



UNIVERSITY OF TORONTO
FACULTY OF ARTS & SCIENCE

SOC103H1 INTRODUCTION TO SOCIOLOGY – SOCIAL INSTITUTIONS

Summer 2015

Section S Monday/Wednesday 6:00 – 8:00 p.m.

Location: MP 203

Instructor: Dr. Anna Borisenkova

Email: anna.borisenkova@utoronto.ca

Office hours: Monday and Wednesday: 3:00 – 5:30 p.m. or by appointment
room 389, St. George Campus 725 Spadina ave

Teaching Assistants:

Louise Birdsell Bauer: louise.birdsellbauer@utoronto.ca

Tony Zhang: huiquan.zhang@mail.utoronto.ca

All information regarding the course (announcements, reading assignments, and tasks) will be updated on **Blackboard**. Students are advised to check it regularly.

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. It will help to understand the relationship between events in our own lives and the wider social, political, and economic contexts in which we live.

Required Textbook

Robert J. Brym, Lance W. Roberts, Lisa Stroschein, John Lie (2013) *Sociology: Your Compass for a New World*, Fifth Canadian Edition. Publisher: Nelson Education. ISBN: 9780176532031.

Course Organization

The major part of the course consists of weekly classes which may include a combination of lecture, discussions on the readings assigned, and group work. Students are expected to read the required readings, attend all classes, participate in all activities and contribute to discussion. There will be documentary films and news stories as appropriate. Documentaries shown in class form an integral part of the course material and students are expected to incorporate the knowledge gained from these into the assignments and the final exam.

Learning Outcomes

The course aims to develop important academic skills including critical reasoning skills, active reading, effective writing, and library research.

Upon completion of this course you will gain a broad understanding of major approaches to the study of social institutions.

You will be able to learn about the major fields of sociological inquiry along with some of the main questions within each.

You will be introduced to social research methods and specific techniques that can be applied in academic research and practice.

Upon completion of the course you will develop an ability to grasp the connections between small-scale issues and large-scale societal processes, local and global phenomena.

Course Assignments and Evaluation Schedule

Assignment	% of grade	Due Date
Test 1	15%	July 15, 2015
Test 2	15%	July 29, 2015
Written during lecture time		
Essay	20%	August 5, 2015
Final Exam	50%	August 11 – 17, 2015

Students are required to submit an essay that advances an argument on one of the topics covered in the textbook. The essay should be approximately 2000 words in length, double-spaced, 12 font, typed, plus a title page and a list of references. Failure to submit an essay will result in a mark of zero for this assignment.

Attendance

Regular attendance at lectures is required in order for students to do well in the course. Please note that lectures will not always cover assigned reading content on a given day. They explain as well as supplement the readings. It is the student's responsibility to seriously engage with the readings and take notes. If you need to miss a lecture, you will not be penalized, however you should ensure that you know someone in the class from whom you can borrow lecture notes. Lecture PowerPoint presentations will be posted on Blackboard. Keep in mind that these do not contain all lecture content or explanations but rather constitute an outline of the content, including some key concepts.

Late Penalty Policy

All take-home assignments must be submitted on the due dates; late assignments will be penalized 5% per day. Exceptions to late penalties are only considered with a letter from the University College Registrar.

Missed Test Policy

Make-up tests may be scheduled if a student can produce suitable documentation) to indicate illness or family emergency (see below). The documentation should verify that the student was either legitimately ill or otherwise indisposed by virtue of family emergency and it should outline the time frame for which the illness or emergency transpired. Make-up tests will be scheduled at the convenience of the professor.

DOCUMENTATION FROM YOUR PHYSICIAN OR COLLEGE REGISTRAR

If you miss a test or a paper deadline, **do not** contact the instructor or a TA unless you have followed the steps described here. 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 with your work** at class or to your TA during their 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 with your work** at class or to your TA during their office hours.

Final Examinations

Students who miss a final exam must petition to the Faculty through their College Registrar's Office for an opportunity to write a deferred exam.

Assignment Submission Method

Students should submit assignments **digitally via Turnitin.com** and **Blackboard**.

