

SOCIOLOGY 103H1S: INTRODUCTION TO SOCIOLOGY – SOCIAL INSTITUTIONS AND PROCESSES

Summer 2016

Lecture MW6-9, Location – Ramsay Wright Rm110

Exclusion: SOC101Y (students cannot get credit for both SOC101Y and SOC102)

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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 topics such the intersection of social movements and politics, the changing role of mass media, changes in the organization of families, the social dimension of environmental problems, and so on. You will learn to understand these and other pressing social issues and social institutions 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.

Communication & Portal

While this course involves a fair bit of independent learning, the organizing principle of the course is that learning is a social process that takes place not only by reading, attending lectures, and listening to teaching assistants, but also by students interacting with 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 the UofT Portal (<https://weblogin.utoronto.ca/>) to facilitate this “study group” atmosphere. The Portal will act as the “nervous system” of the course, a place where you will find this syllabus, PowerPoint slides (a partial set will be posted before the lectures and a full set by the following morning), assignments, announcements, grades, and student-generated content on a series of discussion boards. You should check the Announcement tab on a regular basis as it will be the main mechanism to communicate about course related matters. Treat the Announcement tab as a series of appendices to this syllabus. While the Portal page will be small at the outset, it will grow as the course progresses. One element present at launch is a discussion board called *Questions about the Course*. This discussion is to be used for all course-related questions of a non-personal nature this semester, question about the course content, activities, assignments, exams, and deadlines. This way all clarifications provided are available to every student in the course. Of course, feel free to contact me by e-mail for any questions of a more personal nature regarding illness, special accommodations, grade review or anything else you might want to discuss with me privately. All e-mails are answered within 48h unless explicitly stated otherwise.

Required Course Material

1. Christian Caron and Robert Brym, eds. *Commit Sociology*, 1st Custom Edition, vol 2 (Toronto: Nelson, 2013). Main textbook.
2. Christian Caron *Into Sociology* (Toronto: Nelson, 2016)

Both of these items can be purchased at the U of T Bookstore, 214 College Street. You are responsible for all the material just listed, which you will need for assignments and the tests.

Evaluation

In-Class Activities (20%)

Except for the first class on June 27th and the first test on July 13th, in-class activities will take place during each lecture. They will involve collaboratively discussing, and then answering a series of questions related to the week's course material, either the readings for that week or the lecture content, or both. They make take place at the beginning, middle or near the end of lecture, but there will be 10 of these in-class activities, each worth 2%.

Peer Contributions (5%)

Each student has had a rich life full of personal, educational, and work experiences before walking into this course, and is thus well equipped to contribute something worthwhile to their colleagues' learning experience. This component is there to encourage each of you to make these contributions, while giving each student plenty of choices in the manner in which they feel most interested or most comfortable doing so. There are several distinctive ways for each of you to contribute to your colleagues' experience and accrue these 5%: (1) you can be one of the volunteer lecture note-takers; (2) you can answer your colleagues' questions on the General Questions about the Course forum, where each question answered will be credited 0.25%; (3) you can accrue contributions by posting relevant material, clarifications, or reflections on the course content, such as material and insights from other courses you have taken, from what you see in the media, or from your own first-hand experience. Every posts made on the substantive forums that contributes to furthering the understanding of course material for your colleagues, and is no less than 100 words in length, will be credited 0.25% towards this component; (4) you can accrue grades towards this component by completing "special projects" advertised a few times in the semester; (5) you can also earn this 5% by suggesting other types of possible contributions which you feel would be of benefit to your colleagues.

Portfolios (10%)

Portfolios are a collection of twice-weekly entries based on small assignments and write-ups assigned during class and submitted on Portal. They will sometimes be based on the work accomplished towards the essay, other times based on the readings or lecture material, and other times just made up of short reflexive writing. Portfolios are meant to showcase the work-in-progress during the year, and allow students to monitor and reflect on their own learning. Each entry is out of 1% and will be assessed for completion and quality.

