

SOCI 102 003 / Inequality & Social Change (Term 2)

Class Time & Room: MWF 9-10 @ GEOG 100

Instructor: Dr Neil Armitage

Email: neil.armitage@ubc.ca

Instructor & TA Office Hours: Weds 2 – 4 pm Learning Lounge in Chapman Learning Commons (CLC)

TAs: Francois Lachapelle, Priscilla Wong, Jasmeen Khaira & Augustin Baret

From the moment you wake up you are making decisions from the mundane to the influential – from what to have for breakfast to which classes to take this term. While we like to think we are free to do what we want to do, our everyday choices are always made under certain circumstances. Sociologists explore how these circumstances vary between people, how they emerge, and how they change (or not) over time and space.

In this class you will begin to explore how people's circumstances, including your own, are shaped by social structures such as gender, race, and social class. You will also explore how different institutions such as the family, the education system, and the economy interact with these social structures to shape and mould the types of lives people lead and the types of changes people seek to bring about in society.

The course is designed for you to develop your Sociological Imagination, what C. Wright Mills defined as the capacity to see how our personal troubles, the problems we face in our everyday lives, are connected to larger public and societal issues. The course prepares you for upper level sociology courses and is designed to make Sociology relevant to your life, both personally and professionally. Hopefully you will have fun too.

Learning Outcomes; by the end of the course students will be able to demonstrate:

1. A developing critical awareness of sociological perspectives and concepts
2. An ability to use their sociological imagination to explore the relationship between individual and society
3. An understanding of the multiple dimensions of social inequality in a global society
4. An understanding on the emergence and purpose of institutions in society, and their relationship to social inequality and social change
5. An increased awareness of opportunities at UBC to build experience, skills and networks
6. A developing proficiency in social science methods and skills valuable to their academic career

Open Source Course Textbook & Materials

To reduce expense the course textbook is Open Source and online. If you prefer a physical copy to read, printed copies of all the designated chapters for this course are available to buy for \$30 in the UBC Bookstore.

[Little, William \(2016\) *Introduction to Sociology – 2nd Canadian Edition*](#)

The lecture slides will be made available on Canvas immediately after each lecture. Further resources will be provided when necessary on Canvas.

Course Structure and Assessment

In tandem with being assessed on course material in lectures and from the textbook, you will be assessed on three activities done within the discussion group meetings. To promote your understanding of the course structure and assessment you will take an assessed syllabus test within the first two weeks of the course. To promote self-reflection on your learning you will complete a reflective learning evaluation at the end of the course.

Syllabus Test (5%) – A multiple choice test on the syllabus. You may take multiple attempts to achieve 100%. However, the test must be completed by Sunday the 13th of January to avoid late penalties.

Learning Evaluation (5%) At the end of the term and prior to the final exam you will complete a self-evaluation survey on your learning and engagement on the course. This will need to be completed by Sunday the 7th of April.

Lectures

The term is organised into three sections; **The Sociological Imagination, Social Inequality and Social Institutions & Change**. The lectures provide an overview of topics in each section, complemented by the online textbook. On occasions time will be dedicated in class to break-out discussions to facilitate your learning of course material. Your learning of the material covered is assessed via a Mid-Term and a Final Exam.

Mid-Term (15%) You will be tested on your knowledge of material and core concepts covered in first two sections of the course; **The Sociological Imagination and Social Inequality** via multiple-choice and short answer questions.

Final Exam (30%) This will test primarily your knowledge of the final section of the course, **Social Institutions & Change**. Course material on the mid-term where students struggled to demonstrate learning will be revisited. The final exam will consist of multiple choice, short answers and an essay. The essay will be submitted online.

For both the mid-term and the final exam the multiple choice questions will be based on the lectures, while the short answers will be based on the dedicated chapters from the textbook (see course schedule below).

