

SOCIOLOGY 102H1F: SOCIAL INEQUALITIES, Summer 2014
18:00-21:00, Mondays & Wednesdays, Bahen Center for Information Technology rm1160

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Office hours: Mondays and Wednesdays 9-10pm or by appointment

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. This course both serves as an introduction to the discipline, its main conceptual and methodological tools, as well as examining and understanding various forms of social inequalities. We will analyze the globalization of culture, socialization, social interaction, and social groups, all of them forming the building blocks of everyday social life. We will also analyze some of the major sources of social inequalities by looking at class, race and ethnicity, gender and sexual orientation. Our semester will end with how these social inequalities play a role in constructions of deviance and the criminal justice system. 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 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).
2. iClicker remote control. Please bring your iClicker to every lecture. It will be used every class.

Both of these items can be purchased at the U of T Bookstore, 214 College Street.

Evaluation

In-Class Activities (10%)

In-class activities, almost always in the form of iclicker questions, 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 10 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 10 "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.

Midterm (20%)

90 minute multiple-choice tests will be worth 20% each taking place on June 2nd

Written assignments (due June 18th) (25%)

You will be responsible for completing five small written assignments (worth 1% each) and a term project (worth 20%) consisting of 6 pages. The project details will be discussed in the first week of the semester. The term project must be submitted in both hard copy AND digital copy to Blackboard. Assignments will not be accepted past the due date without submission of medical documentation.¹

Final Exam (June 23rd) (40%)

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

Tutorials

The first two hours of every class will be the lecture which is followed by a 50min tutorial after a short break. Tutorials are not mandatory, but highly encouraged. They will be used to develop skills and knowledge necessary to complete the term written assignments. Tutorials are held every Mondays and Wednesdays unless stated otherwise.

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

Weekly Lecture Topics and Readings

May 12th – Introduction to Sociology

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

May 14th – Sociological Knowledge and Science

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

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

May 19th – No Class – Holiday

Research Methods (lecture delivered online)

May 21st – Culture

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

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

May 26th – Socialization and Social Interaction

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

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

May 28th – Groups & Organizations

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

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

June 2nd – Midterm

June 4th – Class, Stratification and Power

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

June 9th – Race and Ethnicity

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

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

June 11th - Gender

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

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

Sexual Orientation (lecture delivered online)

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

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

June 16th – Deviance & Crime

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

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

June 18th - Committing Sociology
No readings

June 23rd – Final exam

Make-Up Midterm 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) Submit form 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 form 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 midterm if you write the regularly scheduled midterm. Only one make-up midterm will be scheduled. 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.