Term Tests (25% each) – July 13th & August 8th

Both tests are 2 hours each and made up of short-answer and multiple-choice questions worth 25% each. First test on July 13th covers course material from "Into Sociology" to "Globalization", inclusive. The final test on August 8th covers course material from "Environment, Science and Technology" to "Commit Sociology", inclusive. You should bring several pencils and your U of T ID card to both tests. Students will write these tests during regular class times in the regular classroom. The only aid allowed during the tests are a paper, English-other language dictionaries (which, if used, must be inspected by an invigilator before the test begins).

Essay (15%) – Aug 5th, 11:59pm

The short essay is worth 15% and consist of 6 pages or 2000 words (12 pts font Arial or Times New Roman, double-spaced, one-inch margins all around), not including title page and bibliography. Detailed instructions will be offered in the early weeks of the semester. Note: There are no late penalties per day late because assignments will not be accepted past the due date without submission of UofT's Verification of Illness form.¹ Without this documentation, any assignments submitted passed the deadline will receive a grade of zero.

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

Lectures and Readings Schedule

Readings should be completed before lecture. Lectures will not systematically summarize the readings, but instead build and go beyond them.

June 27th – Introduction to Sociology
Into Sociology (stand-alone chapter)

June 29th – Social Movements
“Collective Behaviour, Social Movements, and Social Change,” available as pdf online

July 4th – Politics & Citizenship
“Politics and Social Movements,” in *Commit Sociology*, vol 2 p64-88

July 6th – Mass Media
“Mass Media,” in *Commit Sociology*, vol 2 p89-123
“Social Media: Implications for Social Life,” in *Commit Sociology*, vol 2 p124-134

July 11th - Globalization
“Globalization,” in *Commit Sociology*, vol 2 p4-32

July 13th – First Test

July 18th – Environment, Science, and Technology
“Sociology and the Environment,” in *Commit Sociology*, vol 2 p174-195

July 20th – Religion
“Religion,” in *Commit Sociology* vol 2 p200-229
“Religion: The Comeback,” in *Commit Sociology*, vol 2 p230-238

July 25th – Education
“Education,” in *Commit Sociology*, vol 2 p241-264
“Learning the Student Role,” in *Commit Sociology*, vol 2 p265-274

July 27th – Family
“Families,” in *Commit Sociology*, vol 2 p278-308
“The Changing Face of Matrimony: Same-Sex Civil Marriage in the Twenty-First Century,” in *Commit Sociology* vol 2 p309-352

August 3rd – Commit Sociology
Into Sociology (stand-alone chapter)

August 8th – Final Test

Make-Up Term Tests and Deadline Extension

A make-up test or deadline extension may be available only in *documented* cases of illness or *immediate* family tragedy that took place *before* a given test or deadline. If you miss a test or a paper deadline, **do not** contact the instructor or TA, unless you have followed the steps described immediately below. 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.**

- 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.**
- This documentation must be submitted to the 100-level course mailbox in the Dept of Sociology, Rm 225, 725 Spadina Ave. Room 225 is accessible from 9 am to 4:30 pm Monday to Friday except public holidays.

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” in the Calendar of the Faculty of Arts and Science at

<http://www.governingcouncil.utoronto.ca/Assets/Governing+Council+Digital+Assets/Policies/PDF/ppjun011995.pdf>.

Turnitin

Normally, students will be required to submit their course essays to Turnitin.com for a 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. Assignments not submitted through *Turnitin* will not be assessed unless a student instead provides, along with their work, sufficient secondary material (e.g., reading notes, outlines of the paper, rough drafts of the final draft, etc.) to establish that the paper they submit is truly their own. The alternative (not submitting via *Turnitin*) is in place because, strictly speaking, using *Turnitin* is voluntary for students at the University of Toronto.

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> as soon as possible.

