



**Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences
Centre for Initiatives in Education**

The Strange World We Live In: Introduction to Social Sciences
FYSM 1900 B (1.0 Credit) Fall/Winter

Instructor: Rodney Nelson
Email: rodney.nelson@carleton.ca
Office Hours: Tuesday 3-4 pm 1523 DT or by appointment
Class Time: Tuesday, 11:35 pm - 2:25 pm
Location: Residence Common Room 213
Mentors: Sabrina Allam sabrina_allam@carleton.ca
Matthew Barnes matbarnes@cmail.carleton.ca

Course description:

The purpose of the course is to introduce you to the concepts found in the social sciences (Anthropology, Sociology, Communications, Geography and Psychology). We will explore human behaviour and culture from both an individual and group perspective including our everyday social interaction with others around us. Have you ever wondered why we act the way we do? Why do we all face the door in an elevator? Why do we shake hand when we meet someone? You will be asked to become an observer in your world to understand social behaviours. This will help you understand your own behaviours and actions as a member of society. The course will also explore cultures around the world and their ever changing social conditions. Are we all different or do we share more in common than we think? Prepare to take a journey of exploration and discovery into the strange world of human interaction.

The goal of this course is to appreciate the diverseness of the social sciences and the human condition. It will help you develop the ability to think critically about your own experiences and culture. The course will challenge your way of thinking about yourself and others and enable you to reflect on human behaviours and culture.

Prerequisites: There are no prerequisites for this course other than having an open mind and being respectful of cultural diversity and practices.

Required Text: Course readings will be discussed the first day of class. Material will be available on cuLearn.

You are responsible for completing your readings each week. The lectures will cover material from the required text and also from each week's readings. You will have an opportunity to discuss each week's readings in class.

Participation: Your regular attendance and active participation are of central importance to this course. I hope to provide you with both a fun and satisfying educational experience.

Course Requirements and Assignments

You must complete all assignments, essays, and exams to pass this course. If for some reason you cannot complete the work required please see me immediately or contact the registrar's office for deferrals. Please don't leave things to the last minute if you are struggling to make deadlines, I can help.

1. You must be prepared, by having done required readings, and willing to participate and explore various issues from the text and lectures. Active participation and attendance will contribute to your overall participation grade. **Attendance and participation count for 20% of your grade. This includes mandatory meetings with a writing coach and with library subject expert (Martha Attridge Bufton).**

Your university experience is more than just books. Active participation in discussions allows you to apply the knowledge gained, recognize important concepts and critique them.

2. There are two **field work assignments**. The first assignment will be to observe, or participate in, a particular social or cultural event. You will be required to produce a journal of 2-3 pages on what you have observed or experienced (**due Oct. 8**). The second field assignment will require you to conduct an extended interview (30-45 minutes) with someone from an ethnic background or social group different from your own. Your interview can be related to your research topic/essay. You will submit a journal entry of 2-3 pages on what you discussed in your interview (**Due March 9**). **Late assignments will result in a 5% deduction per day. Be sure to keep copies of your work. Assignments are 20% of your overall grade.**

These assignments are designed to allow you to explore and interpret knowledge gained from various sources and integrate this knowledge into your writing. You will also be exposed to how information (data) can be biased by the source it came from.

3. You have several writing assignments which will be used towards your final paper due **March 25th**. The first assignment is an essay proposal (**due Nov 5**) on a topic related to our class. The second assignment is to create a Bibliography (**Due Dec 3**) for your final paper. **Late assignments will result in a 5% deduction per day. Be sure to keep copies of your work. Assignments are 20% of your overall grade.**

Writing in university is a skill that has to be developed over time. These assignments are designed to help you develop your writing skills to build a solid paper. During this process you will be determining what relevant data is and where to find it.

4. You will be part of a **presentation** seminar. Each student will make a brief presentation. Participation in these workshops (including a grade on your presentation) will be worth **10% of your final mark.**

Presenting research and talking in front of people is probably one of the scariest things to do. This assignment will help you overcome fears and gain tools to help you present.

5. There is an essay that you will have worked on throughout the year. It is due the last day of class in the winter term **March 25th In Class**. **The essay is worth 20% of your final grade.**

NOTE: NO ASSIGNMENTS WILL BE ACCEPTED BY EMAIL OR OTHER ELECTRONIC MEANS.

Please keep hard copies of your work in case of the loss of your assignments or essay.

