

Sociology 2SS3 Work and Occupations
McMaster University
January 2019 – April 2019

Lecture

Thursday 2:30pm-4:20pm BSB 137

Tutorials Tuesday 1:30pm-2:20pm (some will be lectures)

Course Instructor: Dr. Lina Samuel

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Office Hours: Tuesday 4:30pm-5:20pm (Please make an appointment by email)

Office: KTH 632

Teaching Assistant: NA

Course Description:

This course examines the sociology of work, labour, and jobs, and the ways these have been transformed over time and across space. The course pays particular attention to the nature of work and employment relations in light of the forces of globalization, migration, and economic restructuring. The shifts in the world of work have varying impacts on individuals, families, local communities, and ethnic groups, and we will examine these impacts, both positive and negative, from a number of angles. How have these transformations of work, often referred to in relation to a *new economy*, impacted the labour market? What have been the roles of technology, social management, labour market institutions, and government policy, in influencing the outcomes of occupational restructuring and shifts in the division of labour? How is occupational restructuring related to shifts in levels of inequality and power among households and workers? How have particular definitions of work and employment affected, even marginalized, those who perform unpaid work in the household? We begin with an examination of the main theoretical traditions, and historical developments, that frame the study of work and labour. The course then examines the organization and management of work, the structure of labour markets, and the tensions that historically emerge in the workplace between workers and management. We end the course with a look at the role of unions and how the transformation in work has altered the meanings and experiences of work for individuals.

Course Objectives:

Through this course, students will:

- Develop an understanding of the historical and social construction of work and occupations
- Become familiar with contemporary research in the area of work and occupations
- Learn to apply sociological theories to analysis of issues around work, labour, and occupations
- Learn to critically analyze the social forces which shape work and occupations
- Critically analyze between levels and patterns of power within work arrangements
- Discuss and debate the causes and consequences of economic restructuring for work and occupations

Course Format: 2 hour lecture, once per week (Thursday) Plus tutorials/lectures on Tuesday 1:30-2:20pm.

Course Texts

Krahn, Harvey J, Karen D. Hughes and Graham S. Lowe. 2015. Work, Industry and Canadian Society 7th ed. Toronto: Nelson Education.

It is strongly advised that you keep up with the readings and ask questions in class after lecture. I always reserve time **after** lecture for questions. For the tests you will be responsible for both the required readings as well as lecture material.

Evaluation:

Evaluation is based on one written assignment and three in-class tests.

Test 1: 25%

Test 2: 25%

Writing Assignment: 20%

Test 3: 25%

Tutorial/Lecture Attendance: 5%

Please keep back-up copies of all your written work on separate file/ memory key.

Procedures and Rules

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.

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.

1a. Missed tests

Students who miss a term test will be assigned a mark of zero for that test unless their absence is supported by university approved documentation.

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.

If your Request is **APPROVED** and a make-up test is required, you will write the make-up test on the **designated date selected by the instructor.** No student is automatically entitled to a second make up test. It is your responsibility to write the tests on the day in which they are scheduled.

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.

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.

1b.Late assignments

- You are expected to complete assignments on time.

Assignments are due at the beginning of the class lecture on the due date. Late assignments will be subject to a penalty of **5%** per day. The Penalty period does include weekends and holidays. **Please make every effort to hand assignments in on the due date.**

Please come see the instructor if you are experiencing any difficulty with the assignment or the material presented in class. Only hard copies will be graded.

Please note that only McMaster emails will be considered official. Emails from other addresses may disappear into the black hole of spam filters.

- You are expected to keep a back-up, hard copy of your assignment in case it is lost.
- **Accommodation provision:**
Medical Certificate must state that you were ill on the due date of the assignment for a one day extension. For a longer extension you must prove that you were sick during a longer period or prove an exceptional, unforeseen circumstance.

2. Grade appeals. The instructor and teaching assistant(s) take(s) the marking of assignments very seriously, and will work diligently to be fair, consistent, and accurate. Nonetheless, mistakes and oversights occasionally happen. If you believe that to be the case, you must adhere to the following rules:

- If it is a mathematical error simply alert the instructor of the error
- In the case of more substantive appeals, you must:
 1. Wait at least 24 hours after receiving your mark.
 2. Carefully re-read your assignment, all assignment guidelines and marking schemes and the grader's comments.