Resources

Powerpoint Viewer

A free downloadable program for viewing and printing PowerPoint slides shown in class - Powerpoint viewer <http://www.microsoft.com/en-ca/download/details.aspx?id=13> (Open Office can also be used for this purpose)

Department of Sociology – University of Toronto

Course offerings, programs, and faculty

http://www.sociology.utoronto.ca/home_4.htm

Writing Support in Faculty of Arts and Science

Writing is a key part of a university education. The Faculty of Arts and Science at UofT has several initiatives which every students could benefit from looking into. Here is a series of writing-related resources available in Arts and Science.

1. Students can find information about college writing centres at <http://www.writing.utoronto.ca/writing-centres/arts-and-science>
2. The home page for the website “Writing at the University of Toronto” is www.writing.utoronto.ca. This includes:
 - More than 60 advice files on all aspects of academic writing available at www.writing.utoronto.ca/advice. A complete list of printable PDF versions are listed at <http://www.writing.utoronto.ca/about-this-site/pdf-links-for-students>.
 - Students will want to check out the “How Not to Plagiarize” and other advice on documentation format and methods of integrating sources; these are listed at www.writing.utoronto.ca/advice/using-sources.
3. Writing Plus workshop series, described at <http://www.writing.utoronto.ca/writing-plus>.

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

- the Communication Cafe, which meets weekly at four different times and locations for the first five weeks of each term for practice with oral skills such as class discussion and presentations
- Reading eWriting, an online program that helps students engage course readings more effectively.

Other University Student Services:

Academic Success Centre: Workshops and individual support for learning skills including time management, memorization, exam preparation, note-taking, stress management.
Koffler Center, 214 College St, 1st floor south. 416-978-7970

Accessibility Services: Advising for students on learning and other strategies, facilitating of assessment and accommodations for those with disabilities. Advice for instructors on adapting assessment and other course elements for those with disabilities.
Robarts Library 1st floor north. 416-978-8060

Campus Police: For security and safety concerns. Emergencies requiring immediate response from Metro Police should go through 911, but Campus Police can respond promptly to less extreme situations. The officers are experienced in dealing with students.
21 Sussex Ave. (behind Robarts) Regular Line: 416-978-2323 **Urgent Line: 416-978-2222**

Career Centre: Research tools, workshops, & advice on choosing and preparing for careers; on-campus employment and work study listings.
Koffler Centre, 214 College 1st floor north 416-978-8000

Centre for International Experience: Logistical and social support for international students; information and support for international student exchange students, both inbound and outbound.
Cumberland House, 33 St. George St. 416-978-2564

Community Safety Office: Responds to students, staff and faculty members of the U of T community who have personal safety concerns.
21 Sussex Ave. 2nd Fl. 416-978-1485

Counselling & Psychological Services (CAPS): Individual counselling/psychotherapy, group therapy, workshops and psychiatric medication services
Koffler Centre, 214 College St. 1st floor middle 416-978-8070

Family Care Office: Help and support for those with dependants, either younger or older.
Koffler Centre, 214 College St. 1st floor middle 416-978-0951

First Nations House: Culturally-sensitive advising on many issues, cultural activities
Borden Bldg. 563 Spadina 3rd floor (416) 978-8227

Health Service: Medical clinic for students, uses OHIP and UHIP
Koffler Centre, 214 College St. 2nd floor north. 416-978-8030

Ombudsperson: Offers confidential advice to students, faculty and staff. Assists students to engage with administrative structures, usually after all normal channels have been exhausted.
McMurrich Bldg., 12 Queen's Park Cr. W. 1st floor Rm.102 416-946-3485

Student Academic Progress: For concerning student situations or advice on how to proceed in situations with a possibly distressed student, staff and faculty should call 416-946-0424 during business hours.

Student Crisis Response: For student crisis situations involving disturbing behaviour or references to suicide or violence, call 416-946-7111 during business hours. For after hours emergencies, call Campus Police at 416-978-2222 or Metro Police 911.

Student Housing Service: Assistance for students in finding off-campus housing.
Koffler Centre, 214 College St. south mezzanine 416-978-8045