Normally, students will be required to submit their course essays to Turnitin.com for review of textual similarity and detection of possible plagiarism. In doing so, students will allow their essays to be included as source documents in the Turnitin.com reference database, where they will be used solely for the purpose of detecting plagiarism. The terms that apply to the University's use of the Turnitin.com service are described on the Turnitin.com web site.

Students may opt out of submitting via Turnitin.com. However, they should anticipate that the professor will check all possible references to verify originality of the text.

Weekly Readings and Class Schedule

June 29, 2015

Introduction and Overview of the Course Origins of the Sociological Imagination

Robert J. Brym, Lance W. Roberts, Lisa Strohschein, John Lie (2013) *Sociology: Your Compass for a New World, Fifth Canadian Edition*. Publisher: Nelson Education, pp. 3-33.

July 6 & 8, 2015

Doing Research: Quantitative and Qualitative Approaches

Robert J. Brym, Lance W. Roberts, Lisa Strohschein, John Lie (2013) *Sociology: Your Compass for a New World, Fifth Canadian Edition*. Publisher: Nelson Education, pp. 35-63.

July 13, 2015

Culture and Society

Robert J. Brym, Lance W. Roberts, Lisa Strohschein, John Lie (2013) *Sociology: Your Compass for a New World, Fifth Canadian Edition*. Publisher: Nelson Education, pp. 67-93.

Winter, Elke. 2014. "Us, Them, and Others: Reflections on Canadian Multiculturalism and National Identity at the Turn of the Twenty-First Century", *Canadian Review of Sociology/Revue canadienne de sociologie*. Volume 51, Issue 2.

July 15, 2015

Work and the Economy

Robert J. Brym, Lance W. Roberts, Lisa Strohschein, John Lie (2013) *Sociology: Your Compass for a New World, Fifth Canadian Edition*. Publisher: Nelson Education, pp. 330-355.

Hilbrecht, Margo and Lero, Donna S. 2014. "Self-Employment and Family Life: Constructing Work–Life Balance When You're 'Always On'", *Community, Work & Family*, 17:1.

July 20, 2015

Politics and the Future of Democracy

Robert J. Brym, Lance W. Roberts, Lisa Strohschein, John Lie (2013) *Sociology: Your Compass for a New World, Fifth Canadian Edition*. Publisher: Nelson Education, pp. 356-382.

Carroll, M. 2005. Who Owns Democracy? Explaining the Long-running Debate over Canadian/American Value Differences. *Canadian Review of Sociology/Revue canadienne de sociologie*, Volume 42, Issue 3.

July 22, 2015

Family and Intimate Relationships

Robert J. Brym, Lance W. Roberts, Lisa Strohschein, John Lie (2013) *Sociology: Your Compass for a New World, Fifth Canadian Edition*. Publisher: Nelson Education, pp. 383-411.

Seabrook, J.A. and Avison, William R. 2015. Family Structure and Children's Socioeconomic Attainment: A Canadian Sample, *Canadian Review of Sociology/Revue canadienne de sociologie*. Volume 52, Issue 1.

July 27, 2015

Religion and Society

Robert J. Brym, Lance W. Roberts, Lisa Strohschein, John Lie (2013) *Sociology: Your Compass for a New World, Fifth Canadian Edition*. Publisher: Nelson Education, pp. 413-435.

Campbell, R.A. 2005. Students' Views on the Relationship between Religion and Science: Analyses of Results from a Comparative Survey, *Canadian Review of Sociology/Revue canadienne de sociologie*. Volume 42, Issue 3.

July 29, 2015

Education

Prospects and Challenges for Education in Canada

Robert J. Brym, Lance W. Roberts, Lisa Strohschein, John Lie (2013) *Sociology: Your Compass for a New World, Fifth Canadian Edition*. Publisher: Nelson Education, pp. 436-459.

Zarifa, D. 2012. Persistent Inequality or Liberation from Social Origins? Determining Who Attends Graduate and Professional Schools in Canada's Expanded Postsecondary System, *Canadian Review of Sociology/Revue canadienne de sociologie*. Volume 49, Issue 2,

August 5, 2015

Mass Media and Mass Communication

Robert J. Brym, Lance W. Roberts, Lisa Strohschein, John Lie (2013) *Sociology: Your Compass for a New World, Fifth Canadian Edition*. Publisher: Nelson Education, pp. 460-480.