Late assignments will be deducted 5% per day unless a just cause can be demonstrated and supported with proper documentation. Final submission of assignments is governed by the deadlines imposed by the University. All assignments are due no later than the deadlines set by the University Senate for each semester. Instructors are not allowed to grant extensions beyond these dates. Students who cannot meet these deadlines must request a deferral from the Registrar's Office. For more information about deferral procedures and applications, please visit the [Registrar's Office](#) in person or online.

Assignment of Grades

All grades assigned by the Instructor are provisional grades. Final grades are released by the Registrar. Grades will be assigned according to the *Undergraduate Calendar* (see General Regulations, Academic Standing and Conduct).

Fall Grade Breakdown

	% of Final Grade
a. Participation	20%
b. Observation Assignment	20%
c. Presentation	10%
d. Fall Essay Proposal	25%
e. Fall Bibliography Assignment	25%
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TOTAL	100% (50% of overall years grade)

Winter Grade Breakdown

	% of Final Grade
f. Participation	20%
g. Interview Assignment	20%
h. Winter Writing Assignments (2)	30%
i. Fall Final Essay	30%
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TOTAL	100% (50% of overall years grade)

Course Requirements & Methods of Evaluation:

In accordance with the Carleton University Undergraduate Calendar (pg. 45), the letter grades assigned in this course will have the following percentage equivalents:

A+ = 90-100	B+ = 77-79	C+ = 67-69	D+ = 57-59
A = 85-89	B = 73-76	C = 63-66	D = 53-56
A - = 80-84	B - = 70-72	C - = 60-62	D - = 50-52
F = Below 50			

WDN = Withdrawn from the course ABS = Student absent from final exam DEF = Deferred (See above)
FND = (Failed, no Deferred) = Student could not pass the course even with 100% on final exam

Academic Regulations, Accommodations, Plagiarism, Etc.

University rules regarding registration, withdrawal, appealing marks, and most anything else you might need to know can be found on the university's website:

<http://www.carleton.ca/cu0708uc/regulations/acadregsuniv.html>

Requests for Academic Accommodations

You may need special arrangements to meet your academic obligations during the term. For an accommodation request the processes are as follows:

For Pregnancy:

Write to me with any requests for academic accommodation during the first two weeks of class, or as soon as possible after the need for accommodation is known to exist. For more details visit the Equity Services website: <http://www2.carleton.ca/equity/>

Academic Accommodations for Students with Disabilities:

The Paul Menton Centre for Students with Disabilities (PMC) provides services to students with Learning Disabilities (LD), psychiatric/mental health disabilities, Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD), Autism Spectrum Disorders (ASD), chronic medical conditions, and impairments in mobility, hearing, and vision. If you have a disability requiring academic accommodations in this course, please contact PMC at 613-520-6608 or pmc@carleton.ca for a formal evaluation. If you are already registered with the PMC, contact your PMC coordinator to send me your Letter of Accommodation at the beginning of the term, and no later than two weeks before the first in-class scheduled test or exam requiring accommodation (if applicable). After requesting accommodation from PMC, meet with me to ensure accommodation arrangements are made. Please consult the PMC website for the deadline to request accommodations for the formally-scheduled exam (if applicable) at:

<http://www2.carleton.ca/pmc/new-and-current-students/dates-and-deadlines/>

For Religious Obligations:

Write to me with any requests for academic accommodation during the first two weeks of class, or as soon as possible after the need for accommodation is known to exist. For more details visit the Equity Services website: <http://www2.carleton.ca/equity/>

You can visit the Equity Services website to view the policies and to obtain more detailed information on academic accommodation at <http://www2.carleton.ca/equity/>

Plagiarism:

Plagiarism is the passing off of someone else's work as your own and is a serious academic offence. Academic Integrity/Plagiarism is an instructional offence that will be dealt with by the Dean's office. Students who are found to be cheating on tests/exams, or handing in work which is not their own will be given a grade of zero along with notification to the Dean.

What are the Penalties for Plagiarism?

A student found to have plagiarized an assignment may be subject sanctions that may include but are not limited to completion of a remediation process, a written reprimand, assignment of a failing grade, withdrawal from a course, suspension from a program, suspension or expulsion from the university. Sanctions may be used independently or in combination for any single

violation. This list is not exhaustive and intended only as a guide. For a complete description of possible sanctions, consult Section IX, Sanctions, of the *Carleton University Academic Integrity Policy*, available at: <http://www1.carleton.ca/studentaffairs/academic-integrity/>

What are the Procedures?