If you wish to appeal your assignment grade:

- A. You must submit to the instructor a written explanation of why you think your mark should be altered. Please note statements such as "I need a higher grade to apply to X" are not compelling. Also, please note that upon re-grade your mark may go down, stay the same, or go up.
- B. Attach to your written explanation your original assignment, including all of the original comments. Submit a hardcopy of the package to the instructor during office hours or after the lecture.
- C. You will receive a response via email or in person about your re-grade.

3. Electronic communication and electronic learning technology: Email communication is rapid, convenient, and efficient—and you are encouraged to use it to enhance your learning and experience in the course. With that said, it is essential that you follow a few rules:

- Assignments will not be accepted via email. You must submit hard copies of your assignments
- All emails must include the course code (Soc. 2SS3) in the subject line.
- All emails should be signed with the student's full name and student number.
- Emails from students will generally be answered within 24 hours of receipt.
- Treat emails as you would any other professional communication.
- All general questions about the course that are NOT addressed on the syllabus and course website should be asked in class. If you cannot figure something out, chances are your inquiry will be useful for the entire class.

Emails that do not follow these guidelines will not receive a response.

4. Classroom etiquette

Students are expected to arrive at class on time. Laptops are allowed in class and should be used for taking notes. Other uses, emailing, web surfing will result in the student's being required to turn off the laptop and it may affect your final grade.

Coming to lectures late, leaving early, not attending tutorials will impact your final grade.

Videotaping and recording lectures is strictly forbidden without written permission from the instructor.

Course Schedule

Thursdays 2:30pm-4:20pm

Tuesdays: 1:30pm- 2:20pm

(Subject to adjustments)

Tuesday, January 8 Welcome to the class!

Lecture 1 Introduction to course, course expectations, brief lecture on work and what the course is about (brief lecture + writing assignment 1 given out)

Thursday January 10

Lecture 2 Chapter 1

Historical Perspectives on Work (1700-1950s) (Marx, Smith, Weber...)

Tuesday January 15

Lecture 3 Continuation of Theory

Thursday January 17

Lecture 4 Chapter 2

Contemporary Debates on Work 1950s to Present Day

Any questions on Writing Assignment?

Tuesday January 22

Lecture 5 Chapter 3

Canadian Employment Trends

Plus student reflection activity (if time permits)

Thursday January 24

Lecture 6 Chapter 4 Good Jobs, Bad Jobs, No Jobs

Tuesday January 29

Documentary *Walmart: High Cost of Low Wages*

Thursday January 31

Lecture 7 Chapter 4 Good Jobs, Bad Jobs, No Jobs (finish)

Tuesday Feb. 5

Review of Concepts Student Activity/Study Prep

Thursday February 7 Test 1 (25%) (On chapter 1, 2, 3 and 4 only)

Tuesday Feb. 12

Questions on writing assignment?

Thursday February 14

Lecture 8

Chapter 5 Labour Markets: Opportunities and Inequality

Chapter 6 Gender and Paid Employment

MIDTERM BREAK FEB. 18-22

Tuesday Feb. 26

Submission of Writing Assignment.

Documentary: *Dish and the Art of Service*

Thursday February 28

Lecture 9 Chapter 7 Household, Family and Caring Work

Tuesday March 5

Tutorial Activity: Breaking into small groups and sharing your writing assignment research (have 5 minutes to share with your small group)

Thursday March 7

Lecture 10:

Chapter 7 Household, Family and Caring Work (continued)

Chapter 8 Organizing and Managing Work

Tuesday March 12

Lecture 11:

Chapter 8 Organizing and Managing Work (Finishing)

Review of dominant Concepts

Thursday March 14 Test 2 (25%) (Based on chapters 5, 6, 7 and 8)

Tuesday March 19

Lecture 12:

Chapter 9 In Search of New Managerial Paradigms

Thursday March 21

Lecture 13

Chapter 10 Conflict and Control in the Workplace Pages 287-339

Chapter 11 Unions and Industrial Relations

Tuesday March 26

Lecture 14

Chapter 14 Job Satisfaction, Alienation and Work Related Stress

Thursday March 28 Test 3 (25%) (Based on chapters 9, 10, 11, 14)

Thursday April 4

Overview and pick up Writing Assignments.

Have a restful spring and summer break!