

**SOCIOLOGY 198H1F L0101 FALL 2019**  
**SOCIAL NETWORKS OF STUDENTS**

Prof. Marin  
725 Spadina Ave. Rm. 362  
alexandra.marin@utoronto.ca

**Class Time:** T12-2  
**Office Hours:** R2-4

**COURSE DESCRIPTION**

Social networks are the webs of connections between people, the mesh that weaves people into communities and societies. In this course, you will learn about social networks by examining the ones around you: what do student's social networks look like? How do they change from high school, to university, and beyond? You will learn, first hand, how researchers study social networks, and how we work to understand their association with important outcomes like academic achievement, graduation, job-finding, and more.

Each week we will discuss a different area or topic in which networks are known to operate, using examples drawn from research on students' networks. The course is organized chronologically beginning with networks in middle school and ending with graduate school and post-graduation job search.

Because this is a small, discussion-intensive class, students may not use laptops or electronic devices in class. Please take notes on paper.

**REQUIREMENTS AND GRADING**

Opening survey	5
Problem Set	15
Test 1	25
Final Paper	25
Test 2	20
Participation	10
Total	100

Week #		COURSE OUTLINE	
1	Sept. 10	<i>Course Introduction</i>	<b>No Reading Assignment</b> Opening Survey
2	Sept. 17	Before High School / Transitional Networks	Weller, Susie. 2007. "'Sticking with Your Mates?' Children's Friendship Trajectories During the Transition from Primary to Secondary School." <i>Children &amp; Society</i> 21(5):339-51. Pratt, Simon and Rosalyn George. 2005. "Transferring Friendship: Girls' and Boys' Friendships in the Transition from Primary to Secondary School." <i>Children &amp; Society</i> 19(1):16-26.
3	Sept. 24	High School / Closure and Social Capital	Coleman, James S. 1988. "Social Capital in the Creation of Human Capital." <i>American Journal of Sociology</i> 94(Supplement):S95-S120.
4	Oct 1	High School / Influence	<b>DUE AT THE BEGINNING OF CLASS: Problem Set</b> Alexander, Cheryl, Marina Piazza, Debra Mekos and Thomas Valente. 2001. "Peers, Schools, and Adolescent Cigarette Smoking." <i>Journal of Adolescent Health</i> 29(1):22-30.
5	Oct. 8	High School / Contagion	Bearman, Peter. 2004. "Chains of Affection: The Structure of Adolescent Romantic and Sexual Networks." <i>American Journal of Sociology</i> 110:44-91.
6	Oct. 15	High School/ Homophily	Wimmer, Andreas and Kevin Lewis. 2010. "Beyond and Below Racial Homophily: Erg Models of a Friendship Network Documented on Facebook." <i>American Journal of Sociology</i> 116(2):583-642.
7	Oct. 22	<b>Test #1</b>	
8	Oct. 29	<i>Writing</i>	<b>Readings TBA</b>
9	Nov. 12	University / Network Evolution	Kossinets, Gueorgi and Duncan J. Watts. 2009. "Origins of Homophily in an Evolving Social Network." <i>American Journal of Sociology</i> 115(2):405-50.
10	Nov. 19	Graduate School / Social Support	<b>Due: Final Paper</b> Small, Mario Luis, Vontrese Deeds Pamphile and Peter McMahan. 2015. "How Stable Is the Core Discussion Network?". <i>Social Networks</i> 40:90-102. doi: <a href="https://doi.org/10.1016/j.socnet.2014.09.001">https://doi.org/10.1016/j.socnet.2014.09.001</a> . Small, Mario Luis. 2017. <i>Someone to Talk To</i> : Oxford University Press. Chapter 3

11	Nov. 23	Graduates / Social Capital for Status Attainment	Kramarz, Francis and Oskar Nordström Skans. 2014. "When Strong Ties Are Strong: Networks and Youth Labour Market Entry." <i>Review of Economic Studies</i> 81(3):1164-200.
12	Nov 26	Test #2	

## COURSE POLICIES

### **Attendance and Preparation:**

Attendance is required. Students are responsible for all material presented in class. Students who are unable to attend class on a given day are responsible for obtaining from their classmates notes on all material covered as well as information regarding any administrative announcements that may have been made. Students are expected to complete all assigned readings in advance of the class period for which they are assigned.