Discussion Groups

The weekly meetings are organised around three assessed activities; **My Network, Inequality on Campus and Alumni Interviews**. The activities align with the three sections of the course and account for 45% of the final grade. **Weekly attendance and engagement during the three activities is obligatory to attain a full grade.**

Activity 1: My Network (10% - 2 weeks) Using yourself as a research subject you will follow a worksheet to construct your biographical network. In small groups you will compare and discuss your networks in relation to concepts from the lectures and the textbook. Drawing on the exercise you will formulate a 500 – 750 word essay answering ‘*What does your network say about you and your perspective?*’

Activity 2: Inequality on Campus (15% - 3 weeks) ‘*Are their equal opportunities on UBC’s campus for students to partake in extra and co-curricular programs?*’ Using an intersectional framework, in groups of 4 or 5 you will perform textual analysis on an allocated student engagement or volunteer/work programs at UBC to answer the above research question. This will culminate in a 5 minute presentation (max 2 power point slides or 1 page infographic) that outlines your results in week 3. *This is the only activity that is entirely group graded.*

Activity 3: Alumni Interviews (20% - 4 weeks)

In groups of 3-4 you will conduct a semi-structured interview with a UBC Arts alumni. There are three components:

- 1) Each student must complete the TCPS2: Core online research ethics tutorial and submit their certificate (pdf) on Canvas by 23.59 Feb 24th. Unless submitted late this will be graded at 100 and is worth **2%**.
- 2) Each group must submit their availability to conduct an interview and provide the email of the *Alumni Liaison* on Canvas by the end of the meeting on the Feb 26th. If not, there is no guarantee you will be matched with an alumni that fits with your class schedule. Unless submitted late this will be graded 100 and is worth **3%**.
- 3) Once the interview has been conducted, data collated, discussed and analysed as a group, each student will produce a 750 - 1000 word essay on 'What can an alumni's career story tell us about the relationship between education and work?' This is worth the remaining **15%**.

The three activities are designed to develop your sociological imagination, and introduce you to different sociological methods. Your Teaching Assistant (TA) will guide you through the activities, and will be responsible for grading the work. **Further information and instruction on the activities will be provided on Canvas.** Grading will take in to consideration the clarity of your presentation skills and your use of course material from the lectures and the textbook to inform your assignments.

Late Penalty – 5% per day. Assignments will not be accepted if they are more than 10 days late. **Please approach your TA or Neil in person for extension requests unless you are very ill** (see Accommodations).

Assessment Overview & Critical Dates

| | | |
|---|---|------------|
| By Jan 13th | <i>Syllabus Test on Canvas</i> | 5% |
| LECTURES & TEXTBOOK | | 45% |
| Feb 11 th | <i>Mid-Term</i> | 15% |
| Date: TBA | <i>Final Exam</i> | 30% |
| DISCUSSION GROUP ACTIVITIES | | 45% |
| Jan 27 th | <i>Activity 1: My Network</i> | 10% |
| Feb 12 th | <i>Activity 2: Inequality on Campus</i> | 15% |
| Feb 24 th , 26 th & March 31 st | <i>Activity 3: Alumni Interviews</i> | 20% |
| By April 7 th | <i>Learning Evaluation</i> | 5% |

Piazza Discussion Board: Peer to Peer Support

The Piazza platform will be used for class discussion in relation to material and assignments. Other correspondence, such as requesting extensions due to illness for example should be conducted via email (see *Academic Concessions and Professional Communication* below).

Piazza is catered to getting you help fast and efficiently from classmates, TAs, and Neil. Rather than emailing questions to TA's, post your questions on Piazza. Piazza is ideal if you are unable to attend office hours. Your engagement posing and answering questions on the platform will be rewarded in the grading of the Learning Evaluation at the end of the course.

You can sign up here: piazza.com/ubc.ca/winterterm22018/soci102003

The screenshot shows the 'Set Up Your Piazza Account' page. At the top, the 'piazza' logo is in a blue bar. Below it, the heading 'Set Up Your Piazza Account' is followed by a section titled 'Community Features'. Two radio buttons are present: 'Enable community features and publish my profile' (selected) and 'I'll do this later'. A purple circle highlights the 'I'll do this later' option, with a red callout bubble pointing to it that says 'click here'. A red callout bubble on the left side of the page says 'for privacy issues, do not click here.' pointing to the 'Enable community features...' option. Below the radio buttons, a list of benefits is shown under the heading 'You'll get help with:'. A 'Continue' button is at the bottom of the form. On the right side, there is a contact information box: 'Contact us at team@piazza.com with any questions'. The footer contains navigation links for 'About', 'Product', 'Support', and 'Legal', along with social media icons for Facebook and Twitter, and copyright information for 2014 Piazza Technologies.

Physical Office Hours: Weds 2 – 4 pm @ [Learning Lounge in the Chapman Learning Commons](#)

Every Wednesday with Neil and the TAs in the Learning Lounge – located in the Chapman Learning Commons on the 3rd floor of IKB. Please make use of these office hours to discuss course material and assignments, discussion group activities and any other queries. You may also attend office hours if you have [a legitimate grade query](#).

