

**University of British Columbia
Department of Sociology**

**SOCI 102-102: Inequality and Social Change
Fall 2021 [Term 1]**

Instructor: Dr. Deborah Dergousoff

Office hours: 3:00 – 4:30 Tues by appointment [online option available]

Email: Please use Canvas email only to contact me

Location: UBC Life Building #2201

Course Description:

This course will apply a critical sociological lens to examine some of the social processes and institutions that shape and characterize inequality and social change in Canada today, including: intersections of race/class/gender/sexuality), capitalism, colonialism, activism, and the media. Topics to consider include: how is citizenship defined, negotiated and contested in a country characterized by increasingly diverse cultural and ethnic origins? Whose interests are represented, exploited and/or silenced by the social forces that shape our understandings of inequality and social change? We will explore these questions through case studies and media portrayals to critically examine perspectives on inequality and social change in Canada. Students will come away from this course with a greater appreciation of the diversity that characterizes social life in Canada and a fuller understanding of the relationship between social inequality and social change.

Grading:

All graded assignments in this course must be completed for a final grade to be assigned.

Your final mark in the class will be based on the following:

Midterm exams [2 x 40%]	80%
Tutorial participation	10%
Group presentation/newspaper research	10%

Required Texts:

All readings available in **Canvas Library Reserves**

Students are expected to be familiar with **UBC policy on Academic Standards and Honesty:**

<http://www.calendar.ubc.ca/Vancouver/index.cfm?tree=3,286,0,0> and Student Conduct and Discipline:

<http://www.calendar.ubc.ca/Vancouver/index.cfm?tree=3,54,0,0>

Academic concessions:

<https://www.arts.ubc.ca/degree-planning/academic-performance/academic-concession/>

KEY DATES in Term 1:

September 6:	New to Campus/ 2nd-Year Orientation	September 7: Imagine Day
September 8:	First Day of Classes	
September 20:	Last day to drop without a W standing through SSC	
September 30:	Truth and Reconciliation Day. No classes. UBC closed.	
October 11:	Thanksgiving. No classes. UBC closed.	
October 29:	Last Day to Drop (W standing)	
November 10-12:	Midterm Break. No classes.	
December 7:	Last Day of Classes	
December 11-22:	Final Exams	

COVID-19 Safety: You are required to wear a non-medical mask during our class meetings, for your own protection and the safety and comfort of everyone else in the class. For our in-person meetings in this class, it is important that all of us feel as comfortable as possible engaging in class activities while sharing an indoor space. Non-medical masks that cover our noses and mouths are a primary tool for combating the spread of COVID-19. Further, according to the provincial mandate, masks are required in all indoor public spaces including lobbies, hallways, stairwells, elevators, classrooms and labs. There may be students who have medical accommodations for not wearing a mask. Please maintain a respectful environment.

[UBC Respectful Environment Statement](#)

If you are sick, it is important that you stay home. Complete a self-assessment for COVID-19 symptoms here: <https://bc.thrive.health/covid19/en>. In this class, the marking scheme is intended to provide flexibility so that you can prioritize your health and still succeed.

If you miss class because of illness: Make a connection early in the term to another student or a group of students in the class. You can help each other by sharing notes. If you don't yet know anyone in the class, post on the discussion forum to connect with other students.

- Consult the class resources on Canvas. All lectures are recorded and all course films can be accessed online. Requirements for each week are spelled out in the 'Overview' page of each Module – use this resource to help you determine how best to catch up.
- You may use the option to post in the weekly Discussion if you are unable to attend Tutorial due to sickness [but you must post and respond by Sunday midnight of the Tutorial week] – please be sure to contact your TA to let them know if you are using the option due to illness
- Attend office hours online.
- If you are concerned that you will miss a key activity due to illness, contact the instructor or your TA to discuss.

If you are feeling ill and cannot attend class for a midterm or in-class assessment, please email the instructor in Canvas right away. If you arrive for a test and you are clearly ill, we will make alternate arrangements with you. It is better to email ahead of time and not attend.

If you are feeling ill at the time of a final exam, do not attend the exam. You must apply for deferred standing (an academic concession) through Arts Academic Advising. Students who are granted deferred standing (SD) will write the final exam/assignment at a later date.

