

SOCIOL 1ZO3 (Online Course): Introduction to Sociology, Fall 2019

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Course Objectives

In this course we will explore a range of topics studied by sociologists to help us understand our social world and our place in it. A sociological perspective illuminates how personal choices and individual destinies are shaped by society. The course aims to develop important academic skills including library research, comparative analysis, critical thinking, and active reading. There are a range of topics covered in this course including sociological theory, methods, culture, socialization, inequality, intimate relationships and families, globalization, crime and deviance, gender and sexualities, work and the economy, health, and aging. Please note that theory is an important component of readings and online content in this course.

Academic Misconduct

Students are required to complete online quizzes, exams, and assignments on their own. Working with others to complete quizzes, assignments, and exams is considered cheating and all universities have significant penalties for academic misconduct. Please read the section at the end of the syllabus about penalties for academic misconduct. It is important for all students to understand what the penalties are for cheating. It is particularly important for students who take online courses with online tests to understand that they must complete this work on their own without the help of others. The penalties for cheating can include suspension or expulsion from the university.

Learning Outcomes

The learning outcomes of this course are consistent with McMaster's Undergraduate Degree Level Expectations. (see

<http://csl.mcmaster.ca/COU/pdf/Undergraduate%20Degree%20Level%20Expectations.pdf>).

In this course students will develop a comparative analysis of a topic using peer-reviewed sociological articles. This connects to several of the undergraduate degree level expectations including developing a depth and breadth of knowledge and development of communication skills.

Avenue-to-Learn

This is an online course available through Avenue-to-Learn. Students will work through weekly online modules to complete the course. There are no in-person lectures or tutorials. However, you will have been assigned a tutorial number on Mosaic, which corresponds to the Teaching Assistants (TAs) for the course. TAs will grade your quizzes and assignment, and also be available to answer questions about course content and requirements. Information about who your TA is will be posted on Avenue early in the term.

Required Reading

We are using the following textbook in the course:

Brym, Robert J. 2016. *New Society*. 8th Edition. Thomson Nelson.

Please do **not** use earlier editions of the textbook.

Evaluation

Academic Integrity Quiz

Open Tuesday September 3 at 9am to Tuesday September 10 at 5pm*

If a mark of 80% is not achieved on the Academic Integrity and Library Skills Quiz, you will receive a 10% penalty on the Assignment. You can take this quiz multiple times to achieve the mark. You do not need to study for this quiz, however you are required to watch the Library videos before taking the quiz.

2 Quizzes (10% each; 20% of final mark)

Quiz #1: Thursday September 26 7pm-8pm* (Quiz #1 will cover Modules 1-3).

Quiz #2: Thursday Nov 21 7pm-8pm* (Quiz #2 will cover modules 4-11).

The window for each quiz is one hour. However you will only be given 30 minutes to complete the quiz once you begin it. It is a long answer quiz. Sentence format only. Your answer cannot be longer than 10 sentences. You cannot cut and paste material from the course modules into your answer as this constitutes plagiarism. You need to put things into your own words.

Please note that these quizzes are **not** the same as the practice quizzes that are provided at the end of each module to assist you with your learning. The mark that you receive on practice quizzes are not counted towards your final mark.

Mid-term: 25% of final mark

Thursday October 10 7pm-9pm*

The window for the mid-term is two hours however you will only be given 60 minutes to complete the exam once you begin it. There are 40 questions (combination Multiple Choice and True or

False questions) The mid-term will cover modules 1-5.
Assignment: 30% of final mark due Thursday October 31 by 7pm.*
Final Exam 25% of final mark The final exam is scheduled by the Registrar's Office during the final exam period (Dec 6-19) The window for the final exam is two hours however you will only be given 75 minutes to complete the exam once you being it. There are 55 questions (combination Multiple Choice and True or False questions). The final exam will cover modules 6-12. The final exam is non-cumulative.

Assignment

Description: Select a topic that interests you and has been studied by sociologists. Find 3 peer-reviewed sociological articles using two databases: *Sociological Abstracts* or *Social Sciences Abstracts* (available through McMaster University library). You will need to identify a specific issue or question to narrow your scope. For example, the general topic of families is too broad a topic, however a more specific topic of 'boomerang' children (adult children who return to live with their parents) would be doable.

Part A: Requirements for Selection of Sources (20 marks)

Requirement #1: All 3 articles must be closely-related reflecting a narrow focus.

