SOCIOLOGY 4R03E – Individual and Society

Winter, 2018
Day and Time of Classes: Tuesday 7:00-10:00 p.m.
Class Location: Kenneth Taylor Hall 107
Instructor: Jacqueline Kutt, MA
Ext.: 905-525-9140 x 20423
Office Hours: KTH 607, Tues. 5-6 p.m.
Email Address: kuttj@mcmaster.ca

COURSE DESCRIPTION:

An intensive examination of selected problems involving fundamental human relations of the individual-in-society: between individual human beings, human being and mind, on the basis of social & mental structure, social and group organization and to macro social structures. Hence, this will involve exploring relations between human individuals, as well as, in light of formal and informal relations that are apart of diverse societies; this course provides a particular focus of two dyadic relations between: Subject—Object and Self—Other as an ensemble of social relations and processes in connection with particular social institutions, and, to external nature. Central question being explored: How do we expand and deepen our understanding of relations when they are bridled in terms of the Person—Collectivity, Individuality—Society, Nation—State or Individualism—Socialism?

We will discuss several of the major juxtapositions that have taken place within sociology and at its periphery such as difference and nexus between nature and nurture, agency and structure. With this in mind we will explore relations of the human kind and being, both in terms of their potential and in actuality; that is, across social cultural relations, with diverse economic, political and environmental conditions. Our investigation will be done in respect of the theorist’s time and place, and in discovering how their theories, concepts and ideas aid us in developing our understanding of relations that are apart of a wide domain of real, social, cultural and material conditions.

OUTLINE (approximation of theorists/researchers to be covered each week):

1 < January 9, 2018: Charles Horton Cooley (Courseware)
2 < January 16, 2018: Georg Herbert Mead & Charles Horton Cooley (Courseware & Avenue to Learn)
3 < January 23, 2018: George Herbert Blumer and Robert Prus (Courseware)
4 < February 6, 2018: William James and Denis Wrong (Courseware & Avenue to Learn)
5 < February 13, 2018: Nancy Harstock and Arlie Hochschild (Courseware & Avenue to Learn)
6 < February 27, 2018: Lawrence Krader (Avenue to Learn) and S. Freud, *The Ego and the Id.* (Text)
7 < March 6, 2018: Rogers Brubaker and Frederick Cooper (Avenue to Learn) and S. Freud, cont’d
8 < March 13, 2018: William McDougall (Courseware) and S. Freud, *Group Psychology and the Analysis of the Ego* (Text)
9 < March 20, 2018: Robert Merton (Avenue to Learn) and S. Freud, cont’d
10 < April 3, 2018: David Maine (Avenue to Learn) and Lawrence Krader (Courseware)
REQUIRED TEXTS:
Courseware, SOCIOL 4R03 Individual and Society (Campus Store)
Sigmund Freud. *The Ego and the Id.* (addition in Mac Bookstore)
Sigmund Freud. *Group Psychology and the Analysis of the Ego.* (addition in Mac Bookstore)

METHOD OF EVALUATION:

Bi-weekly three page summary/reflection(s) of readings: 4 x 10% each
Participation and Attendance: 8%
& in class presentation of one bi-weekly written work: 7%
Final Essay: 45%

DUE DATES FOR SUMMARIES/READING RESPONSE: submit print in class
  
  Tuesday, January 23, 2018;
  Tuesday, February 13, 2018;
  Tuesday, March 6, 2018;
  Tuesday, March 20, 2018.

ONE IN-CLASS PRESENTATION (of 1 of 4 reflective papers): approximately 15 minutes

  **Choose one of the following weeks, maximum five students per week:**
  
  Tuesday, February 6, 2018
  Tuesday, February 13, 2018
  Tuesday, March 13, 2018
  Tuesday, March 20, 2018
  Tuesday, March 27, 2018

FINAL ESSAY: electronic submission, Avenue to Learn
  
  Wednesday, April 11, 2018

*Auxiliary material, documentary/short films may be viewed during class, dependent upon copyright permission; in the event permission is not received, alternative cultural material relevant to the course may be introduced. Dates and times will be posted on Avenue to Learn. Potential short films:

- 2016 Film (98 min): Mustang. Director: Deniz Gamze Ergüven
- 2016 Documentary (40 min): A Girl in the River. Director: Sharemeen Obaid-Chinoy
- 2015 Film (88 min): Cast No Shadow. Director: Christian Sparkes

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, 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/StudentsAcademicStudies/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. Reference system: APA Citation Style: http://library.mcmaster.ca/sites/default/files/apa.pdf
2. Improper collaboration in group work.
3. Copying or using unauthorized aids in tests and examinations.

COURSE LEARNING OBJECTIVES

The objective is to gain knowledge of a range of different methodologies, and to develop one's ability to engage with several different social scientific positions presented by the theorists, communicate this knowledge in written work and be able to discuss some of the challenges that are particularly relevant to the historical location of the theorists in relation to today. Hence this course requires that students consider and critically evaluate competing theoretical approaches. In doing so students will gain an awareness of limits of knowledge, both in terms of the theories and of social learning, thinking, knowing and critiquing. Finally, this course will encourage students to discuss theoretical issues in class, grading is based on written essay exams of various length, attendance and independent active participation.

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, 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.

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.

Reference List
(pp. 101-116). New Jersey: Prentice-Hall.


Cooley, Charles Horton. (1902). The Social Self—1. The Meaning of “I”. In Human Nature and The
Social Order (pp. 136-178). New York: Charles Scribner’s Sons.

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