

**Department
of
Sociology**



**Sociology 100 003:
Introduction to Sociology**

Year: 2015-16

Terms: 1 and 2

Course Schedule: Lectures: MWF 11-12

Term I: Hennings 200

Term II: West Mall Swing Space Room 222

Discussion Groups: Tuesdays

Instructor:

Dr. Neil Guppy
Anth/Soci Bldg, Rm 126
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Office Hours: by appointment (arrange after class or via email)

Sociology 100 UBC Calendar Description: Introduction to problems in the analysis of social structures and processes. Basic sociological concepts will be introduced and their application demonstrated in various areas of sociology. The course includes a survey of research methods, major theoretical trends, and representative works of contributors to sociology. *Credits: 6*

Teaching Assistants:

1. Leticia Chia
2. Tanvi Sirari
3. Cary Wu

Navigating Sociology 100:

In order to do well in this course, it is necessary that you:

- 1) Attend all lectures.
- 2) Complete all the assigned readings.
- 3) Attend and participate in all discussion groups and associated activities.
- 4) Complete all assignments and exams.

Textbook: George Ritzer and Neil Guppy *Introduction to Sociology* 2014 Sage Publications

NB: Any royalties I receive on the sale of this book are donated to a scholarship fund for Sociology students.

For each lecture, the PowerPoint slides will be available immediately prior to class. Please also read the Guide to Writing Papers and the Guide to Reading Critically, both on the course's Connect site.

Course Website: <http://connect.ubc.ca>

If you are properly registered, you should see Sociology 100 003 as one of your listed courses.

Requirements:

Assignments (see "Writing Papers" – on the course website – for grading criteria)

1. Mills Paper – see page 8 (your task is to use Mills' idea of the distinction between personal troubles and public issues to explain an issue of concern to you)
2. Social Construction or McDonaldization Paper – see page 9 (using the concepts and ideas you have learned in Sociology, write a short paper on either social construction or McDonaldization).
3. Sociological Issues Paper – see page 10 (your task is to write a research paper related to a restricted list of sociological topics listed on page 10).

Pop Quizzes There will be four unannounced pop quizzes throughout the year-long course, administered in the first few minutes of class, which we will also use to take attendance. If you show up and the class is in the middle of taking the quiz, you may take it; however, if the class is done with the quiz you may not take it. Each of these quizzes will be on the readings due on the day the quiz is given. The quizzes will be multiple choice and designed so that if you have done the assigned reading you should be able to receive full credit. These will factor into your participation grade.

Summary of Critical Dates

- | | |
|---|-------------------------------------|
| 1. Mills Paper | October 16, 2015 |
| 2. Fall Midterm | October 28, 2015 |
| 3. Social Construction or McDonaldization Paper | January 15, 2016 |
| 4. Sociological Issues Proposal and Paper | March 7, 2016 |
| 5. December and April Exams | scheduled by the registrar's office |

Grading Summary

1. Class Participation	15%	5. Soci Const or McD Paper	10%
2. Mills Paper	10%	6. Socio Issues Prop. & Pap	20%
3. October Mid-term	10%	7. Final Exam (April)	20%
4. December Exam	15%		

Policy on Late Papers

The due dates of all assignments are stated clearly – failure to submit an assignment by the due date, without a valid written reason *beforehand*, will result in the loss of 10% of the assignment’s value for each day beyond the due date and your paper will be returned to you much later than other papers. If your paper is late, it must be submitted to the ANSO main office.

Plagiarism

Please see the following website on the writing of papers in the Faculty of Arts (URL: <http://www.arts.ubc.ca/arts-students/plagiarism-avoided.html>)
At the discretion of the instructors, and in accord with the UBC calendar, you may be asked to submit your paper electronically so that it may be examined via TurnItIn.com.

Attendance

From the UBC Calendar: Academic Regulations, Attendance
“Regular attendance is expected of students in all their classes (including lectures, laboratories, tutorials, seminars, etc.). Students who neglect their academic work and assignments may be excluded from final examinations.” Regular attendance is considered part of your academic work.

Detailed Weekly Schedule

Wk	Date	Topic	Readings	Weekly Discussion Group*	Important Dates
1	9-Sep	Welcome/How to Succeed			
Introduction					
	11-Sep	Humans as Social Animals	R&G Chap 1		
2	14-Sep	Ways of Seeing		Introductions	
	16-Sep	Language and Society	R&G Chap 2		
	18-Sep	Sociological Imagination			
3	21-Sep	Sticks and Stones		Humans / Animals	
	23-Sep	Discovery/Exploration	R&G Chap 3		
	25-Sep	Colonization and Power	R&G Chap 4		Registration Deadline S100
Culture and Socialization					
4	28-Sep	Social Construction	C. Wright Mills, "The Promise" (On Connect)	Soci Imag Focus <i>See R&G 19-23</i>	
	30-Sep	Society/Culture	MillsBio (Connect)		
	2-Oct	Socialization I	R&G Chap 5		No Class
5	5-Oct	Socialization II		Thomas Principle	
Media					
	7-Oct	Messages and McLuhan			
	9-Oct	Media Control & Consent			
6	12-Oct	Thanksgiving		Mills Paper	No Class
	14-Oct	Chomsky & Consent			
	16-Oct	New Media			1st Paper Due
7	19-Oct	Citizenship		No Discussion Groups	
Social Organization and Change					
	21-Oct	Rationalization I	R&G Chap 6		
	23-Oct	Rationalization II			
8	26-Oct	Bureaucracy		Midterm Review	
	28-Oct	Midterm			Midterm
	30-Oct	Time and Space			

Detailed Weekly Schedule (Cont.)

