



COURSE OUTLINE

SOCI 100

Introduction to Sociology

3 CREDITS



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INTRODUCTION TO SOCIOLOGY

INSTRUCTOR: Dr. Shawkat Shareef

OFFICE HOURS: MOODLE

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CLASSROOM: ONLINE CLASS

CRN: 20231

CLASS TIME: ONLINE

DATES: Jan 5- April 29, 2022

COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course provides a general introduction to the field of Sociology. The course examines historical and contemporary theoretical perspectives on society and the various methods of conducting social research. Topics such as society, culture, socialization, groups and organizations, sexuality, and deviance are examined. Major social institutions including the family, education, and the political economy are also discussed.

PREREQUISITES

NONE

RELATED COURSE REQUIREMENTS

Online access to Moodle required.

EQUIVALENCY OR TRANSFERABILITY

Find course transfer at <https://www.bctransferguide.ca/>

Students are reminded that it is always the receiving institution that determines whether a course is acceptable as an applicable, equivalent course or if it may be transferred to their program for credit. Find further information at: <https://www.yukonu.ca/admissions/transfer-credit>

LEARNING OUTCOMES

The major objectives of this course are three folds:

- a) to inform the students about above mentioned areas of Sociology based on classical and (mostly) contemporary research
- b) to enable the students critically analyze those issues in the context of daily and social lives, and
- c) to enable students discuss critically and write methodically about those issues

In the process, we will need to deal with issues that may not always conform to our individual beliefs. It is here where we have to analyze those issues in lieu of specific situations, culture, religion, and customs. This should, however, not threaten our personal views and beliefs that we hold so dear and which enable us to be important members in society.

COURSE FORMAT

Due to COVID-19 and social distancing recommendations from the Chief Medical Officer of Health, this course is being taught online using a variety of materials, activities, and technical solutions. You will need to visit the course Moodle site and participate in online activities and discussions as assigned and scheduled.

There are no in-person meetings scheduled for this course and you will work on your own schedule. While there may be no set meetings times, video- or audio-conferencing may be used for office hour tutorials, teaching sessions, seminars and class meetings. Although this is a self-paced course, the class will proceed on a timetable with predetermined assignments and due dates.

ASSESSMENTS

Participation

Participation in class is essential to the development of class unity and the learning process for everyone. Discussion forums offer students a forum in which to express ideas and be educated through the ideas of others. We will create together a respectful environment where everyone will feel safe and encouraged to speak. This means that students and instructor must monitor their speech so as not to give more than their fair share.

Students will also write a number of short assignments through practicing reflexive commentaries, demonstrating their understanding of theories about families and the practical implications of those theories in the understanding of indigenous, non-indigenous and immigrant families. There are no points assigned to these practice reflexive commentaries, but performance on these short practice assignments (both completion and quality) will be added to the overall participation grade as a percentage. Also, practice reflexive commentaries will help stimulate the discussions the forums. For more details, see below.

Written Examinations

There will be three exams: two midterms and a final exam.

Assignments

There will be **TWO** reflexive commentary assignments. The topics for the assignments are chosen by the professor based on the text, and/or discussion forum issues. See below for details about assignments. More to follow in the Discussion Forum.

Textbook aside, the on-line course environment containing several tools that would help you to get used to using the course material and enhance your learning experience. Please practice the following as your everyday guide to studying and learning.

STUDYING & LEARNING STRATEGY

Textbook aside, the on-line course environment containing several tools that would help you to get used to using the course material and enhance your learning experience. Please practice the following as your everyday guide to studying and learning.

The Beginning

At the very beginning, you should be able to familiarize yourself with the course syllabus, the Moodle course website, and the course textbook. Also, you should start reading the Week 1 readings and begin to address the concept of Reflexive Commentary based on the readings. Reflexive Commentary will be a big part of your learning throughout the course and it will certainly help you to do well in that.

Weekly Reading Strategy

As part of weekly readings, you should start by reading through Chapter Overview, Learning Objectives, and Making the Grade sections. You can follow your own individual reading habit in order to address those sections mentioned above but please do note that if you read Chapter Overview and Learning Objectives first before you start with the actual textbook chapter, it will only help you to understand what to expect in the textbook chapter itself and how to focus on different topics. Upon finishing reading the chapter, you can address the Thinking Critically topics and subsequent What Do You Think Questions and try to answer them in rudimentary fashion (this will help you to do reflexive commentary later on. Do not forget to mention the question that you are addressing in reflexive commentary exercise).