You must use *Sociological Abstracts* or *Social Sciences Abstracts* databases to locate these articles.

Requirement #2: All 3 articles must be sociological.

Not all articles in these databases are sociological. There are various ways of determining whether your article is sociological. First, check the journal name. Sometimes these explicitly include "Sociology" or "Sociological", however there are journals that don't have "sociology" in their name that sociologists publish in (i.e. Journal of Marriage and Families). You can search the databases by publication name and use "Sociology" OR "Sociological" which will give you only those articles that were published in journals that have Sociology or Sociological in the journal name (i.e. American Journal of Sociology, Qualitative Sociology).

Additionally, sometimes sociological research is published in related or interdisciplinary fields, such as criminology. Thus you shouldn't necessarily exclude an article because it is published in an interdisciplinary journal (i.e. Sex Roles) . A second way of determining whether the article is sociological is to check the author's institutional affiliation (whether they are working in a

sociological department or not). The best way of ensuring that the article is sociological is to read the article and make this determination based on the content of the article. If you are still uncertain about whether an article is sociological, check with your Teaching Assistant.

Requirement #3: All 3 articles must be peer-reviewed

To ensure that your articles are peer-reviewed select the “peer-review” option when searching for articles.

Requirement #4: 2 out of the 3 articles must have been published after Jan 1 2006.

Deduction of 5 marks if one article is not recent. Deduction of an additional 5 marks if two articles are not recent.

Requirement #5: Length of articles must be acceptable.

Deduction of 5 marks for each article that is deemed to be of insufficient length. Articles must be greater than 5 pages in length.

Part B (50 marks)

For **each** article, answer questions 1 and 2 below.

Answer each of the following questions in your own words and in sentence format. No point form is allowed. You are expected to paraphrase others’ words and are discouraged from using any direct quotations in each of the following answers (with the exception of short phrases or terms that may appear in quotations, ie., Colavecchia uses the term “moneywork” to describe the labour involved in managing family finances).

Answer Questions 1 and 2 for each of your 3 articles

1. In 2 or 3 sentences outline the key research questions of this study.
2. In 4 to 6 sentences describe the key findings of the study.

Format: Provide full bibliographic information for the article using APA (author, year of publication, article title, journal name, volume number, page numbers) followed by your answers.

Part C (30 marks)

3. In 6-10 sentences compare the research questions that are pursued in your 3 articles. You need to make explicit connections across the 3 articles. You must use in-text citations to indicate the specific articles you are referring to, or comparing.
4. In 6-10 sentences draw connections between the findings of your studies. Again, you must use in-text citations to indicate which articles you are referring to.

Additional Requirement: Receive a mark of at least 80% on the Academic Integrity and Library Skills Quiz

10% Deduction for Not Receiving 80% on Academic Integrity and Library Skills Quiz

Late Penalties: 5% per day.

Referencing: You must use APA (American Psychological Association) referencing format. It is important that you are careful about your referencing in order to avoid plagiarism. We will be using turnitin.com to detect plagiarised assignments. In the event that there is plagiarism the student will receive a zero for the assignment. Further consequences might also arise as plagiarism constitutes academic misconduct at McMaster University. Presenting someone else's words as your own is plagiarism. Presenting someone else's ideas as your own is also plagiarism. When using someone else's words, the student must put the words in quotation marks and cite the source (author, year of publication, page reference). When using someone else's ideas (and the student's own words) the student must cite the source (author and year of publication). If you are unclear about what plagiarism is please contact Professor Colavecchia.

Turnitin.com: In this course we will be using a web-based service (Turnitin.com) to reveal plagiarism.

Format: Double-spaced, title page needed, list of references needed, number your pages.

Readings for each module are listed in Avenue to Learn.

Dates	Topic/Module	Evaluation	Evaluation Due Date
Sep 3-6	1-Introduction to Sociology		
Sep 9-13	2-Research Methods	Academic Integrity and Library Skills Quiz	Open Tuesday Sep 3-Tuesday Sep 10-5pm* You must receive 80% on this quiz and you can take it multiple times until you achieve this mark. If you do not receive at least 80% on the Academic Integrity and Library Skills Quiz 10% will be deducted from your Assignment mark.
Sep 16-20	3-Culture		
Sep 23-27	4-Socialization	Quiz #1 (will cover modules 1-3)	Thursday September 26 7-8pm The quiz is open for a one hour window however you are only given 30 minutes to complete your quiz. The quiz is long answer, sentence format only.
Sep 30-Oct 4	5-Families		
Oct 7-11	6-Mass Media	Mid-term Exam*	Thursday Oct 10 7-9pm (exam window) The window for the mid-term is two

