetails/DetailsWindow?action=2&searchId=201501120000553&documentId=A283021640>

ACADEMIC SUPPORT

Do not hesitate to contact me if you need any assistance or would like to discuss your course progress. I am available during regularly scheduled office hours, after class, and also by e-mail. In addition:

Your Registrar is a reliable first-stop whenever you have questions, concerns or are facing issues that are getting in the way of your success.

The **Academic Success Centre** is the place to go to learn how to develop skills in time management, exam preparation, textbook reading, note-taking, and dealing with anxiety, procrastination and perfectionism. Make an appointment with a learning skills counsellor at the reception desk or by calling 416-978-7970. You can also visit the ASC drop-in centre in the Koffler building at 214 College Street. www.asc.utoronto.ca.

Tutors are available at **First Nations House** to help aboriginal students develop their research, essay writing and study skills. Tutors can also help students find academic support in specific fields of study, such as math and science. www.fnh.utoronto.ca. 416-978-8227.

If you're facing challenging personal circumstances that are affecting your academic performance, feel free to seek emotional and psychological support from U of T's **Counselling and Psychological Services**. www.caps.utoronto.ca. 416-978-8070.

WRITING AND LANGUAGE SUPPORT

There are a wide range of resources for writing support made available in Arts and Science to help all students become better writers and communicators. You can find information about college writing centres at:

<http://www.writing.utoronto.ca/writing-centres/arts-and-science> and
<http://www.writing.utoronto.ca/about-this-site/pdf-links-for-students>.

Please note, especially, "How Not to Plagiarize", and other advice on documentation format and methods of integrating sources, which are listed in the section at:

<http://www.writing.utoronto.ca/advice/using-sources>.

Writing Plus Workshops:

The St. George Campus College Writing Centres, with the participation of the Arts and Science Students' Union (ASSU), the Academic Success Centre, University of Toronto Libraries, and the Career Centre, are offering this campus-wide series of academic skills workshops to the University's entire student body. All workshops are free and there is no need to pre-register. Come for one, or come for all! The Writing Plus workshop series is described at: <http://www.writing.utoronto.ca/writing-plus>.

English Language Learning program (ELL):

Information about the English Language Learning program (ELL) is available at: <http://www.artsci.utoronto.ca/current/undergraduate/ell>. Please note especially the Communication Cafe, which meets weekly at four different times and locations for the first five weeks of each term. For more information, please contact the ELL Coordinator Leora Freedman at leora.freedman@utoronto.ca.

ACCESSIBILITY

AccessAbility

Students with diverse learning styles and needs are welcome in this course. In particular, if you have a disability or health consideration that may require accommodations, **Accessibility Services** is your home base for support. It is important to contact the office as soon as you are accepted to U of T so that accommodations for your needs are in place before classes start. All information about your disability is confidential and won't be shared with units outside of Accessibility Services without your consent. www.accessibility.utoronto.ca. 416-978-8060.

The Accessibility Services staff are available by appointment to assess specific needs, provide referrals and arrange appropriate accommodations. The sooner you let them and me know your needs, the quicker we can assist you in achieving your learning goals in this course.

The role of Accessibility Services is to facilitate the inclusion of students with disabilities into all aspects of university life. Our focus is on skills development, especially in the areas of self-advocacy and academic skills.

Services are provided to students with a documented disability. It can be physical, sensory, a learning disability, or a mental health disorder. Students with temporary disabilities (e.g. broken arm) are also eligible for the service.

Students first go through an intake interview to discuss their eligibility and needs. Where appropriate, students are referred to one of the Service's professionals (e.g. Adaptive Technologist Consultant, Learning Disability Specialist) to discuss strategies and determine accommodations. All discussions are kept confidential with Accessibility Services and information is disclosed outside the Service only with permission of the student.

Services provided include:

- alternative [test & examination arrangements](#)
- authorization of test and exam accommodations coordinated by [Test and Exam Services](#)
- [note-taking](#) services
- sign language interpreters
- adaptive equipment & assistive devices
- alternative format for printed materials
- information & resource materials on health conditions & disability related issues
- liaison with academic & administrative units within the University & with off-campus agencies.

Robarts Location**Voice:** 416 978-8060**Fax:** 416 978-8246**TTY:** 416-978-1902**Email:** accessibility.services@utoronto.ca**Huron Street Location****Voice:** 416 978-7677**Fax:** 416 978-5729**TTY:** 416 978-1902**Email:** as.huronstreet@utoronto.ca***Special Accommodations***

If you develop a prolonged illness or encounter a personal crisis that will affect your participation in the course, please contact the course instructor as soon as the problem becomes apparent. Your best strategy for dealing with anything that may prevent you from completing the course in a way that is satisfactory to you is to discuss your concerns as soon as possible with the course instructor so that we can work out a way of responding to them together.

ACADEMIC INTEGRITY

Academic integrity is fundamental to learning and scholarship at the University of Toronto. Participating honestly, respectfully, responsibly, and fairly in this academic community ensures that the U of T degree that you earn will be valued as a true indication of your individual academic achievement, and will continue to receive the respect and recognition it deserves.

Familiarize yourself with the University of Toronto's *Code of Behaviour on Academic Matters* (<http://www.governingcouncil.utoronto.ca/policies/behaveac.htm>). It is the rule book for academic behaviour at the U of T, and you are expected to know the rules. Potential offences include, but are not limited to:

In papers and assignments:

- Using someone else's ideas or words without appropriate acknowledgement.
- Copying material word-for-word from a source (including lecture and study group notes) and not placing the words within quotation marks.
- Submitting your own work in more than one course without the permission of the instructor.
- Making up sources or facts.
- Including references to sources that you did not use.
- Obtaining or providing unauthorized assistance on any assignment including:
 - working in groups on assignments that are supposed to be individual work;
 - having someone rewrite or add material to your work while "editing".
- Lending your work to a classmate who submits it as his/her own without your permission.

On tests and exams:

- Using or possessing any unauthorized aid, including a cell phone.
- Looking at someone else's answers
- Letting someone else look at your answers.
- Misrepresenting your identity.
- Submitting an altered test for re-grading.

Misrepresentation:

- Falsifying or altering any documentation required by the University, including doctor's notes.
- Falsifying institutional documents or grades.

To remind you of these expectations, and help you avoid accidental offences, I will ask you to include a signed Academic Integrity Checklist with every assignment. If you do not include the statement, your work will not be graded.

The University of Toronto treats cases of academic misconduct very seriously. All suspected cases of academic dishonesty will be investigated following the procedures outlined in the *Code*. The consequences for academic misconduct can be severe, including a failure in the course and a notation on your transcript. If you have any questions about what is or is not permitted in this course, please do not hesitate to contact me. If you have questions about appropriate research and citation methods, seek out additional information from me, or from other available campus resources like the [U of T Writing Website](#). If you are experiencing personal challenges that are having an impact on your academic work, please speak to me or seek the advice of your college registrar.