SOCIOLOGY 4E03 – SELF AND IDENTITY

Fall, 2018       Instructor: Dr. P. G. Watson
Wednesdays 7:00-10:00pm    Office: KTH-607 Ext.: 20423
Class Location TSH-122    Office Hours: Mon. 12:00-1:30, Thurs 5:00-6:00
Email Address: watsonp@mcmaster.ca

COURSE DESCRIPTION: This course examines in close detail the accomplishment of personal identity as a social phenomenon from a broadly Sociological Social Psychology perspective. This will include interrogating the sociological traditions of American Pragmatism, Chicago School Social Psychology (symbolic interactionism), Social Constructivism, Dramaturgical Method and Ethnomethodology. The course will be divided in two parts – theory and practice – with the second half of the course devoted to examinations of substantive areas of self and identity including Race, Gender, Age, Nationality, Work, Deviance and Digital Identity.

OUTLINE: The course will follow a classical seminar format. We will begin with two introductory, instructor led seminars with open discussion, followed by student led seminars. In week one, students will be divided into groups of two or three members. Each group will be assigned a seminar week and members will give a presentation on that weeks’ key and supplemental readings. A second group will be tasked each week with preparing a response, followed by an open discussion amongst class members. Attendance to all seminars is mandatory. Senior level seminar courses rely on a high degree of interaction between the instructor and students, and failure to attend classes will result in sanctions including grade reductions. In the event of illness, accident or personal emergency, students must inform the instructor in advance (i.e. via email or telephone) and make appropriate arrangements to maintain the learning environment.

**NOTE – READING LIST IS PROVISIONAL AND SUBJECT TO CHANGE**

WEEK 1: The Issue of Understanding Action and Rationality
September 5th


**WEEK 2: American Pragmatism**  
September 12th


**WEEK 3: The Chicago School (1)**  
September 19th


**Week 4: The Chicago School (2)**  
September 26th


**Week 5: Dramaturgy and Phenomenology**  
October 3rd


**READING WEEK – NO CLASS OCTOBER 10th**

**Week 6: Social Constructivism and the Self**  
October 17th


**Week 7: Ethnomethodology**  
October 24th


**Week 8: Gender**  
November 31st


**Week 9: Deviance**  
November 7th


**Week 10: Race**
November 14th


**Week 11: Digital Identity**
November 22nd


**Week 12: Administration and catch-up**
November 29th

**Week 13: Conclusion**
December 5th
TEXTS: All readings will be available on the course Avenue to Learn page in PDF format. Readings will be divided into ‘key’ readings and ‘supplemental’ readings. All students must attend seminars having prepared (i.e. read and taken notes on) the key reading.

METHOD OF EVALUATION:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Assessment</th>
<th>Weight</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Seminar Presentation</td>
<td>25%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Seminar Response</td>
<td>15%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Seminar Participation</td>
<td>10%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Term Paper Proposal</td>
<td>10% (Due October 19th)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Term Paper Final</td>
<td>40% (Due December 7th)</td>
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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. (e.g. following style guide, accrediting work to incorrect sources, omitting sources, etc.)
2. Improper collaboration in group work. (e.g. term paper assignment not being sufficiently unique)
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 via Avenue to Learn; it will be checked for academic dishonesty.

COURSE LEARNING OBJECTIVES

This course addresses three University Undergraduate Degree Level Expectations (see, University Undergraduate Degree Level Expectations).

1. Depth and Breadth of Knowledge: we will develop advanced analytical and theoretical understanding of concepts crucially important to sociology and social psychology
2. Knowledge of Methodologies: particularly in relation to observational or field-work based sociological research
3. Communications Skills: synthesizing and presenting detailed summations of sociological literature in both verbal and written formats, as well as responding to verbal reports.
4. Autonomy and Professional Capacity: particularly in the interest of developing future professional sociological researchers, working effectively with others, managing one’s own learning, etc…
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.

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.