### **Email:**

When emailing your professor or TA, you must use your utoronto.ca address, as this is the only address we can be sure is yours. Please also be sure to include "SOC198" in the subject line. All students are responsible for checking their official utoronto.ca email addresses regularly, including the evening before class.

### **Use of Writing Centres:**

*All* students are encouraged to use their available writing centres. Writing tutors provide help you to think through your ideas, develop a thesis, organize your paper, present your evidence effectively, argue logically, and express yourself more clearly and concisely. Proofreading and copyediting for spelling, grammar, or format are *not* within the primary scope of the writing centres' services.

### **Accessibility**

The University of Toronto is committed to accessibility. If you require accommodations or have any accessibility concerns, please visit <http://studentlife.utoronto.ca/accessibility> as soon as possible. As you cannot be accommodated retroactively, it is important that you be in contact with accessibility services immediately, at the beginning of the semester, *before* needs of accommodation arise. If you don't know if you will need accommodation, please register early, just in case.

### **Academic Offences:**

Academic integrity is fundamental to learning and scholarship at the University of Toronto. Participating honestly, respectfully, responsibly, and fairly in this academic community ensures that the U of T degree that you earn will be valued as a true indication of your individual academic achievement, and will continue to receive the respect and recognition it deserves.

Familiarize yourself with the University of Toronto's *Code of Behaviour on Academic Matters* (<http://www.governingcouncil.utoronto.ca/policies/behaveac.htm>). It is the rule book for academic behaviour at the U of T, and you are expected to know the rules. 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.

The University of Toronto treats cases of academic misconduct very seriously. All suspected cases of academic dishonesty will be investigated following the procedures outlined in the *Code*. The consequences for academic misconduct can be severe, including a failure in the course and a notation on your transcript. If you have any questions about what is or is not permitted in this course, please do not hesitate to contact me. 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](#). If you are experiencing personal challenges that are having an impact on your academic work, please speak to me or seek the advice of your college registrar.

### **Late Assignments and Missed Tests**

Unless otherwise specified, all assignments are due online before the beginning of class on the due date provided. Late assignments will be penalized 10% for the first week and 3% per day thereafter, including weekends.

Students who miss tests will be assigned a mark of 0. Students may, at the discretion of the professor, have an absence excused with proper documentation. You must also submit an original University of Toronto Verification of Student Illness or Injury form completed by a doctor who treated you **on or before the day of the test**. The Verification of Student Illness or Injury form is available on the University of Toronto's web site and may be completed by a Health Services physician or by your own physician <http://www.illnessverification.utoronto.ca/index.php> . No other medical certification will be accepted.

### **Re-Grading Tests/Assignments**

All requests for re-grading the term test or course assignment should be made to your TA within two weeks of the date when the test/assignment was returned to the class. A short memo that clearly states why you believe your answers are correct answers to the questions or why your assignment has earned a higher mark must be submitted to your TA. No re-grading requests will be considered if the request is submitted more than two weeks after the test or assignment was returned to the class. This deadline applies to all students including those who missed the class when the test/assignment was returned and picked up his/her test/assignment at a later date. It is the responsibility of the student to pick up their tests/assignments on time in class.

## STUDENT CONTACTS

You are responsible for all material presented in class, including announcements. If you are unable to attend class, you should obtain notes from a classmate. Write down the names and contact information for two of your classmates below so you'll have someone to contact if you need notes. You may also post in the message boards on the course web site to share notes or lecture recordings. Because you may be asked for your notes by a classmate, be sure to write down all announcements, even if they do not apply to you. Your classmates may need these.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Other (IM etc.): \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Other (IM etc.): \_\_\_\_\_