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			hours, however you will only be given 60 minutes to complete the exam. There are 40 questions (combination multiple choice and True or False questions) The mid-term will cover modules 1-5.
Oct 14-18	Mid-term Recess		
Oct 21-25	7-Gender and Sexualities		
Oct 28-Nov 1	8-Social Stratification and Gender Inequality	Research Assignment	Due Thursday Oct 31 by 7pm 5% late penalty (per day late)
Nov 4-8	9-Race and Ethnicity		
Nov 11-15	10-Globalization and Work and the Economy		
Nov 18-22	11-Deviance and Crime	Quiz #2 (will cover modules 4-11)	Thursday Nov 21 7-8pm The quiz is open for a one hour window however you are only given 30 minutes to complete your quiz. The quiz is long answer, sentence format only.
Nov 25-Dec 4	12-Health and Aging		
Dec 6-19 (Exam Period)		Final Exam: Date of Final Exam is determined by the Registrar's Office	The window for the final exam is two hours, however you will only be given 75 minutes to complete the exam. There are 55 questions (combination multiple choice and True or False questions). The final exam will cover modules 6-12. The final exam is non-cumulative.

*All times Eastern

ACADEMIC DISHONESTY:

Academic dishonesty consists of misrepresentation by deception or by other fraudulent means and can result in serious consequences, e.g. the grade of zero on an assignment, loss of credit with a notation on the transcript (notation reads: "Grade of F assigned for academic dishonesty"), and/or suspension or expulsion from the university.

It is your responsibility to understand what constitutes academic dishonesty. For information on the various kinds of academic dishonesty please refer to the Academic Integrity Policy, specifically Appendix 3, located at <http://www.mcmaster.ca/policy/Students-AcademicStudies/AcademicIntegrity.pdf>

The following illustrates only three forms of academic dishonesty:

1. Plagiarism, e.g. the submission of work that is not one's own or for which other credit has been obtained.
2. Improper collaboration in group work.
3. Copying or using unauthorized aids in tests and examinations.

In this course we will be using a software package designed to reveal plagiarism. Students will be required to submit their work electronically and in hard copy so that it can be checked for academic dishonesty.

DEPARTMENTAL/UNIVERSITY POLICIES:

Do NOT fax assignments. Please see your instructor for the most appropriate way to submit assignments.

The Sociology staff do NOT date-stamp assignments, nor do they monitor the submission or return of papers.

The McMaster Student Absence Form (<http://www.mcmaster.ca/msaf/>) is a self reporting tool for Undergraduate Students to report absences that last up to 3 days and provides the ability to request accommodation for any missed academic work. Please note, this tool cannot be used during any final examination period.

You may submit a maximum of 1 Academic Work Missed request per term. It is YOUR responsibility to follow up with your instructor immediately regarding the nature of the accommodation.

If you are absent more than 3 days, exceed 1 request per term, or are absent for a reason other than medical, you MUST visit your Associate Dean's Office (Faculty Office). You may be required to provide supporting documentation.

This form should be filled out when you are about to return to class after your absence.

Students should check the web, the white board and the Undergraduate Bulletin board outside the Sociology office (KTH-627) for notices pertaining to Sociology classes or departmental business (eg. class scheduling information, location of mailboxes and offices, tutorial information, class cancellations, balloting, TA job postings, etc.).

Computer use in the classroom is intended to facilitate learning in that particular lecture or tutorial. At the discretion of the instructor, students using a computer for any other purpose may be required to turn the computer off for the remainder of the lecture or tutorial.

The instructor and university reserve the right to modify elements of the course during the term. The university may change the dates and deadlines for any or all courses in extreme

circumstances. If either type of modification becomes necessary, reasonable notice and communication with the students will be given with explanation and the opportunity to comment on changes. It is the responsibility of the student to check his/her McMaster email and course websites weekly during the term and to note any changes.

It is the policy of the Faculty of Social Sciences that all e-mail communication sent from students to instructors (including TAs), and from students to staff, must originate from the student's own McMaster University e-mail account. This policy protects confidentiality and confirms the identity of the student. It is the student's responsibility to ensure that communication is sent to the university from a McMaster account. If an instructor becomes aware that a communication has come from an alternate address, the instructor may not reply at his or her discretion.