Problem solving

It is very natural that you may run into difficulties to understand the textbook material. Do not worry when it happens because there are several tools to solve these problems: Chapter summary with short question topic and brief explanations, Discussion Forum and Email. Besides the textbook chapter summary and key terms that will direct you to many broader online materials to understand the relevant topics at hand, Discussion Forum is to support you to clarify confusions regarding course materials. Don't understand a topic? Simply start a thread with your question to your classmates and try to generate a very cooperative and congenial discussion. However, do this only after you have really invested some time and energy to understand the material because your classmates will not give you full answers to any topic/issue in question and if anybody attempts to do that, it will be considered unethical. As said before, Discussion Forum is an online-substitute for in-class lecture and discussions here should be regarded as discussions, not answers to questions (but definitely discussions will most likely lead you to the correct answers). Post your general course questions on the Forum. I will monitor the Discussion Forum and if necessary, will post comments to your inquiries/comments. If you are still struggling, send an Email to me through Moodle emailing environment and please be very specific topic/issue based in your emails. Personal problem related emails will be automatically ignored.

Reflexive Commentary

You have done your homework so far (reading textbook chapter, summary, critical thinking questions and learning objectives for each chapter) and now it is time for you to proceed with Reflexive Commentary. Reflexive Commentary is a proof that you understand the course material and that you can engage with it through your critical reflection skills. It's basically your self-assessment tool to understand your own comprehension capacity of the course materials to develop your own reflective questions (other than the ones mentioned in the Critical Thinking Questions section at the end of every chapter). Reflexive Commentary will strengthen your skill and capacity that you need to write exams.

Practice Reflexive commentaries are written reflections of weekly readings. These practice reflexive commentaries will lead to **TWO** commentaries in total throughout the span of the course which are regarded as formal assignments (see Reading List for the due dates). The commentaries will be submitted to the Discussion Forum when asked by me to do so using Moodle course website and in Word or PDF files. Submission of the commentaries are time sensitive and no late submissions will be accepted. There will be no make-up commentaries for missed opportunity. However, under extenuating circumstances (for which documentations are required), you can arrange for early submissions of the commentaries.

The purpose of the reflexive commentary is to enable you to develop critical analytical thought process. Therefore, the commentaries should not be just descriptive, rather they will be your own thoughts about different theories and concepts in textbook readings. Also, another aspect of the commentaries will focus on

the Critical Thinking Questions at the end of the chapters where you will choose one question from each chapter to specifically critically analyze and explain. In other words, the latter aspect of commentaries (critical thinking questions) are to enable you to think about the issue in more in-depth fashion. If your analysis and/or explanations can generate some debate/discussion among your peers, then you know that you have done a good job.

The **length of each assignment** should not exceed two pages of typed text, using 1.5 line spacing and 12 point Times New Roman font. No need to use a cover page for commentaries. Simply put your name and Id on the top left corner of the submission.

Exam preparations

On exam days, reviewing all study notes and Reflexive Commentaries will get you ready for the exam. When the exam is available online, first, read the question thoroughly to know what has been specifically asked in the question to address. It is up to you in which order you will answer the questions as long as the numbers of the questions are clearly specified. Always try to answer the questions that are easier and more familiar to you and save the challenging ones for the last. Exam time is limited and so, you have to do all the preparations beforehand so that you are not struggling for time. Topics will be provided before each exam for your preparations. You will not be allowed to hand in the exam after the deadline: you fail to submit the exam on time, you miss the exam altogether.

EXAM FORMATS

All the exams, midterms and the final, will be based on multiple choice questions and true/false questions from the course text book. You will have 120 minutes (2 hours) to work on and submit your answers using Moodle course website. The second midterm will be non-cumulative while the final exam will be partially cumulative. **Please do note that exam submissions are strictly time sensitive and late submissions will not be granted.**

EVALUATION

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| Discussion participation | 10% |
| 1 st Midterm Exam | 25% (February 11, 7-9 pm) |
| 2 nd Midterm Exam | 25% (March 11, 7-9 PM) |
| Final Exam | 30% (April 18, 7-9 PM) |
| Assignments: (Reflexive Commentaries), 2 in total | 10%, (5% for each assignment): due February 18 and March 25 |
| Total | 100% |

REQUIRED TEXTBOOKS AND MATERIALS

John J. Macionis, S. Mikael Jansson, Cecilia M. Benoit, Jakub Burkowicz (2020): *Society: The Basics*. Seventh Canadian Edition. Toronto: Pearson.

E-link for the textbook: <https://www.vitalsource.com/products/society-john-j-macionis-jakub-v9780135323021>

GENERAL RULES

Email: All emails will be considered official and thus, emails will be formal both in language and presentation. Emails sent through Moodle SOCI 100 course website will be answered. So, please no emails from your personal email address as they will not be answered. Consider Discussion Forum is the most formal platform to post your questions about all types of course materials.

Discussion Forum: Discussion Forum is the online substitute for in-class lecture and thus, it should be used formally and appropriately. Discussion, debate should never entail any abusive language and tone and there will be zero tolerance for any kind of disrespectful presentation.