All allegations of plagiarism are reported to the faculty of Dean of FASS and Management. Instructors, advisors and/or supervisors must report all suspected cases of violation of the *Academic Integrity Policy* to the Faculty Dean. Details of the procedures to be followed in the event of a suspected violation can be found in Section VII, Procedures, of the *Carleton University Academic Integrity Policy* at <http://www1.carleton.ca/studentaffairs/academic-integrity/>

Please consult the 2013-14 Undergraduate Calendar for the regulations for Academic Integrity (subsection 14). Or check it on-line at:
<http://calendar.carleton.ca/undergrad/regulations/academicregulationsoftheuniversity/acadregsuniv14/>

Assistance for Students:

Student Academic Success Centre (SASC): www.carleton.ca/sasc

Writing Tutorial Services: www.carleton.ca/wts

Peer Assisted Study Sessions (PASS): www.carleton.ca/sasc/pass_home/index.html

Important Information:

- Students must always retain a hard copy of all work that is submitted.
- All final grades are subject to the Dean's approval.
- Please note that you will be able to link your MyCarleton account email to other non-Carleton accounts and receive emails from us. However, for us to respond to your emails, we need to see your full name, CU ID, and the email must be written from your valid MyCarleton account email address. Therefore, it would be easier to respond to your inquiries if you would send all email from your connect account. If you do not have or have yet to activate this account, you may wish to do so by visiting <http://www5.carleton.ca/portal/>

FYSM 1900 B
The Strange World We Live In: Introduction to Social Sciences
Preliminary Schedule

(Text in Blue Italics are developmental workshops)

1. September 10: 1) "Welcoming" Introduction to the Course
2) Tipi Teaching
2. September 17: 1) What the heck is Anthropology?
2) *Intro to key services with ESP/AESP*
3. September 24: 1) The Wacky World of Culture?
2) *Editing your work simplified*
4. October 1: 1) Bizarre or not? Exploring cultures.
2) *Great Lecture: Introduction to Library services*
Martha Attridge Bufton 613-520-2600 ext 2985
martha_attridge_bufton@carleton.ca
5. October 8: 1) Myth, Magic, Ritual and Arts
2) *Facilitation and presentation techniques*
**** First Assignment is Due (Observation)****
6. October 15: 1) The Sociological Imagination.
2) **Mini Presentations**
7. October 22: 1) "What did you just call me?" Social Stratification and the Search for Order
2) **Mini Presentations**
8. Oct 28th – Nov 1st **Fall Break– No scheduled class**
9. November 5: 1) Science Fiction and Social Sciences
2) **Mini Presentations**
**** Fall Essay Proposal due ****
10. November 12: 2) **Mini Presentations**
2) *Review of Degree Options*
11. November 19: 1) Modern Madness and Taboo Subjects
2) **Mini Presentations**
12. November 26: 1) Are you really a Goth? Exploring Subcultures
13. December 3: 1) Holidays and the division of Labour
2) *Techniques for taking an Exam*
**** Fall Bibliography Assignment due ****

14. January 7: The Stereotypical lecture. Again!
15. January 14: 1) Stranger in a Strange Land experiencing Culture Shock.
2) *Application to degree and your GPA*
16. January 21: The Bucket List "Cultural and geographical must see places"
1) *Career services workshop*
*** *First Writing Assignment is due* ***
17. January 28 1) Aboriginal people in Canada
2) *Beginning your research*
18. February 4: 1) Guest Lecture: TBD
2) *Critical thinking and questioning why in research*
19. February 11: 1) Ethical research and our own values.
2) *Doing research: methodology and techniques*
*** *Second Writing Assignment is due* ***
20. February 17-21: No Classes - Winter Break– No scheduled class
21. February 25: 1) Space, Place and Identity
Guest Lecture: Paul Williams (tentative)
2) *Critical writing for the social sciences*
22. March 4: 1) Communicate this! Language and communications.
2) *Transition to a degree.*
23. March 11: 1)     ?
2) *The art of writing for your audience*
24. March 18: 1) Get out of my space! The silent language.
25. March 25: Exploring Artistic Creations in the Social Sciences
Guest Lecture: Jennifer Gilbert
2) *Careers in Social Science*
*** **Final Paper due** ***
26. April 1: End of creativity: Exploring Society and Control.
27. April 8: Pot luck and celebration