There are also a range of student run programs at UBC that are set up to help you succeed in your studies:

- [Arts Peer Academic Coaches \(APAC\)](#) are upper year students who know what it's like to learn and study in the Faculty of Arts. One-on-one coaching conversations can focus on; *study strategies, prioritizing, walking through an academic task* and provide information on *involvement opportunities on campus*. The coaches are available in the Meekison Arts Student Space ([BUCH D140](#)) Thursdays 12-4 pm.
- [Centre for Writing and Scholarly Communication](#) provide one-to-one writing consultations and are located in the pavilion opposite the Learning Lounge on the 3rd floor of IKB.
- [The Wellness Centre](#) is located in the UBC Life Building ([Room 1400](#)) and can help you lead a healthy and balanced life while at UBC.

Attendance Policy & Group Work

Regular attendance is expected of all students. If you are unavoidably absent because of illness or disability you should report to your instructor/TA on return to classes. Any request for academic concession must be clearly expressed (*see Academic Concessions & Accommodations*). While it is understandable that you may miss the occasional lecture, attendance of the discussion group meetings is obligatory to attain a full grade.

Attendance will be taken at the discussion groups. Absence from the activities will result in grades being docked at 15% per week. For example;

1. A student would receive 60 instead of 75 on Activity 1 if they had missed one of the two sessions
2. A student would be docked 15% from the group Activity 2 grade for missing one week
3. A student would receive 45 instead of 75 for Activity 3 if they missed two weeks¹

Throughout your career at UBC and beyond you will need to work with others to fulfil group tasks and projects. Assessment in this course is based on group output, not individual inputs. **Hence unless certain group members were absent, each group member will receive the same grade on Activity 2.** It is normal that you will work better with some people more than others. Therefore see group work as a learning moment about yourself in regards to how you work best in teams. To promote this learning you will be afforded the opportunity to work with different people across the three activities. However, whoever you work with it is essential that you show up – literally with your attendance and in your engagement during the activities.

Academic Concessions and Accommodations

If for accentuating circumstances you are unable to fulfil course requirements you may seek [academic concession](#). The University accommodates students [with disabilities](#) who have registered with Centre for Accessibility which is based in Brock Hall on East Mall. UBC recognises the religious diversity of the UBC community, if class or assignments conflict with holy days then please inform the instructor in writing at least two weeks in advance.

¹ Non-attendance results in a zero. Groups are excused one absence during Activity 3 to conduct the alumni interview.

Classroom Etiquette & Engagement

Please arrive on time. If you arrive late do not disrupt the class. Sociology is dependent on debate and reflection, thus focus on understanding your own as well as others perspectives. Sometimes students (and TAs and the instructor) will express ideas which aren't necessarily their opinion, but a reflection of thinking through a concept, or even playing devil's advocate. Don't assume what someone says is their opinion or judge them for expressing an idea. Students should feel safe to express and explore ideas without fear of being judged or reprimanded.

During class discussions, when a peer is talking, listen respectfully. If something is expressed that upsets you, then raise this with Neil or your TA so we can follow up appropriately.

Use of laptops; use of laptops in lectures is allowed but will be allocated to certain area of the lecture theatre in respect of the fact what you do in class significantly impacts on others learning and engagement with the course.

Professional Communication

Both I and the TAs are happy to be referred to by first name in class and by email, i.e. Dear Neil or Hello Augustin. Many questions you have can be answered by referring to this syllabus, Canvas or Piazza. First check if the information you require is already available before posting on Piazza. If not, be clear and concise in email communication. **Please include your full name and student number in correspondence with professors and your TA.** I and the TAs generally do not respond to emails on evenings or weekends, and I don't expect you to either!

Academic Integrity & Plagiarism

One can think of there being two sides to Academic Integrity, the **Why** and the **How**.

Why – the core purpose of any university is to question, challenge and produce knowledge, and as a scholar you are at university to learn the scientific method through which this purpose is achieved. The scientific method is collaborative by nature, hence we cite and reference to show the academic community from where our questions arise, and elaborate on the challenges we are making, which in turn legitimates the knowledge we produce. This is so that other scholars may take up the gauntlet and continue to further knowledge.