Johnson, Matthew. 2012. "Connected, Mobile and Social: The Online Lives of Canadian Youth", *The Vanier Institute of the Family*. Vol. 43 No

August 10, 2015

Health and Medicine

Exam Review

Robert J. Brym, Lance W. Roberts, Lisa Strohschein, John Lie (2013) *Sociology: Your Compass for a New World, Fifth Canadian Edition*. Publisher: Nelson Education,

pp. 481-502.

Prince, Michael J. 2004. "Canadian Disability Policy: Still a Hit-and-Miss Affair", *The Canadian Journal of Sociology / Cahiers canadiens de sociologie*, Vol. 29, No.1.

Re-marking Policy

There are no make-up assignments to try to improve students' mark in the event they do poorly on a test, assignment, or essay.

If students disagree with the grade they were given on the assignment, they must contact the TA **within one week** after the assignment was returned, to schedule a meeting. At the meeting students must present their argument in writing (i.e. letter) and must explain why, taking into consideration the comments they received on the assignment, they are still convinced that the grade should have been higher. If students disagree with the TA's decision on the results of the meeting, they can schedule a meeting with the professor.

Absence for Religious Purposes

A student who foresees a conflict between a religious obligation and any scheduled class assignments, including the final examination, must notify their professor in writing and in the case of final examinations must contact the Office of the Registrar within two weeks of publishing of the syllabus and/or the final exam schedule.

Academic Misconduct

Academic misconduct refers to attempts to subvert academic standards by gaining credit, standing or benefits improperly. Plagiarism and cheating are extremely serious academic offences and carry varying penalties.

Plagiarism is a form of academic dishonesty in which students present published or unpublished work (written, digital, or other) of another person or persons, or one's own prior work, in its entirety or in part, as their own original work.

Plagiarism has occurred when a student either:

1) directly copies more than one or two sentences of an author's written work without direct acknowledgement; or,

2) closely paraphrases the equivalent of short paragraph or more without acknowledgement; or,
3) borrows, without acknowledgement, any ideas in a clear and recognizable form in such a way as to present them as the student's own thought, where such ideas, if they were the student's own would contribute to the merit of her/his own work. All sources must be documented. Please consult the web:

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

Non-academic Misconduct

Students have a responsibility to act in a fair and reasonable manner in their interactions with their peers, instructor and in their use of campus property. The intent of this policy is to encourage appropriate student conduct and to identify and regulate student non-academic misconduct that jeopardizes the essential values of any academic community: mutual respect, dignity and civility. Particularly, the use of non-learning equipment in the classroom, i.e., cell phones, texting equipment, is not allowed. No food, coming late, or leaving early are expected to occur in this class.

Accessibility Services

Students with documented disabilities, temporary or chronic medical conditions, requiring academic accommodations for tests/exams (e.g., private space) or during lectures (e.g., note-takers) are encouraged to contact Accessibility Services. <http://www.accessibility.utoronto.ca>

Important Sessional Dates

July 27, 2015 is the FINAL DATE to withdrawal without academic penalty for this summer course

Canada Day: University closed, Wednesday July 1, 2015

Civic Holiday: University closed Monday August 3, 2015

E-mail /Online Communication

E-mail communication is for providing short answers to any clarification questions regarding the course content and/or organization. You can expect to receive a response usually within 48 hours.

Any administrative related questions such as make-up tests and late assignments, grades, etc., should be directed to our Teaching Assistants Louise Birdsell Bauer and Tony Zhang.

If you require help with course material, please see your professor or TA during office hours or ask for an appointment.

Summer Writing Support

All undergraduate students taking summer courses in the Faculty of Arts and Science are eligible to use any of the five college writing centres that remain open in the summer: Innis College, New College, University College, Victoria College and Woodsworth College Writing Centres. Students may book up to TWO appointments per week.

For information about writing centre appointments in the summer session, they may visit <http://writing.utoronto.ca/news>.

Information about the English Language Learning program (ELL) is available at <http://www.artsci.utoronto.ca/current/advising/ell>.

Advising

In the case of any problems which interfere with academic progress (such as illness or a personal matter) students are encouraged to contact the University College Registrar's Office: <http://www.uc.utoronto.ca/advising-and-registrar> .