If I [or your TA] are feeling ill: If one of us is unwell, we will not come to class. We will make every reasonable attempt to communicate plans for class as soon as possible by email in Canvas. Our classrooms will still be available for you to sit in. If I [we] are well enough to teach, but are taking precautions to avoid infecting others, we may hold the class online. If this happens, you will receive an email in Canvas informing you how to join the class.

WHAT IS SOCIOLOGY?

As a scientific discipline, sociology is centrally concerned about how membership in groups, small and large, shapes human behaviour. Sociology values a particular way of thinking about human experience, what C. Wright Mills referred to as the *sociological imagination*, that is, the ability to see beyond ourselves and instead understand our private troubles from the vantage point of current events and our social location in the world. Using this perspective, sociologists aim to highlight the important differences between groups with regards to access to power and other resources, and reveal the extent to which our experiences, opportunities and constraints are shared with others. By doing so, sociology stresses empathy and tolerance, values of ever-increasing importance in our rapidly changing world.

The basic concern of sociology is to understand how the collective (the social group) influences and shapes human experiences across a variety of social contexts. This focus on the collective and social contexts is what separates sociological inquiry from other social science disciplines, such as psychology and political science. SOCI 102 will focus on issues of crucial importance to understanding inequality and social change. The challenge for you is to learn to see everyday issues and events related to these from a *sociological perspective*.

Some notes on attendance, classroom, and e-mail etiquette:

1. I organize the course material and exams with the assumption that you have attended all the classes (or at least listened to all recorded lectures and watched course films). Do not count on succeeding in this course if you are not prepared to do the readings and regularly access posted resources. If you miss a class, ask a classmate for the notes and information.
2. **When writing emails to the instructor or the TAs, please keep the following in mind:**
1) **submit using Canvas email only**, 2) include a description in the subject line, 2) include a respectful greeting [hey Debbie! is not among these], 3) identify yourself at the end of the message using your first **and** last name [there are 260 students in this class – including student# is not necessary], 4) it never hurts to be polite!

DATE	TOPIC	READINGS	ASSIGNMENTS
Unit 1: Perspectives on Social Inequality in Canadian Society			
Sept 9	Week 1: Orientation Week		No class this week – use this time to orient to course Canvas and to listen to the lecture for Week 2 posted in Canvas
Sept 14 & 16	Week 2: Social Inequality Objectives: To review course objectives, expectations and requirements; to introduce issues in establishing Canadian national identity; to discuss issues of social class and marginalization	Cormack (2008) . ‘True stories’ of Canada: Tim Hortons and the branding of national identity, <i>Cultural Sociology</i> , 2(3), 369 -384 Fischer, Vojtila & Rehm (2018) . The ‘fentanyl epidemic’ in Canada: Some cautionary observations focusing on opioid-related mortality. <i>Preventive Medicine</i> , 107, 109-113	In-class meeting on Tues Listen to lecture/watch film for Week 3 class on Thursday No Discussion Groups this week
Sept 21 & 23	Week 3: Colonialism and Citizenship Objectives: to examine how colonialism comes to bear on perceptions of citizenship and multiculturalism	Leroux (2014) . Entrenching Euro-settlerism: Multiculturalism and the politics of nationalism in Quebec. <i>Canadian Ethnic Studies</i> , 46(2), 133-139 Kanji (2017) . Of terrorism and barbarism: Orientalism and settler colonialism in Canadian discourses of citizenship. Pp.232-258 in <i>Unsettling colonial modernity in Islamicate contexts</i> , edited by S. Saffari, R. Akhabari, K. Abdolmaleki & E. Hamdon. Newcastle upon Tyne, UK: Cambridge Scholars Publishing	Tues - In-class meeting on Tues Thurs - Listen to lecture/watch film for Week 4 [next week’s class] Discussion Groups #1
Sept 28 No class on Sept 30 – T & R Day	Week 4: Education Objectives: to examine education as a medium for social change	Smith & Payne (2016) . Binaries and biology: Conversations with elementary education professionals after Professional Development on supporting transgender students <i>The Educational Forum</i> 80, 34-47	Tues - No in-class meeting this week – Listen to lecture/watch film for Week 5 on Tues Discussion Groups #2 – Sign up for media presentation groups
Oct 5 & 7	Week 5: Gender Relations Objectives: to examine social inequality in the context of gender, gender relations, and gender violence	Allain (2008) . “Real fast and tough”: The construction of Canadian hockey masculinity, <i>Sociology of Sport Journal</i> 38, 462-481 DeKeseredy & Dragiewicz (2014) . Woman abuse in Canada: Sociological reflections on the past, suggestions for the future, <i>Violence Against Women</i> , 20(2), 228-244	Tues - In-class meeting Thurs - Listen to lecture/watch film for Week 6 class Discussion Groups #3 – Media presentations #1
Oct 12 & 14	Week 6: Ethnicity and Race Objectives: to explore issues of inequality related to diversity, ethnicity and race	Paragg (2015) . “Canadian first”: Mixed race self-identification and Canadian belonging, <i>Canadian Ethnic Studies</i> , 47(2), 21-44 Fyfe (2014) . News and the social construction of risky girls, <i>Girlhood Studies</i> , 7(1), 46-64	Tues - In-class meeting Thurs – Midterm review Discussion Groups #4 – Media presentations #2

