

## SOCIO 1C03 CANADIAN SOCIETY: SOCIAL PROBLEMS, POLICY, AND THE LAW

Fall, 2018  
Day and Time of Class: Wed, 7-9pm  
Class Location: TSH B128

Instructor: Dr. Jessica Braimoh  
Office Hours: Wed, 5pm-6pm  
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### COURSE DESCRIPTION:

This course is an examination of social problems in Canada through various sociological perspectives. We will consider how social problems in Canada are shaped by broader interrelated systems of power – sexism, racism, classism, heterosexism, and so forth. This focus will allow us to consider how social policies and legal responses effectively respond and/or maintain these social issues. Specifically we will focus on these areas: (1) work (2) intimate relationships and families, (3) immigration, (4) health, and (5) the criminal justice system.

### LEARNING OBJECTIVES:

From a sociological perspective, students in this course will learn about social problems in Canada and the various social policy and legal responses to confronting them. This focus addresses three University Undergraduate Degree Level expectations (see <http://cll.mcmaster.ca/COU/degree/undergraduate.html>): (1) developing a depth and breadth of knowledge, (2) application of knowledge and (3) communication skills

### REQUIRED READING:

- Kendall, Diana, Edward G. Thompson, and Vicki L. Nygaard. 2016. *Social Problems In A Diverse Society*. 4<sup>th</sup> ed. Toronto: Pearson (available at the McMaster bookstore)
- All other assigned readings will be posted on Avenue to Learn and are available through the McMaster library databases.

### METHOD OF EVALUATION

Item	Date	Value
Tutorial Mark (attendance & participation)	Ongoing	10%
3 Quizzes (each held in tutorial)	Sept 26 Nov 7 Nov 28	30% (Each worth 10%)
Mid-term Exam	October 24	30%
Final Exam (non-cumulative)	TBD (during exam period)	30%

## COURSE SCHEDULE

Date	Topic	Reading (ATL = avenue to learn)	Due
Sept 5	Course Introduction	No readings	
Sept 12	Thinking about Social Problems  <b>Note: Tutorials start today!</b>	Chapter 1	
Sept 19	Poverty and the Working Poor	Chapter 2	
Sept 26	Gender and Labour Market Participation	Chapter 4 (pg. 67-79)	<b>Quiz #1 (in tutorial)</b>
Oct 3	School-to-Work Transitions	Chapter 12 (pg. 253-258 and 262-267)	
MID TERM RECESS – NO CLASS/TUTORIALS			
Oct 17	Immigration	ATL_Basok et al. (2014)	
Oct 24	<b>Mid Term Test (written in lecture)</b>  <i>Note: No tutorials today</i>	No readings	
Oct 31	Family Formation	Chapter 11	
Nov 7	Intimate Relations	ATL_East and Orchard (2014)	<b>Quiz #2 (in tutorial)</b>
Nov 14	Health, Illness and Health Care	Chapter 10	
Nov 21	Addictions	Chapter 8	
Nov 28	Criminal Justice	Chapter 9	<b>Quiz #3 (in tutorial)</b>
Dec 5	Final Exam Review	No readings	
Final Exam Period	<b>Final exam scheduled by the Registrars Office during this period</b>		

## **COURSE POLICIES:**

### **Avenue to Learn**

This course uses Avenue to Learn to post course material including the syllabus, lecture outlines, additional readings, and assignment instructions. It will also be used as a way to keep you up to date on issues related to the course – for example, class cancellations, office hours, and course reminders. Go to <http://avenue.mcmaster.ca> to log on.

### **Classroom Management and Equity**

This class seeks to create a learning environment that encourages participation, through the inclusion of multiple voices and diverse perspectives. In this class we will explore topics that may be personal or difficult for some people. Please recognize and reflect on how your comments may exclude or demean your others diverse and intersecting identities. \*\*Disrespect will not be accepted in this class\*\*.

### **Accessibility**

The instructor is committed to creating a learning environment that is equitable and accessible so that learning occurs for all students. Every effort will be made to support students in an appropriate and confidential manner. If you require accommodations (instructional, curricular, or test) please approach Student Accessibility Services (<https://sas.mcmaster.ca/>). While every effort will be made to support students, it is the student's responsibility for arranging these accommodations.

## **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.

## **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 (e.g., class scheduling information, location of mailboxes and offices, tutorial information, class cancellations, 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.

### **Religious, Indigenous and Spiritual Observances (RISO)**

The University recognizes that, on occasion, the timing of a student's religious, Indigenous, or spiritual observances and that of their academic obligations may conflict. In such cases, the University will provide reasonable academic accommodation for students that is consistent with the Ontario Human Rights Code. Please review the [RISO information for students in the Faculty of Social Sciences](#) about how to request accommodation.

**Email Communication**

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.