Disclaimer: The information is subject to change and if any change occurs in this online course, it will be relayed through Moodle, in the Course Announcements section.

ACADEMIC INTEGRITY

Students are expected to contribute toward a positive and supportive environment and are required to conduct themselves in a responsible manner. Academic misconduct includes all forms of academic dishonesty such as cheating, plagiarism, fabrication, fraud, deceit, using the work of others without their permission, aiding other students in committing academic offences, misrepresenting academic assignments prepared by others as one's own, or any other forms of academic dishonesty including falsification of any information on any Yukon University document.

Please refer to Academic Regulations & Procedures (updated bi-annually) for further details about academic standing, and student rights and responsibilities: www.yukonu.ca/policies/academic-regulations

ACADEMIC ACCOMMODATION

Reasonable accommodations are available for students requiring an academic accommodation to fully participate in this class. These accommodations are available for students with a documented disability, chronic condition or any other grounds specified in section 8.0 of the Yukon University Academic Regulations (available on the Yukon University website). It is the student's responsibility to seek these accommodations. If a student requires an academic accommodation, they should contact the Learning Assistance Centre (LAC): lac@yukonu.ca.

TOPIC OUTLINE

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| Week 1 (January 5) Week 1 (January 5-7) | <i>COURSE INTRODUCTION AND KNOW-YOUR-SYLLABUS</i> Readings <ul style="list-style-type: none">Chapter 1: Sociology: Perspective, Theory, and Method | Practice Reflexive Commentary: What do you think about the issue (Discussion Forum) |
| Week 2 (January 10-14) | Reading <ul style="list-style-type: none">Chapter 2: Culture | Practice Reflexive Commentary: What do you think about the issue (Discussion Forum) |
| Week 3 (January 17-21) | <ul style="list-style-type: none">Chapter 3: Socialization: From Infancy to Old Age | Practice Reflexive Commentary: What do you think about the issue (Discussion Forum) |
| Week 4 (January 24-28) | Reading <ul style="list-style-type: none">Chapter 4: Social Interaction in Everyday Life | Practice Reflexive Commentary: What do you think about the issue (Discussion Forum) |
| Week 5 (January 31) | Reading <ul style="list-style-type: none">Chapter 7: Deviance' | Practice Reflexive Commentary: What do you think about the issue (Discussion Forum) |
| Week 6 (February 1-4) | <ul style="list-style-type: none">Chapter 7: Deviance | |
| Week 7 (February 7-11) | Reading | Practice Reflexive Commentary: What do |

APPLIED ARTS DIVISION
SOCI 100
INTRODUCTION TO SOCIOLOGY
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WINTER, 2022

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| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Chapter 8: Social Stratification | you think about the issue (Discussion Forum) |
| Week 7 | FIRST MIDTERM EXAM, FEBRUARY 11 | MOODLE: 7-9 PM |
| Week 8 (February 14-18) | Reading <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Chapter 9: Global Stratification | Assignment 1 due: February 18. Moodle submission |
| Week 9 (February 21-24) February 25 | Reading Week Heritage Day | No classes |
| Week 10 (February 28) | Reading <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Chapter 10: Gender Stratification | Practice Reflexive Commentary: What do you think about the issue (Discussion Forum) |
| Week 11 (March 1-4) | Reading <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Chapter 11: Race and Ethnicity | Practice Reflexive Commentary: What do you think about the issue (Discussion Forum) |
| Week 12 (March 7-11) | Reading <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Chapter 11: Race and Ethnicity | Practice Reflexive Commentary: What do you think about the issue (Discussion Forum) |
| Week 12 | SECOND MIDTERM EXAM. MARCH 11 | MOODLE: 7-9 PM |
| Week 13 (March 14-18) | Reading <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Chapter 13: Family and Religion | Practice Reflexive Commentary: What do you think about the issue (Discussion Forum) |
| Week 14 (March 21-25) | Reading Chapter 13: Family and Religion | Assignment 2 due: March 25. Moodle submission |

APPLIED ARTS DIVISION
SOCI 100
INTRODUCTION TO SOCIOLOGY
3 Credits
WINTER, 2022

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| Week 15 (March 28-31) | Reading <ul style="list-style-type: none">Chapter 15: Population, Urbanization and Environment | Practice Reflexive Commentary: What do you think about the issue (Discussion Forum) |
| Week 16/17 (April 1, 4-8) | Reading <ul style="list-style-type: none">Chapter 15: Population, Urbanization and Environment | Practice Reflexive Commentary: What do you think about the issue (Discussion Forum) |
| Week 18 (April 11-13) | Summary of the course | |
| FINAL EXAM | APRIL 18 | MOODLE: 7-9 PM |