Oct 19 & 21	MIDTERM #1	No Discussion Groups this week	Tues – Midterm - In-class exam written in Canvas Thurs - Listen to lecture/watch film for Week 8
Unit 2: Social Policy and Social Change			
Oct 26 & 28	Week 8: Families Objectives: to examine inequality in family life and family policy	Little (2012). Just another neoliberal worker: Tracing the state's treatment of low-income mothers. <i>International Journal of Sociology of the Family</i> , 38(1), 1-17 Muir & Bohr (2014). Contemporary practice of traditional child rearing. <i>First Peoples Child and Family Review</i> 9(1):66-79	Tues - In-class meeting Thurs - Listen to lecture/watch film for Week 9 Discussion Groups #5 – Media group presentations #3
Nov 2 & 4	Week 9: Health and Health Care Objectives: to examine conceptualizations of health and illness and their implications for health policy in Canada	Braedley (2012). The masculinization effect: Neoliberalism, the medical paradigm and Ontario's health care policy, <i>Canadian Woman Studies</i> , 29(3), 71-83 Moynihan et.al. (2020) COVID-19: An opportunity to reduce unnecessary healthcare. <i>BMJ</i> 2020; 370:M2752	Tues - In-class meeting Thurs - Listen to lecture/watch film for Week 11 Discussion Groups #6 Media group presentations #4
Nov 9 & 11	Week 10: Catch up week	Your TAs and I will be available for Zoom meetings between 5:00-6:30 on Tuesday [subject to change to in-class meeting as required to catch up any missed content in prior weeks]	No class Nov 11 – midterm break No Discussion Groups this week
Nov 16 & 18	Week 11: Environmental Concerns Objectives: to examine perspectives on the environment and climate change and their implications for social change	Westman & Joly (2019). Oil sands extraction in Alberta, Canada: A review of impacts and processes concerning Indigenous peoples <i>Human Ecology</i> 47(2):233-243 Cunsolo & Ellis (2018). Ecological grief as a mental health response to climate change-related loss <i>Nature Climate Change</i> 8, 275-281	Tues - In-class meeting Thurs - Listen to lecture/watch film for Week 12 Discussion Groups #7 - Media group presentations #5
Nov 23 & 25	Week 12: Surveillance and Dissent Objectives: to examine policing of social dissent and implications for social change efforts in Canada	Lafrance & Sears (2016). "Infrastructure of dissent: The case of the Quebec student movement," pp.159-175 in <i>A World to Win: Contemporary Social Movements & Counter-Hegemony</i> , edited by William Carroll and Kanchan Sarkar. Winnipeg, ARP Books	Tues - In-class meeting Thurs – catch up day – use class time this week to catch up any missed readings/lectures Discussion Groups #8 – Media group presentations #6
Nov 30 & Dec 2	Week 13: Midterm Exam Prep and Review	Midterm exam review	Tues - In-class meeting – Midterm Review Thurs – Midterm review [online if required] No Tutorial Meetings this week
Dec 7	Week 14: MIDTERM #2		Midterm#2 In-class exam

UBC Grading Scale:

Percentage (%)	Letter Grade
90-100	A+
85-89	A
80-84	A-
76-79	B+
72-75	B
68-71	B-
64-67	C+
60-63	C
55-59	C-
50-54	D
0-49	F (Fail)