Short Course Outline

SOCIOLOGY 1020: Introduction to Sociology           2019-2020
Tues 430pm to 630pm     Social Science Centre 2050
Dr Scott Schaffer
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Brief Course Description: This course is dedicated to the development of students’ ability to think sociologically — that is, in terms of the ways in which our position in the social world impacts upon our senses of self, our actions, our relations with others, our life outcomes, and ultimately the future of our world. The key focus of this course will not be on “the facts” that make up sociology as an academic field of study, but rather on the habits of mind that sociologists ought to possess.

Prerequisites for this course: None.
Antirequisites for this course: Sociology 1020X, Sociology 1021E, Sociology 1025a/b, Sociology 1026a/b, Sociology 1027a/b.

Required Texts: The following texts are required for this course and may be purchased from the UWO Bookstore. These specific editions are required for this course, so be sure that you purchase them and not the preceding editions. Find used copies where possible.

May and Bauman, Thinking Sociologically, 3rd edition. ISBN: 978 111 8959985
Manza and Kramar (eds.), The Sociology Project, Canadian Edition, Edition 1.5. This text is available electronically as an e-book and will require setting up an account on the REVEL platform. The previous edition’s codes will not work this year. ISBN: 978 0135 368152
Albanese, Tepperman, and Alexander (eds.), Reading Sociology: Canadian Perspectives, 3rd edition.

Be sure to purchase only the 3rd edition. As we will not be using this text until Winter term, you can hold off on purchasing it until the December examination period.
ISBN: 978 019 9020041

Additional required readings will be posted on OWL.

Required Course Components:

Attendance in lectures. You will not be able to succeed to your fullest capacity without attending, paying attention in, and enjoying my scintillating lectures. I will not generally be lecturing directly on the course readings, but rather providing ways to bring the readings together in order to understand what it means to think sociologically. Be there or be square.

Attendance in tutorials. Your weekly tutorials are where you get the secret insights into how sociology and Schaffer’s mind works and how to get yours to work that way. Led by graduate students in sociology, it is here where the hard work of figuring out the readings, how they fit together, and posing and answering questions will take place. Showing up is only about half the battle, and therefore half your component mark. Don’t miss these. 20% of your course mark — 5% awarded at the time of each examination.

Examinations. There will be a total of four examinations in this course: a first midterm examination in late October; a term examination during the December examination period; a second midterm examination in February; and a final examination during the April examination period. Each examination
is cumulative — sort of. I’ll explain in lecture. 10%, 20%, 20%, and 30% of your course mark, respectively.

**Engagement in the course.** For those of you just starting your time at UWO, you’ll notice that things operate differently at the university level than they did for you in high school. There, you could cruise through, read things at the last second, cram for exams, and do well because you could keep the facts in your head long enough to suitably impress your teacher. That’s not how I play. What I’m looking for is your engagement in the course: attending and paying attention in lecture; visiting either (or both) my or your TA’s office hours to have questions answered or to discuss ideas or insights you’ve had as a result of the course; taking advantage of the resources at your disposal to learn the materials and habits of mind we’re working to teach; and ultimately, doing what is needed to successfully transition from a non-sociological thinker to a sociological thinker. And we notice all of these things and more — and I use your engagement in the course as the basis for ensuring that your final course mark reflects your performance across the entire year, whether that be better than the maths say or worse. A discretionary adjustment of your mark from +3% to -3% of the calculated course mark, depending on measures of engagement across the year.

**Preliminary Course Schedule.** (Please note that this is a full-year course. As I am currently rebuilding it, this is primarily to inform you of what to expect from September to December 2019. A glance at the Winter term is also included. The full course outline, with assigned readings, will be available via the OWL system in August.)

**Fall 2019**

W1. T Sep 10. Introduction to the Course and Sociological Thinking.
W3. T Sep 24. Moving from the Individual to the Collective. Thinking across levels of analysis.

RW. T Nov 5. Reading week — no class. Recover, get caught up, etc.

W12. T Dec 3. Forms of Classification IV. Nation and the global social space.

December Exam Period: Term examination (date TBD).
Winter 2020


RW. T Feb 18. Reading week — no class.

W13. T Apr 7. What Do We Do With All of This? Thinking about social change.

April Exam Period: Final examination (date TBD).