

INTRODUCTION TO SOCIOLOGY – SOCIAL INSTITUTIONS
SOC103 H1S
Sections L5101, L2001
Winter 2016
University of Toronto, St. George Campus

Course Director: Jasmin Hristov

Class Time and Location: Tue, 6-8pm, CH (Convocation Hall)

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Office Hours and Location: Tue 1-5pm; Room 389, Department of Sociology, 725 Spadina St.

Administrative Assistant: Meghan Dawe

Contact Information: meghan.dawe@utoronto.ca

Office Hours and Location: **TBA**

Teaching Assistant: _____

Contact Information: _____

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All Teaching Assistants:

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Course Description

This course introduces students to the discipline of sociology by exploring how social institutions shape our lives. The course begins with the question of what it means to think sociologically and provides students with a basic sociological vocabulary as well as a brief overview of major theoretical perspectives. Throughout the rest of the course, we look at institutional systems including the economy, politics, kinship, education, and religion. There are two overarching themes: 1) Institutions, as products of social relations that reflect and sometimes reproduce power inequalities; and 2) Institutions, as structures that determine how human needs are satisfied and human abilities are deployed. The course has global and historical dimensions in that it seeks to understand institutions as human products emerging under particular historical and geographic circumstances.

Learning Objectives

By the end of the course students should have developed an understanding of:

- the meaning of key concepts such as social institution, institutional setting, institutional system and institutionalization

- the function of institutions in regulating social action through norms, values, and formal rules
- institutions as products of the intersection of economic and political conditions at a particular historical moment
- the place of institutions in the relationship between human agency and social structure
- the ways in which institutions shape and are being shaped by globalization

Course Format

Lecture

The lecture will consist of an interactive presentation by the instructor. The first 5-10 minutes of lecture will be devoted for clarification questions and a brief review. Students are expected to engage seriously with the assigned readings before attending lecture.

Tutorials

The pedagogical approach of this course rests on the idea that learning is a collective process and thus, the classroom should be a community of learners. Tutorials are offered with the purpose of enriching your learning experience and facilitating the understanding of readings and lecture content by offering a space for discussion. Tutorial attendance is optional. However, you **MUST** self-enrol in a tutorial through Blackboard, regardless of how frequently you intend to attend. Instructions on how to self-enrol can be found on Blackboard. On any given day when tutorials are held, there are five tutorials running parallel 4-5pm and five tutorials running parallel 5-6pm. The latter tutorial groups will be dismissed early enough to allow enough time for students to arrive at Convocation Hall for the 6pm lecture. Tutorials will be held on the following dates: Jan 19, Feb 2, Mar 8, and Apr 5.

Required Texts

- Custom edition of: Brym, R. (2014). *New Society 7th Ed.* Toronto: Nelson Education. [customized version]
- Course-pack of selected readings available online on Blackboard at NO COST for students enrolled in the course.

Evaluation

Type	Weighting	Date
Test 1	25%	Feb 23, 2016
Test 2	30%	Mar 22, 2016
Final Exam	45%	During scheduled examination period

- The tests and the final exam will consist of a combination of multiple-choice and short-answer questions.
- Any documentaries shown in class form an integral part of the course material. The tests and exam will require you to incorporate the knowledge gained from documentaries into your answers.

- *Note that a **Preparation and Review** session will be held outside of class time prior to each of the tests and the final exam. Details of time and location will be announced.*

E-mail /Online Communication

Questions regarding any administrative aspects of the course, such as tutorials, enrollment, access to Blackboard, textbooks, missed tests, grades, and others, should be directed to the course's Administrative Assistant Meghan Dawe. Clarification questions regarding course content should be directed first to your TA and if you require further assistance, to the professor. If you require help with course material, please use tutorial time to bring up these questions. Alternatively, you may see your TA or professor during office hours. ***Please check Blackboard three times a week for important course announcements.***

Attendance

Regular attendance at lectures is required in order for you to do well in the course. Lectures explain ***as well as supplement*** the readings. One does not substitute for the other. If you need to miss 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 ***power-points*** will be posted on Blackboard. Keep in mind that these ***do not contain all lecture content or explanations*** but rather constitute an outline/point-form organization of the content, including some key definitions.

Use of Electronic Devices in Class

The use of electronic devices for purposes other than note-taking / course-related work is not allowed. It inhibits learning and is also disruptive and disrespectful.

Talking during Lecture

Talking to your classmates during lecture (even if you are whispering) is disturbing. Please refrain from talking unless you have been invited to do so by the instructor. If you are unclear about something that was said by the instructor, please put up your hand instead of asking your classmates. This will ensure that you or your classmates do not miss anything important and fall behind during lecture.

Taping / Recording / Photographing Lectures

Lectures and course materials prepared by the instructor are the instructor's intellectual property covered by the Canadian Copyright Act. Students wishing to record lecture or other course material in any way are required to ask the instructor's explicit permission and may not do so unless permission is granted. This includes tape recording, filming, photographing PowerPoint slides, Blackboard materials, etc. Once obtained, such permission is only for that individual student's own study purposes and does not include permission to "publish" them in any way. It is

absolutely forbidden for a student to publish an instructor's notes to a website or sell them in other form without formal permission.

Blackboard

Announcements, handouts, lecture power-points, and any additional learning aids will be posted here, so *please check the website at least three times a week.*

Policy on Disputing Term Test Grades

If you disagree with the grade you were given on your test, you must present your argument in writing and schedule a meeting with your TA **within two weeks** after the grades have been posted on Blackboard.

