McMaster University
Department of Sociology
SOCIOLOGY 2JJ3:
Race, Class, Gender & Sexuality
Winter 2018

Instructor: Dr. Stephen Lin
Day & Time of Lectures: Monday: 5:30pm-6:20pm; Thursday: 5:30pm-6:20pm
Class Location: Burke Science Building, B135
Email: slin0899@gmail.com
Office Hours: By appointment or Before Class, Room KTH 607

Tuesday: 8:30 – 9:20 (KTH B 132)  Email: kasimoa@mcmater.ca
Office Hours: By appointment

Course Description
Race, class, gender, and sexuality are salient markers that help us to study and understand social stratification, individuals’ identity, and experiences. This course will address the multiple and intersecting ways these concepts illustrate structured social relations, individual life-chances, and daily social interactions. First, we will closely examine each of those concepts: race, class, gender, and sexuality, by asking what meanings and values have been attached to them by our society and its members. Then, we will investigate how those concepts have been historically used as political instruments for creating different power dynamics in societal, institutional and community levels. Next, we will study how different forms of social inequalities result from the intersectionality of race, class, gender and sexuality. Various case studies will be used as examples to demonstrate intersectionality of social inequalities. Finally, we will discuss the role of race, class, gender, and sexuality in the future, evaluating solutions to social inequality and strategies for social changes.

Prerequisite(s): One of SOCIOL 1Z03, 1A06 A/B Antirequisite(s): SOCIOL 2Q06 A/B

Course Learning Objectives
By the end of Sociology 2JJ3, students who attend all the classes should be able to
- Develop your ability to study social problems using a sociological lens.
- Understand the importance of race, class, gender, and sexuality as distinct and interrelated aspects of social life.
- Examine how race, class, gender, and sexuality are socially constructed categories by exploring what gives them meaning, how the categories are maintained or transformed, and how they are related to inequality.
- Explore the significance of race, class, gender, and sexuality in social institutions and individual experiences, interactions, and identities.
- Improve your ability to articulate thoughts about course material during class discussions and in written assignments.
- Develop analytical skills and the ability to apply sociological concepts to a wide range of social situations, including your personal life experiences.
Textbook

Method of Evaluation

Test #1 20%
Test #2 20%
Final Exam 30%
Tutorial Participation 15%
Current Events Assignment 15%

Evaluation Details

1. Test #1 (20%) – February 8
   This test covers Chapter 1, 2, 3, 4 plus lecture materials from January 8 to February 1. It will be 50 minutes in length and consists of multiple-choice questions only.

2. Test #2 (20%) – March 22
   This test covers Chapter 5 & 6 plus additional readings and lecture materials from February 12 to March 8. It will be 50 minutes in length and consists of multiple-choice questions only.

3. Final Exam (30%) - TBA
   This final exam covers everything you have learned in this course. It will be 2 hours in length and consists of multiple-choice questions only.

4. Tutorial Participation (15%)
   From the week of January 15, you are required to attend the weekly tutorial in which the TA will review the reading and lecture material and provide opportunities for you to reflect upon the weekly topic. Your mark will be based on your attendance (5%) and a discussion posting and response assignment (10%). The TA will provide further details in your tutorial session.

5. Short Written Assignment (15%) – April 5
   At the end of this semester, you are required to complete a current events assignment. short written assignment. First, find one article from a reputable newspaper or magazine from major networks (e.g., Globe & Mail, McLean’s, CBC; the Economist; Time; Newsweek; BBC; not “rags”, not official policy documents, and not research journals) covering current events (as recent as possible and no more than five years old; that relates to any theme in the context of race, class, gender and sexuality.
Second, students will write an abstract of the article by summarizing and highlighting the main issue covered in the news story (half page).

Third, students will incorporate their own critical responses to the content of the article with relevant course material (concepts, theories or themes) (2.5 pages).

This assignment should be 3 double-spaced typed pages (12-pitch font) in length. Please follow APA or MLA referencing style and cite references from the course material. Finding additional scholarly resources is NOT required. Please include a cover page with your name and student number on it. This assignment is due in class on April 5.

Course Schedule & Readings

PART 1: INTRODUCTION & THEORETICAL ORIENTATION

January 4:

Introduction of Course Material and Expectation

January 8-11: Identities

Chapter 1: Differences & Similarities

January 15-18: Structured Social Relations

Chapter 2: Manufacturing Identities: The Social Construction of Race, Class, Gender, and Sexuality

January 22-25: Identity Construction in Language and the Media

Chapter 3: Portraying Identities: Race, Class, Gender, and Sexuality in Language and the Media

January 29- February 1: Identities and Social Institutions

Chapter 4: Learning Identities: Families, Schools and Socialization

February 5-8:

Test #1 Review (February 5)
Test #1 (February 8)
PART 2: SOCIAL INEQUALITIES

February 12-15: Prejudice and Discrimination

Chapter 5: Inflicting Inequalities: Prejudice and Discrimination in Everyday Life

February 19-22:

Reading Week (No Class and Tutorial)

February 26 - March 1: Prejudice and Discrimination in Labour Force (Part I)

Chapter 6: Inequalities in Economics and Work

March 5-8: Prejudice and Discrimination in Labour Force (Part II)

Additional Reading will be provided on Avenue to Learn

March 12-15:

Test # 2 Review
Test # 2 (March 22)

March 19-22: Prejudice and Discrimination in Legal System

Chapter 7: Inequalities in Law and Justice

March 26-29: Social Inequalities of Health I

Chapter 8: Inequalities in Health and Illness

March 26-29: Social Inequalities of Health II (Case Studies)

Additional Reading will be provided on Avenue to Learn

PART 3: CONCLUSION

April 2-5: Looking Forward

Chapter 9: The Futures of Identities and Inequalities
Short Written Assignment Due in Class (April 5)
April 9:

No Class, Study Day

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.

(If applicable) 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 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 or 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.

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.

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.