SOCIOLOGY 1020: Introduction to Sociology
Dr Scott Schaffer
2020-2021

Course Meetings: Tues 430pm to 630pm ET
Tutorials: As scheduled by student

Short Course Description: An examination of the major theoretical perspectives in the field of Sociology, methods of empirical investigation of social phenomena, socialization, group structure, principles of social organization, community structure, population and social change. 2 lecture hours, 1 tutorial hour, 1.0 course.

Antirequisites: Sociology 1020W/X, Sociology 1021E, Sociology 1025A/B, Sociology 1026F/G, Sociology 1027A/B

COURSE MEETING DETAILS

There are a number of elements to this course, some of which can be done at your leisure, and some of which ought to be done at the scheduled lecture and tutorial times:

— There will be key conceptual lectures delivered asynchronously in the week prior to a class session. This is also when the readings for the course need to be completed, as well as any quizzes in the REVEL platform. You can view these mini-lectures at any time before the start of our scheduled session. These will lay out the big ideas we’ll be working with in any given week.

— During the scheduled lecture time (Tues 430pm to 630pm ET), we will have a synchronous meeting that will take the form of a question-and-answer session (with lecture as needed). For those who are unable to attend or access the lecture sessions live, they will be recorded and posted on the OWL site for this course. These sessions will provide you with the opportunity to dig deeper into the “big ideas,” ask questions about the readings, and gain insights into how it is that you can succeed as a university student and as a human being — among other things...

— Tutorials (which is the really important part where you get the hands-on help in learning how to think sociologically) will be delivered synchronously at the time you signed up for. These will also be recorded and posted on the OWL site for students who are unable to attend or access the tutorial sessions live.

You should expect to spend somewhere between six and ten hours per week on this course, including class meetings and reviewing recorded sessions.

REQUIRED TEXTS

There are two required texts for this course:

— Kramar and Manza, The Sociology Project 1.5, Canadian edition with REVEL access
— Albanese, Tepperman, and Alexander (eds.), Reading Sociology: Canadian Perspectives, 3rd edition, to be purchased and read through the Perusall platform. Our work with Reading Sociology will not begin until Winter term, so there is no rush to purchase this text.
There will also be a number of readings made available through the OWL site. I also distribute readings that are “sociology in the world”-related via my Twitter account, which will be linked in the OWL site. They are all required and are all fair game for the examinations.

**ASSIGNMENTS AND GRADING**

All examinations in this course will be multiple-choice exams that will be proctored through the OWL site. There is no essay component to any examination in SOC 1020. Exams will be available to begin in a 48-hour period, and will need to be completed in the time shown below. They are cumulative, in a way. I’ll explain in class.

Assignments for the tutorials will be presented by your TA in the first class session and will likely involve some writing.

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Assignment</th>
<th>Percentage of Course Mark</th>
<th>Time</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>October exam</td>
<td>10%</td>
<td>(2hr exam)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>December exam</td>
<td>15%</td>
<td>(3hr exam)</td>
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<tr>
<td>February exam</td>
<td>15%</td>
<td>(2hr exam)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Final exam</td>
<td>30%</td>
<td>(3hr exam)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tutorials</td>
<td>20%</td>
<td>(5% due at each examination)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Collaborative course readings</td>
<td>10%</td>
<td>(5% due at February and final exam)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Discretionary engagement adjustment</td>
<td>Up to +/- 3% of course mark</td>
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**A SHORT PRELUDE ON THE APPROACH**

To my mind, sociology isn’t a field of study where you can easily memorize facts and regurgitate them. Rather, sociology represents a particular way of thinking about the world — a set of *habits of mind* — that will enable you to analyze a situation in the world and understand the sociologically relevant elements of that situation.

This course is designed to teach you to think like a sociologist — to see yourself, and others, and patterns in the world, as subject to forces that are larger than ourselves, but that are likewise eminently changeable. My favourite sociologist, Pierre Bourdieu, once said that “The difficulty in sociology is to manage to think in a completely astonished and disconcerted way about things you thought you had always understood.”

That means, of course, that this isn’t a simple cram and recall course. Instead, this is a course that is much more about questioning the obvious, drawing connections where others might not see them, deploying analytical perspectives to deepen our insights, and generally thinking much more deeply about the world around us than one might be used to. Exams will be along these lines as well — application and integration rather than recall will be on the table.

But don’t worry: it’s my job to teach you how to think in these ways, and I take that incredibly seriously, and still we’ll manage to have fun with it.