Policy on Missed Test

Students who miss a test will receive a mark of zero.

If you miss a test for a legitimate reason, you must follow the steps described below. Telling the professor or TA why you missed a test will not be considered.

Students who miss a test for legitimate reasons will be given the opportunity to write a make-up test if **within three days** they provide the Administrative Assistant Meghan Dawe with a written request for special consideration which explains why the test was missed, **accompanied by proper documentation from a physician or college registrar.** A request should be accompanied by contact information (the student's telephone number and email address) so the date, time and place of the make-up test can be communicated to the student. **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 and submitted to Meghan Dawe. If a personal or family crisis prevents you from meeting a deadline, you must get a letter from your college registrar. The letter must be placed in a sealed envelope and submitted to Meghan Dawe.

Accessibility Needs

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, please feel free to approach me and/or Accessibility Services at (416) 978-8060 or visit:

<http://studentlife.utoronto.ca/accessibility>

ACADEMIC INTEGRITY

The University of Toronto treats cases of academic misconduct very seriously. Academic integrity is a fundamental value of learning and scholarship at the U of T. Participating honestly, respectfully, responsibly, and fairly in this academic community ensures that your U of T degree is valued and respected as a true signifier of your individual academic achievement.

The University of Toronto's *Code of Behaviour on Academic Matters* outlines the behaviours that constitute academic misconduct, the processes for addressing academic offences, and the penalties that may be imposed. ***You are expected to be familiar with the contents of this document.*** 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.

**Students who commit an academic offence face serious penalties. All suspected cases of academic dishonesty will be investigated following the procedures outlined in the *Code of Behaviour on Academic Matters*. The consequences for academic misconduct can be severe, including a failure in the course and a notation on your transcript. Avoid plagiarism by citing properly: practices acceptable in high school may prove unacceptable in university. 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](#).

SCHEDULE OF READINGS AND COURSE WORK

JAN 12 Introduction to the Course: Philosophy, Objectives, Expectations, and Syllabus

JAN 19 Relational Analytical Framework, Major Theoretical Fields in Sociology, and Basic Sociological Vocabulary

- Mills, C.W. The Sociological Imagination: The Promise [ONLINE]
- Brym, N/S, Ch.1, pp.2-13; 15-20
 - *Tutorials Begin*

JAN 26 The Social Nature of Work and the Economy

- Wood, E.M. (1998). The Agrarian Origins of Capitalism. [selected excerpts]. *Monthly Review* 50(3) [ONLINE].
- Cox, L. and Gunvald Nilsen, A. (2014). Social Movements from Above and Below in Historical Capitalism. In *We Make Our Own History: Marxism and Social Movements in the Twilight of Neoliberalism*. London: Pluto Press pp.101-108. [ONLINE]

FEB 2 Capital as a Social Relation

- Brym, N/S, Ch.6, pp.132-133
- Mooers, C. (2014). The Birth of the Liberal Subject: Commodities, Money, and Citizenship. In *Imperial Subjects: Citizenship in an Age of Crisis and Empire*. New York: Bloomsbury Publishing, Inc., pp.17-22. [ONLINE]
 - *Tutorials held*

FEB 9 Colonialism, Slavery and the Emergence of a World Economy

- McNally, D. (2002). The Colour of Money: Race, Gender, and the Many Oppressions of Global Capital. In *Another World is Possible*. Winnipeg: Arbeiter Ring Publishing, pp.105-116 [ONLINE]
- Brym, N/S Ch. 9, pp.214-217

FEB 16 BREAK

FEB 23 TEST ONE

MAR 1 From a World Economy to a Global Economy: Major Patterns in Work and Employment under Neoliberalism

- Brym, N/S, Ch.19, pp.467-476 and 480-484
- Brym, N/S, Ch. 11
- Harvey, D. (2005). The Neoliberal State. In *A Brief History of Neoliberalism*. New York: Oxford University Press, pp. 64-67; 69-71; 75-76. [ONLINE]
- Bello, W. (2008). Manufacturing a Food Crisis: How Free-Trade is Destroying Third World Agriculture. *The Nation*. [ONLINE]
- Robinson, W. (2004). Globalization as Epochal Change. In *A Theory of Global Capitalism: Transnational production, Transnational Capitalists, and the Transnational State*. Baltimore: Johns Hopkins University Press, pp. 6-13 and 16-22 [ONLINE]

MAR 8 State, Politics and Civil Society

- Brym, N/S, Ch.18, pp.439-449
- McNally, D. (2011). Debt, Discipline and Dispossession: Race, Class and the Global Slump. In *Global Slump: The Economics and Politics of Crisis and Resistance*. Oakland, CA: PM Press, pp. 113-145. [ONLINE]
- Robinson, W. (2004). The Transnational State. [selected excerpts]. In *A Theory of Global Capitalism: Transnational production, Transnational Capitalists, and the Transnational State*. Baltimore: Johns Hopkins University Press. [ONLINE]
 - *Tutorials held*

****March 13 is the last day to drop a course without receiving a grade***

MAR 15 Socialization and the Family

- Brym, N/S, Ch.3
- Brym, N/S, Ch.10

MAR 22 TEST TWO

MAR 29 Religion and Education

- Brym, N/S, Ch. 12
- Brym, N/S, Ch.13

APR 5 Doing Sociology: Research Methods

- Brym, N/S, Ch. 20
 - *Tutorials held*