

SOCIO 2SS3 Sociology of Work and Occupations McMaster University

Fall, 2019

Day and Time of Class:

Tues 11:30am-1:20pm BSB B135

Thurs 11:30am-12:20pm BSB B135

Instructor: Dr. Jessica Braimoh

Office Hours: Tuesdays 1:30-2:30pm

Office Location: #####

Email Address: braimoja@mcmaster.ca

Phone: 905-525-9140 Ext. #####

COURSE DESCRIPTION:

This course is an examination of the sociological theory and research on work and occupations. Topics include the theories of work, control and management of work, labour market segmentation, labour unions, service work, precarious and non-standard work, families, and leisure. To conclude, we will consider the future of work. This last focus will take us into topics of globalization, retirement, and economies of the self. Important to this course is a consideration of the ways that social dimensions (e.g., Indigeneity, gender, race, citizenship status, disability, and age) organize the structure and experience of work. Taken together, this course will consider the macro, meso, and micro factors shaping work and occupations.

LEARNING OBJECTIVES:

Students in this course will learn about sociological approaches to the study of work and occupations. This focus addresses three University Undergraduate Degree Level expectations: (1) developing a depth and breadth of knowledge, (2) application of knowledge and (3) communication skills. For More details please refer to:

<http://ccl.mcmaster.ca/COU/degree/undergraduate.html>

REQUIRED READING:

- All assigned readings will be posted on Avenue to Learn and are available through the McMaster library databases.

METHOD OF EVALUATION:

Attendance and participation (worth 20% of your final grade)

- The instructor will determine attendance and participation grades.
- Attendance will be taken regularly. Not attending or leaving early will impact your grade.
- Active participation may be attained through the use of small group discussions, writing or study workshops, practice questions, and individual reflection

questions. These learning activities will take place during in-class meetings on online through avenue to learn. It is not enough to show up and expect full grades. The quality and extent of your participation will also be assessed.

Critical Reflections (worth 30% of your final grade)

- Students will be asked to complete 3 critical reflections throughout the course.
- Each assignment is worth 10%. Please see Avenue to Learn for instructions.

Mid-Term Exam (worth 25% of your final grade)

- The mid-term exam will take place during lecture on **Thurs October 22.**
- The mid-term will include a combination of the following types of questions: multiple choice, true/false questions, short-answer, and long-answer.

Final Exam (worth 25% of your final grade)

- The final exam for this course will not be cumulative.
- The final exam will include a combination of the following types of questions: multiple choice, true/false questions, short-answer, and long-answer.
- The final exam will be scheduled by the Registrars Office and will take place during the final exam period.

Item	Due Date	Value
Attendance and Participation (online and in-class discussion)	Ongoing	20%
Critical Reflection #1	Thurs Sept 19	10%
Critical Reflection #2	Thurs Oct 10	10%
Critical Reflection #3	Thurs Nov 7	10%
Mid-Term Test	Tues Oct 22	25%
Final Exam (non-cumulative)	TBD (during final exam period)	25%

COURSE SCHEDULE:

Date	Topic	Reading / 'Tutorial' Activity	Due
W1	Tues Sept 3	Course Introduction	Read: Tancred (1995). Women's Work
	Thurs Sept 5		In class discussion
W2	Tues Sept 10	Sociological Perspectives on Work and Occupations	Read: Vallas, Finlay, and Wharton (2009). Theoretical traditions in the Sociology of Work (Chapter 2 in The Sociology of Work: Structures and Inequalities)
	Thurs Sept 12		In class discussion

W3	Tues Sept 17	Labour Markets – P. I	Watch: Walmart the high cost of low price (note: explicit language; available online) Read: Gereffit and Christian (2009). The Impacts of Wal-Mart: The Rise and Consequences of the World's Dominant Retailer	
	Thurs Sept 19		No in-class meeting. Please work on your critical reflection	Critical Reflection #1 (10%)
W4	Tues Sept 24	Labour Markets – P. II	Read: Kalleberg (2008). The Mismatched Worker Read: Block and Galabuzi (2018). Persistent Inequality	
	Thurs Sept 26		In-class discussion	
W5	Tues Oct 1	Professions	Read: Macdonald (1995). Sociological Analysis of Professions (chapter 1) in the Sociology of Professions	
	Thurs Oct 3		Online discussion	
W6	Tues Oct 8	Labour Unions	Read: Mills and Clark (2009) – Labour Union Engagement among Aboriginal Peoples in Canada Read: Clamen and Gillies. (2018). Will the Real Supporters of Workers' Rights Please Stand Up? Union Engagement with Sex Work in Canada. Chapter 24 in Red Light Labour: Sex Work, Regulation, Agency, and Resistance. (online– McMaster library)	
	Thurs Oct 10		In-class discussion: Mid Term Review	Critical Reflection #2 (10%)
W7	Tues Oct 15 Thurs Oct 17	NO CLASS THIS WEEK		
W8	Tues Oct 22	Mid-Term Exam (25%)		
	Thurs Oct 24		No in-class meeting	
W9	Tues Oct 29	Service Work	Read: Leidner (1999). Emotional labour in service work. Read: Kang (2003). The Managed Hand.	