How – therefore think of citing and referencing as a language through which scholars communicate their process of questioning, challenging and producing knowledge. Learning any new language requires practice, and at times you are going to make mistakes. However, you need to demonstrate a willingness to use and learn this language, otherwise you are undermining the core purpose of the university. This is why academic integrity is important and why plagiarism is taken seriously. There are numerous resources on campus and [online via the Chapman Learning Commons to help you cite and reference correctly.](#)

Copying material from peers is considered plagiarism and comes under UBC's [Academic Misconduct policy.](#)

LECTURE SCHEDULE

| Date | Topic | Required Reading |
|-------------------------------------|---|---------------------|
| The Sociological Imagination | | |
| Jan 2 nd | Introductions | The Syllabus |
| Jan 4 th | Sociological Imagination I | Chapter 1 |
| Jan 7 th | Sociological Imagination II | |
| Jan 9 th | The Society of Individuals I | Chapter 5 |
| Jan 11 th | The Society of Individuals II | |
| Jan 14 th | Review & Activity 1 Overview | Chapter 2 (2.1) |
| Social Inequality | | |
| Jan 16 th | Social Class | Chapter 9 |
| Jan 18 th | Social Status | |
| Jan 21 st | Gender & Sexuality | Chapter 12 |
| Jan 23 rd | Race & Ethnicity | Chapter 11 |
| Jan 25 th | Age | Chapter 13 |
| Jan 28 th | Activity 2 Overview Intersectionality | Chapter 2 (2.2) |
| Jan 30 th | Poverty and Homelessness | Chapter 9 |
| Feb 1 st | Indigenous Foundations | |
| Feb 4 th | Global Inequality | Chapter 10 |
| Feb 6 th | Mid-Term Review & Sample Qs | |
| Feb 8 th | Mid-Term Quiz | <i>Non-assessed</i> |

DISCUSSION GROUP SCHEDULE

| Date | Work |
|---|--|
| Introduction to Your Discussion Group | |
| Jan 8 th | <i>Meet your TA and classmates</i> |
| <i>Complete Syllabus Test on Canvas by 23.59 Jan 13th</i> | |
| Activity 1 – My Network | |
| Jan 15 th | Wk1. Follow Worksheet to construct Network Read section 6.2 in Chapter 6 |
| Jan 22 nd | Wk2. Analyse and compare networks <i>Submit essay on Canvas by 23.59 Jan 27th</i> |
| Activity 2 – Inequality on Campus | |
| Jan 29 th | Wk1. Group Allocation & What is Textual Analysis? |
| Feb 5 th | Wk2. Group Work |

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| Feb 11 th | Mid-Term | 50 mins |
| Feb 13 th | Activity 3 Overview | Chapter 2 (2.3) |
| Feb 15 th | No class – start TCPS: 2 Core online tutorial | |
| Reading Week - Submit TCPSC: Core certificate pdf by 23.59 Feb 24th | | |
| Social Institutions and Change | | |
| Feb 25 th | Institutionalization | |
| Feb 27 th | Family I | Chapter 14 |
| March 1 st | Family II | |
| March 4 th | Education I | Chapter 16 |
| March 6 th | Education II | |
| March 8 th | Economy & Work | Chapter 18 |
| March 11 th | Family & Work | |
| March 13 th | Deviance & Crime I | Chapter 7 |
| March 15 th | Deviance & Crime II | |
| March 18 th | Situational Deviance | |
| March 20 th | Punishment | |
| March 22 nd | The State & Social Policy | Chapter 21 |
| March 25 th | Collective Action | |
| March 27 th | Social Movements | |
| March 29 th | Final Exam Design & Sample Q's | |
| April 1 st | Artificial Intelligence | |
| April 3 rd | Final Exam Review & Quiz | <i>Non-assessed</i> |
| TBA | FINAL EXAM | <i>sit down 90 mins</i> |

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| Feb 12 th | Wk3. 5 minute Presentations Submit group slides/infographic on Feb 12th (1/group) |
| Reading Week | |
| Activity 3 – Alumni Interviews | |
| Feb 26 th | Wk1. Coordinate group availability for Interview Submit Group Availability & Alumni Liaison by end of discussion group meeting on Feb 26th |
| March 5 th | Wk2. Work on Interview Schedule / Protocol / Questions, etc. |
| March 12 th | Wk3. Group Work <i>Reading: Getting A Job – The Strength of Weak Ties</i> |
| March 19 th | Wk4. Discuss and Analyse interview for write-up |
| March 26 th | No meeting Submit Activity 3 essay by 23.59 March 31st |
| April 2 nd | <i>Sample Exam Questions Revision (OPTIONAL)</i> Submit Learning Evaluation pdf by 23.59 April 7th |