

## **SOCIOLOGY I: AN INTRODUCTION**

### **Course Outline**

Course Number: SOCI104

This course is intended to introduce students to the field of sociology and its insights into contemporary society. A primary focus throughout the course will be to help students develop the conceptual tools to understand the relationship between their individual experiences/actions, and the larger context in which individuals live. This makes it possible to see ourselves not just as isolated individuals, but as social actors who are shaped by - and help to shape - the world we live in. In addition to core concepts such as culture, socialization, deviance and social structure, topics of examination will include institutions of society, including the family, education and religion. Finally, we will turn our attention to social inequality and social change. Students will learn through a variety of techniques and media including lectures, videos, discussions, group work and hands-on research.

### **Learning Sequence:**

Wks/Hrs Units	Topics, Resources, Learning Activities	Assessment
Week 1  UNIT 1: FOUNDATIONS	Introduction to sociology and course overview. What is sociology?	
Week 2	The sociological imagination: history and competing perspectives Brym, Ch. 1 (3-26)	
Week 3	Doing sociology: research methods. Brym, Ch. 2	
Week 4	Introduction to culture Brym, Ch. 3 Horace Miner, "Body Ritual Among the Nacirema"	Case Study #1
Week 5	Socialization: becoming human Brym, Ch. 4	
Week 6	Foundations: a recapitulation and review C. Wright Mills, "The Promise" Emile Durkheim, "Precontractual Solidarity" (photocopied readings)	Test #1
Week 7	Sex, gender and sexuality Brym, Ch. 5 Deborah Tannen, "Sex, Lies and Conversation" (photocopied reading)	Case Study #2

Week 8 Independent Study Week		
Week 9  UNIT 2: SOCIAL INEQUALITY AND SOCIAL INSTITUTIONS	Introduction to social stratification Brym, Ch. 8 Richard Lewontin, "Biology as Ideology" Karl Marx, "Alienated Labour" (photocopied readings)	
Week 10	Sex, gender and inequality Brym, Ch. 9	
Week 11	Race and ethnicity Brym, Ch. 10	Case Study #3
Week 12	Families and sociological perspectives Brym, Ch. 12 Claude Levi-Strauss, "The Family" (excerpt)	
Week 13	Work and occupations Brym, Ch. 13 Eric Schlosser, "Fast Food Nation" (photocopied excerpt)	Research Paper
Week 14	Education Brym, Ch. 14	Test #2
Week 15	Wrap-up and final meeting	

### Learning Resources:

Brym, Robert J. (2004). *New Society: Sociology for the 21st Century*. Fourth Edition. Toronto, Thomson Nelson.

Other listed readings will be available on reserve and/or online.

### Assessment Plan:

Item/Date:	Percent:	Description:
Test #1	20	Short answer and multiple choice test
Test #2	30	Essay answer and multiple choice test
Case Study #1	10	Short written report
Case Study #2	10	Short written report
Case Study	10	Short written report

#3		
Research Paper	20	Research paper using documented sources