	Thurs Oct 31		In-class discussion	
W10	Tues Nov 5	Time	Read: Zuzanek (2014). Sunday Blues. Watch: The power of time off (https://www.ted.com/talks/stefan_sagmeister_the_power_of_time_off?language=en)	
	Thurs Nov 7		No in-class meeting. Please work on your critical reflection	Critical Reflection #3 (10%)
W11	Tues Nov 12	Home, Families, and Work	Read: Ollier-Malaterre et al. (2019). Technology, Work, and Family. Read: Perry (2018). Living at Work and Intra-worker Sociality Among Migrant Farm Workers in Canada.	
	Thurs Nov 14		In-class discussion	
W12	Tues Nov 19	Nonstandard, precarious, and marginal jobs	Read: Kalleberg and Vallas (2018). Probing Precarious Work Read: Shuey and Jovic (2013). Disability Accommodation in Nonstandard and Precarious Employment Arrangements	
	Thurs Nov 21		Online Discussion	
W13	Tues Nov 26	The Future of Work	Read: Jones (2014). The Rise of Global Work	
	Thurs Nov 28		No in-class meeting. Dr. Braimoh will hold extra office hours this week	
W14	Tues Dec 3	Final Exam Review		

Final Exam (25%)

Fri Dec 6- Thurs Dec 19

(to be scheduled during this period)

This course schedule is subject to change based on the needs of the class and on circumstances beyond my control (e.g., inclement weather). Changes, if any, will be announced to the class and will be posted on our Avenue to Learn course page.

COURSE POLICIES:

Submission of Assignments

Please review the assignment instructions for submission instructions.

Students who do not write the mid-term exam during the scheduled time will receive a zero. Students whose absence for missed tests is supported by university approved documentation will be scheduled to write a make-up test through the Department of Sociology.

Make up-Tests

All make-up tests will be short-answer format only. No reweighting will occur.

Late Submissions

There is a 5% per day (including weekends) deduction for late submissions of all assignments. Late assignments will not be accepted after 5 days (i.e., 25% deduction). All late submissions will only be accepted via electronic submission to the dropbox in ATL. No email or hard copy late submissions are allowed.

Review of Grades

Review of assignments or grades will not take place within the first 48 hours of assessments being returned. If you would like to meet with Dr. Braimoh, please send her an email to arrange a date and time. Please note, a formal review of a grade may go up, stay the same, or be lower than the original.

To request a review of a mark, please write a short paragraph describing your concern regarding the marking error. You may submit your requests Dr. Jessica Braimoh. You may submit requests for a review of grade no later than two weeks after assignments/test grades have been handed back to the class.

Avenue to Learn

This course uses Avenue to Learn to post course material including the syllabus, lecture outlines, 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. It is your responsibility to check Avenue to Learn regularly. Go to <http://avenue.mcmaster.ca> to log on.

Office Hours

Dr. Braimoh is available to meet during her scheduled office hours. If scheduled office hours do not correspond with your schedule, every attempt will be made to arrange an alternative time.

If a meeting is scheduled and you are no longer able to attend, please email Dr. Braimoh ASAP. If you do not attend a scheduled meeting, subsequent meetings may not be arranged.

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.

Computer Use

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.

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., not using proper APA or ASA in-text citations to signify others works)

2. Improper collaboration in group work (e.g., working on critical reflections with other students)
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** email 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)

Students requiring academic accommodation based on religious, indigenous or spiritual observances should follow the procedures set out in the RISO policy. Students requiring a RISO accommodation should submit their request to their Faculty Office normally within 10 working days of the beginning of term in which they anticipate a need for accommodation or to the Registrar's Office prior to their examinations. Students should also contact their instructors as soon as possible to make alternative arrangements for classes, assignments, and tests.

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.

Please consider the following expectations with regards to email communication:

- All emails should have the course code in the subject – SOCIO 2SS3
- All emails should include your first and last name.
- All emails should include a greeting, such as "Hello Dr. Braimoh"
- All emails will be responded to within 72 hours.
- Please review the syllabus and Avenue to Learn before sending an email. Your question may have already been answered. Emails containing questions that can be answered elsewhere may not be answered.