Wk	Date	Topic	Readings	Weekly Discussion Group	Important Dates
		Social Organization and Change (cont)			
9	2-Nov	Knowledge and Science		Social Construction	
	4-Nov	Kuhn and Social Science			
	6-Nov	Economic Systems	R&G Chap 12		
		Economic Sociology			
10	9-Nov	Economic processes I		No Discussion Groups	
	11-Nov	Remembrance day			No Class
	13-Nov	Economic Processes II			
11	16-Nov	Economic Processes III		McDonaldization	
	18-Nov	Globalization			
	20-Nov	Global Organ Trade			
12	23-Nov			No Discussion Groups	No Class
	25-Nov	Coffee Commodity Chain			
	27-Nov	Discuss 2 nd Term Paper			
13	30-Nov	Population I	R&G Chap 14	Exam Review	
	2-Dec	Population II			
	4-Dec	Exam Review			
	December				Dec. Exam

Detailed Term 2 Schedule

Wk	Date	Topic	Readings	Weekly Discussion Group	Important Dates
1	Jan 4	Exam Review		Starbucks / McDonalds	
Deviance and Social Control					
	Jan 6	Social Construction of Crime	R&G Chap 7		
2	Jan 8	Explanations of Crime I			
	Jan 11	Explanations of Crime II		Starbucks / McDonalds	
	Jan 13	Situational Deviance			
3	Jan 15	Punishment			2nd Paper Due
	Jan 18	Human Rights I	R&G Chap 8	Starbucks / McDonalds	
	Jan 20	Human Rights II			
4	Jan 22	Discuss Sociological Issues Paper			
Social Inequality					
	Jan 25	Economic Class		Starbucks/McDonalds	
	Jan 27	Social Status			
5	Jan 29	Race / Ethnicity I	R&G Chap 9		
	Feb 1	Race / Ethnicity II		Proposal Drafting	
	Feb 3	Gender and Inequality	R&G Chap 10		Paper 3 Proposal Due
6	Feb 5	Gender Based Violence			
	Feb 8	Sexuality		No Discussion Group	
	Feb 10	Poverty/Homelessness			
7	Feb 12	First Nations			Proposals Returned
	Feb 15-19	Mid-Term Break – No Classes	Read for next paper		
	Feb 22	Consequences/Prejudice		None (Paper Writing)	
	Feb 24	Solutions			

Detailed Term 2 Schedule (Continued)

Wk	Date	Topic	Readings	Weekly Discussion Groups	Important Dates
Institutions					
	Feb 26	Institutionalization			
	Feb 29	Economy – Change I		None (Paper Writing)	
	Mar 2	Economy – Change II			
9	Mar 4	Education I –Intelligence	R&G Chap 16		
	Mar 7	Education II – Schooling		Credentials or Skills	3rd Paper Due
	Mar 9	Education III – Inequality			
10	Mar 11	Family – Changing Forms	R&G Chap 11		
	Mar 14	Families Continued		Free Rider Problem	
	Mar 16	Health – Changing Foci			
11	Mar 18	Social Chg/Movements I	R&G Chap 15		
	Mar 21	Social Chg/Movements II		No Discussion Groups	
	Mar 23				No Class
12	Mar 25	Good Friday			No Class
	Mar 28	Easter Monday		No Discussion Groups	No Class
	Mar 30	Ecology & Environment I			
13	Apr 1	Ecology & Environment II			
	Apr 4	Artificial Intelligence		Review	
	Apr 6	Review			
	Apr 8	No Class			
	April				April Exam

Assignment 1:**1. Mills Paper** Percentage of final grade: 10

Pages: 5-6 pages (maximum of 1,500 words), excluding optional references

Due date/time/place: October 16th, 2015 in class or by 4:30 pm Anth/Soci Bldg.

Write a 5-6 page paper on the following topic. Follow the guidelines for writing papers available on the course website. Be certain to submit the “Checklist: Complete and Attach to Your Term Paper” found on page eleven of that document, add this as an appendix to your paper.

In *The Sociological Imagination* (1959), C. Wright Mills suggests that there is an important distinction between personal troubles and public issues. To illustrate, Mills uses the example of unemployment:

When, in a city of 100,000, only one man is unemployed, that is his personal trouble, and for its relief we properly look to the character of the man, his skills, and his immediate opportunities. But when in a nation of 50 million employees, 15 million men are unemployed, that is an issue, and we may not hope to find its solution within the range of opportunities open to any one individual.

