

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

Winter, 2018
Day and Time of Class: Wed, 7-9pm
Class Location: ITB AB 102

Instructor: Dr. Jessica Braimoh
Office Hours: Wed, 5:30-6:30pm
Office Location: KTH-643
Email Address: braimoja@mcmaster.ca
Ext. 27346

COURSE DESCRIPTION:

This course is an examination of social problems in Canada through 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 policy and the law are able to 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 policy and legal responses to social problems in Canada. This focus addresses three University Undergraduate Degree Level expectations (see <http://csl.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*. 4th 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 | Due Date | Value |
|--|--------------------------|-------|
| Tutorial Mark (attendance & participation) | Ongoing | 15% |
| Written Assignment #1 (Proposal) | February 7 | 10% |
| Mid-Term Test | February 28 | 25% |
| Written Assignment #2 (Policy brief) | March 21 | 25% |
| Final Exam (non-cumulative) | TBD (during exam period) | 25% |

COURSE SCHEDULE:

| Date | Topic | Reading | Due |
|-------------------------------------|---|-------------------------------|--|
| January 10 | Course Introduction | No readings | |
| January 17 | Foundations I: Thinking about Social Problems | Chapter 1 | Tutorials <u>start</u> today! |
| January 24 | Foundations II: Thinking about Social Policy and Law | Avenue to Learn (ATL) reading | |
| January 31 | Work I: Wealth and Poverty | Chapter 2 | |
| February 7 | Work II: Gender and Labour Market Participation | Chapter 4 | Written Assignment #1 Due (10%) |
| February 14 | Canadian Families I: Family Structure & Marginalized Groups | Chapter 11 | |
| February 21 | MID TERM RECESS – NO CLASS/TUTORIALS | | |
| February 28 | Mid Term Test written in lecture (25%) | No readings | No tutorials today! |
| March 7 | Immigration | ATL reading | |
| March 14 | Health, Illness and Health Care | Chapter 10 | |
| March 21 | Criminal Justice System I: Crime and Criminal Justice | Chapter 9 | Written Assignment #2 Due (25%) |
| March 28 | Criminal Justice System II: Intersections | Chapter 3 | |
| April 4 | Final Exam Review | No readings | |
| April 11-22 Final Exam Period | Final exam scheduled during this period (25%) | | |

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.

Policy of Missed or Late Work

There is a 5% per day (including weekends) deduction for late submission written assignments. Late assignments will not be accepted after 5 days (25% deduction). Please refer to the assignment instructions for additional details on assignment policies.

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 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 (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.