

SOC344H1F: SOCIOLOGY OF EVERYDAY LIFE
Professor Vanina Leschziner
Department of Sociology
University of Toronto
Fall 2018

Location and Time: RW143, Ramsay Wright Laboratories, 25 Harbord Street, Thursday, 12PM-3PM

Office Hours: Thurs. 3-5PM, Room 398, 725 Spadina Avenue

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Brief Overview of the Course

The idea that our income, power, level of education, or health are at least partly a product of societal forces is by now not new to us. We are generally familiar with and aware of the large-scale social forces that shape our lives. However, we are less aware of the social forces that shape ordinary, routine, and subtle aspects of our everyday lives, such as how we think, how we present ourselves, how we interact with others, how we see ourselves, and how we experience daily events and even our emotions.

In this course, we will examine sociological perspectives to reflect on two questions: 1) how are the seemingly individual and/or psychological aspects of our lives shaped by social forces? and 2) how do individuals contribute to maintaining or changing the social order within social groups, communities, and society?

The examination of the processes through which individuals and society define each other leads our attention to a particular set of sociological perspectives that shed light on cognitive and interactional processes. These perspectives seek to explain the everyday processes whereby individuals come to understand themselves and their social worlds, and shape their thoughts, emotions and behavior. The theories and concepts we will study will show us how, through daily interactions, individuals incorporate particular ways of thinking, feeling, and acting. These perspectives will also help us understand the everyday ways through which actors contribute to maintaining (or challenging) the social order through their patterned behavior.

IMPORTANT NOTE: The prerequisite to take SOC344H1F is SOC201H1, SOC202H1, SOC204H1 & 1.0 FCE from SOC251H1, SOC252H1, SOC254H1. Students without this prerequisite can be removed at any time without notice.

Class Format, Requirements, and Grading

1- research proposal, due October 4	5 %
2- literature review, due November 1	5 %
3- in-class test, October 18	25%
4- in-class test, November 29	25%
5- research paper, due November 22	40%

Attendance

Attendance is mandatory for both the lecture and tutorial. The lecture will take place from 12pm to 2pm, and the tutorial will follow until 3pm. Students are responsible for all material presented in class, including the lecture and tutorial. Students who are unable to attend class are responsible for obtaining information about any announcements that may have been made in class as well as notes on the material covered from their classmates.

Proper documentation from a University of Toronto Student Medical Certificate, doctor's note, or college registrar is required to justify an absence.

Deadlines: Late work will not be accepted unless submitted with proper documentation from your physician and a University of Toronto Student Medical Certificate, or from your college registrar. See below for details.

Documentation from your Physician or College Registrar

If you miss a test or a paper deadline, do not contact the instructor unless you have followed the steps described here.

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 also acceptable but *must* contain the start data and anticipated end date of the illness. The form must be placed in a sealed envelope, addressed to the instructor, and submitted with your work at class or during office hours, within seven days of the missed assignment

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 during office hours.

Readings

BOOK SELECTIONS AND JOURNAL ARTICLES Book selections and all journal articles will be available on the Blackboard course website, under "Course Materials."

Students are solely responsible for obtaining and reading all required materials before class. Give yourself enough time to deal with any problems or delays accessing the readings that may arise so you can be sure to come to class prepared to discuss the materials. Problems accessing readings (the packet or online articles) will not excuse failure to demonstrate having done the required readings.

Assignments

In-class test

There will be two in-class closed-book tests, on October 18 and November 29. Request for a make-up test will only be granted with proper documentation (see above).

Make-up test

Students who miss the test for a valid reason and wish to take a make-up test must give the instructor or TA a written request for special consideration which explains why the test was missed, accompanied by proper documentation from a physician or college registrar (see above). A student who misses a test and the subsequent make-up test for a valid reason will not have a third chance to take the test, and the mark assigned for the test will be a zero.

Research Proposal

You must submit a printed copy of a research proposal for your research paper during tutorial on October 4. This proposal should specify the kind of paper you will write (empirical or theoretical), the topic, and research question(s). It should include information about the data, perspectives, and theories that you will use for the paper.

Literature Review

You must submit a printed copy of a literature review for your research paper during tutorial on November 1. The literature review should include a large selection of the relevant academic literature you will cite and discuss in your paper. This list should consist of academic literature beyond the required readings for the course, selected by you on the basis of your paper topic and research questions.

Paper

The research paper for this course is based on library research. You may choose any topic that is suited to this course, an area of life where you can analyze the interconnections between individuals and society. You must choose a particular empirical or theoretical topic as the focus of your paper. You are expected to have a research goal and research questions, and review, discuss, and analyze literature pertinent to your topic of choice. Your paper will consist of critical analysis that incorporates concepts and theories covered in class *as well as* scholarly books and articles that are not covered in this course. The paper should be NO more than 12 pages (double spaced, 12 point type, including references). The paper is due on November 22, and is to be submitted at the beginning of the class on the due date in TWO forms: as hard copy, and electronic copy to <http://turnitin.com>.

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 those papers. 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 receive a grade of zero (0 %) unless students instead provide, along with their exams, sufficient secondary material (e.g.,

reading notes, outlines of the paper, rough drafts of the final draft, etc.) to establish that the exam 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.