Mills 1959: 9

The purpose of your first essay is to use Mills’ conception of the sociological imagination to analyze your own biography. The requirements of this paper are four-fold. First, introduce your topic and major point(s) in a paragraph or two. Second, explain what Mills means by the “sociological imagination” and explain his distinction between “personal troubles” and “public issues”. This should be done in a page or two. Third, use your sociological imagination to reflect on your own biography. Taking something from your own experience, demonstrate how it could be understood as a product of social or historical forces. Pick an issue, incident, or circumstance in your life (such as your decision to attend university, or whom you are friendly with, or your leisure interests, or a family move), and use Mills’ conceptions of personal troubles and public issues to explain your biographical detail sociologically. This should be done in about two pages. [NB: Mills’ does not mean, by personal trouble, some personal trauma or tragedy. He means simply a private experience or personal decision. He wants us to understand how private experiences are linked to broader, public issues – the seemingly private can very often be understood more fully when seen in a public context.] Fourth, explain how you can understand or reflect upon the interplay between personal troubles and public issues. For example, why does Mills’ comment that the sociological imagination offers both a “terrible lesson” and a “magnificent one”?

***Papers should be submitted in class on the due date. Be certain to include your TA’s name on the front cover of the paper. If necessary, papers can be submitted via the “Essay Drop Box” in the Sociology Department office by 4:30 pm on the due date. Do not put papers under office doors or in the mail room in the Anth/Soci building.

Assignment 2:**2. Social Construction or McDonaldization**

Pages: 5-6 pages (maximum of 1,500 words), excluding references. Due date/time/place: January 15th, 2016 in class or by 4:30 pm Anth/Soci Bldg . Percentage of final grade: 10

Write a 5-6 page paper on one of the following topics. Follow the guidelines for writing papers available on the course website. Be certain to submit the “Checklist: Complete and Attach to Your Term Paper” found on page eleven of that document, add this as an appendix to your paper.

- 1) What is money?** How can ideas of social construction help to illuminate money? Be sure to explain what social construction is, and then show how money does or does not qualify as something that is a social invention, a social thing, or a social construction.
- 2) How is gender a social construction?** Be sure to explain what social construction is, and then show how gender can be thought of as different from sex.
- 3) How is race a social construction?** Be sure to explain what social construction is, and then show how race can be usefully understood through the lens of social construction.
- 4) How is <your topic of choice> socially constructed?** Be sure to explain what social construction is, and then show how your topic of choice can be usefully understood through the lens of social construction.
- 5) Use the lens of McDonaldization to explore an issue of your choice.** Be sure to explain what McDonaldization means and then show how it can help us to understand an issue of your choice – baseball, art, music, or whatever.

***Papers should be submitted in class on the due date. Be certain to include your TA’s name on the front cover of the paper. If necessary, papers can be submitted via the “Essay Drop Box” in the Sociology Department office by 4:30 pm on the due date. Do not put papers under office doors or in the mail room in the Anth/Soci building.

Assignment 3:**3. Sociological Issues**

Pages 8-10 pages (maximum of 2,500 words), excluding title pages and references

Due date/time/place: March 7th, 2016 in class, or by 4:30 pm AnSo Bldg

Percentage of final grade: 15

You must submit a proposal for this paper to your TA. The proposal is due on February 3rd, *at the latest* (submitting the proposal much earlier would be beneficial). TAs will endeavor to return these to you as soon as they can. The proposal should note your topic (see below), provide a possible opening paragraph, outline in bullet form highlights of the paper, and list at least three academic references that you will use.

Write an 8 to 10 page paper using on one of the following titles.

Changing Tastes in Canadian Food

Human Activity and Climate Change

The Future of Representation in Politics

Body Adornment

Thinking the Future of Learning

Your Task: The purpose of this paper is to allow you to pursue in-depth research on a topic of your choice, as long as it relates to one of the titles above (which can be modified within reason) and it relates to topics discussed in class lectures, in the discussion groups, or in the readings. Please define a coherent issue to pursue.

Note that a **proposal** is due for this paper. In the proposal you should clarify your title, write an opening paragraph that hooks the readers interest (why is this issue worth my reading about?), and then sketches out, in bullet points, several of the topical ideas you will explore. Include a list of references – at least three should be academic (i.e., peer reviewed scholarly journal articles or books by university-based authors). The goal here is to get a start on clarifying a topic and then getting some feedback on direction and other possible sources of information. The proposal is due February 3, 2016.

***Papers should be submitted in class on the due date. Be certain to include your TA's name on the front cover of the paper. If necessary, papers can be submitted via the "Essay Drop Box" in the Sociology Department office by 4:30 pm on the due date. Do not put papers under office doors or in the mail room in the Anth/Soci building.