Plagiarism: Be careful to avoid plagiarism. It is a serious academic offense with serious penalties (see the “Code of Behavior on Academic Matters”). If you are using somebody else’s ideas, do not present them as your own. Give proper references if you are using somebody else’s ideas, and use quotation marks if you are quoting. When in doubt, it is always safer to over-reference --you are not going to be punished for that. Please also be aware that turning in an old paper, or large parts thereof, for credit in a second (or third etc.) course, is considered an academic offense that results in students being referred off to the Office of Academic Integrity.

Preparation and Participation

Students are expected to complete all assigned readings prior to the class for which they are assigned, and to be prepared to discuss the readings in class. Class participation, contribution to class discussions, and in-class group work participation are expected, both in the lecture and tutorial. Be supportive of your fellow students when they speak and they are likely to be supportive when your turn comes.

Accessibility Needs

The University of Toronto is committed to accessibility. If you require accommodations for a disability, or have any accessibility concerns about the course, the classroom or course materials, please contact Accessibility Services as soon as possible: _disability.services@utoronto.ca_ or [_http://studentlife.utoronto.ca/accessibility_](http://studentlife.utoronto.ca/accessibility_) .

Class Schedule

September 6

INTRODUCTION: SOCIOLOGY OF EVERYDAY LIFE

September 13

THE INDIVIDUAL AND SOCIETY

Emile Durkheim, selections from “Mechanical Solidarity, or Solidarity by Similarities,” chapter 2 and “Solidarity Arising from the Division of Labour, or Organic Solidarity,” chapter 3 in *The Division of Labor in Society* (Free Press, [1893] 1984), pp. 38-43, 60-64, 83-86.

Emile Durkheim, selection from “Definition of Religious Phenomena and of Religion,” chapter 1 in *The Elementary Forms of Religious Life* (Free Press [1912] 1995), pp. 33-39.

Tutorial: Overview of Expectations, Goals, Assignments.
Reading Sociological Literature.

September 20

SHAPING THE SELF THROUGH SOCIAL INTERACTION

George H. Mead, selections from “The Self,” chapter 3 in *Mind, Self, and Society* (The University of Chicago Press, [1934] 1967), pp. 135-144, 152-178, 192-200.

Tutorial: Choosing a Research Topic and Crafting Research Questions.

September 27

SYMBOLIC INTERACTION

Herbert Blumer, selection from “The Methodological Position of Symbolic Interactionism,” chapter 1 in *Symbolic Interactionism. Perspective and Method* (University of California Press, 1969), pp. 1-21.

Philip Blumstein, “The Production of Selves in Personal Relationships,” in *The Self-Society Dynamic. Cognition, Emotion, and Action*, edited by Judith Howard and Peter Callero (Cambridge University Press, 1991), pp. 305-322.

Tutorial: The Fundamentals of Sociological Research.

October 4

THE PRESENTATION OF SELF IN EVERYDAY LIFE

Erving Goffman, “Introduction” in *The Presentation of Self in Everyday Life* (Anchor Books, 1959), pp. 1-16.

Erving Goffman, "Embarrassment and Social Organization" in *Interaction Ritual* (Pantheon Books, 1967), pp. 97-112.

*Tutorial: Building a Literature Review.
Paper Proposal Due.*

October 11

THE SELF AND SOCIAL ORDER IN EVERYDAY LIFE

Erving Goffman, selection from "Introduction" in *Frame Analysis* (Harper Colophon Books, 1974), pp. 1-12.

Jack Katz, selection from "Shameful Moments," chapter 3 in *How Emotions Work* (The University of Chicago Press, 1999), pp. 142-152, 161-167.

Tutorial: Test Review.

October 18

In-class Test

October 25

CREATING MEANING IN EVERYDAY LIFE

Howard Becker, "Becoming a Marijuana User," *American Journal of Sociology* 59 (1953): 235-242.

Harold Garfinkel, selection from "A Conception of and Experiments with 'Trust' as a Condition of Concerted Stable Actions," in *Motivation and Social Interaction. Cognitive Determinants*, edited by O. J. Harvey (The Ronald Press Company, 1963), pp. 220-238.

Tutorial: The Fundamentals of Academic Writing.

November 1

THE SOCIAL MIND

Eviatar Zerubavel, "The Sociology of the Mind," chapter 1 and "Social Optics," chapter 2 in *Social Mindscapes. An Invitation to Cognitive Sociology* (Harvard University Press, 1997), pp. 1-22, 23-34.

*Tutorial: Arguments, Claims, Criticism, and Evidence.
Literature Review Due.*

November 8

Fall Reading Week

November 15

COGNITION IN EVERYDAY LIFE

Karen Cerulo, "What's the Worst That Could Happen?," chapter 1, and selection from "Practicing Positive Asymmetry," chapter 3 in *Never Saw it Coming* (The University of Chicago Press, 2006), pp. 1-16, 95-121.

Tutorial: Using Theory and Data in Sociological Research.

November 22

EMOTIONS IN SOCIAL INTERACTION

Arlie R. Hochschild, "Emotion Work, Feeling Rules, and Social Structure," *American Journal of Sociology* 85 (1979): 551-575.

Tutorial: Citations, Plagiarism, And Academic Integrity.
Test Review.

Research Paper Due

November 29

In-class Test

HAPPY HOLIDAYS!