



**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/Win

**Professor:** Rodney Nelson      **Email:** [rodney.nelson@carleton.ca](mailto: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:** Building: **Paterson Hall, Room: 215**  
**Mentors:** Alexander Hodgins - [alexander.hodgins@carleton.ca](mailto:alexander.hodgins@carleton.ca)  
Maryam Eid - [maryameid@cmail.carleton.ca](mailto:maryameid@cmail.carleton.ca)  
**Writing Coach:** Alison Boucher - [alisonboucher@cmail.carleton.ca](mailto:alisonboucher@cmail.carleton.ca)  
**Academic Advisor:** Stephanie Wager - [Stephanie.Wagar@carleton.ca](mailto:Stephanie.Wagar@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.

**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.

### **Fall Term**

#### **1. Attendance and Participation: 20% of your Fall term grade**

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. **This includes mandatory meetings with a coach and our library subject expert.**

10% - Class Attendance

5% - Meeting with Alison Boucher or another coach

5% - Meeting with Martha Attridge Bufton

*Your university experience is more than just books. Active participation in discussions allows you to apply the knowledge you know and have gained while recognizing important concepts as well as critique them.*

#### **2. Fall Writing Assignment: 5% of your Fall term grade**

This assignment will be given on the first day of class. It is a short written assignment designed to get you used to reading and writing at university.

#### **3. Observational field work assignment: 30% of your Fall term grade**

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 4-5 pages on what you have observed and experienced. Details will be posted on CULearn

#### **4. Presentations: 15% of your Fall term grade**

There will be a discussion of the presentation that all must participate in. More details will be posted on cuLearn.

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

#### **5. Exam : 30% of your Fall term grade**

Exams are common in university. Often they are multiple choice, short answers or essay questions. This exam is not out to trick you but help you understand what is expected of university level exams. The exam will be scheduled by the university and posted online.

## Winter Term

**6. Attendance and Participation: 20% of your winter term grade.**

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. **This includes mandatory meetings with a coach and our library subject expert.**

10% - Class Attendance

5% - Meeting with Alison Boucher or another coach

5% - Meeting with Martha Attridge Bufton

**7. Winter Writing Assignment: 5% of your winter term grade.**

This assignment will be given on the first day of winter term class. It is a short written assignment designed to get you used to reading and writing at university.

**8. Essay Proposal: 10% of your winter term grade**

This assignment is to develop a proposal for your research essay that you will write in the winter term. Details will be posted on CULearn

**9. Interview assignment: 25% of your winter term grade.**

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 4-5 pages on what you discussed in your interview. Details will be posted on CULearn.

**10. Final essay: This assignment is worth 40% of your winter term grade.**

There is a final essay that you will have worked on throughout the year. It is due In Class.

*All 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. Writing in university is also 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.*

**NOTE: NO ASSIGNMENTS WILL BE ACCEPTED BY EMAIL UNLESS YOU  
ARRANGE IT WITH ME FIRST.**

**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. Fall Writing Assignment	5%
c. Observation Assignment	30%
d. Presentation	15%
e. Exam	30%
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TOTAL	100% (50% of overall years grade)

**Winter Grade Breakdown**

	% of Final Grade
f. Participation	20%
g. Fall Writing Assignment	5%
h. Essay Proposal	10%
i. Interview Assignment	25%
j. Fall Final Essay	40%
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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](mailto: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/>

### **Important Information:**

1. Students must always retain a hard copy of all work that is submitted.
2. All final grades are subject to the Dean's approval.
3. 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/>

## **Student Services & Resources in the Enriched Support Program (Available to you)**

**Peer mentoring:** Peer mentors are former ESP students who attend every First Year Seminar. They are here to help orient you to campus, connect with campus activities and resources, organize community events and they will always be around for a chat. Your mentors this year are Matt (MJ) and Lisa Kay.

**Workshops:** You will have weekly 3-hour workshops based on your two elective courses; attendance is mandatory.

Experienced facilitators who have taken the courses before help you excel with the course material in your elective courses! It's like a study group, but with expert organization - bring your notes from class and your readings and be prepared to work with other students.

**Academic coaching:** Sign up for one-on-one meetings setting and tracking academic deadlines; managing time and juggling priorities; getting help with specific readings and assignments for ANY of your courses. Attending coaching sessions will get you bonus marks in this course! One coach will be assigned to our class, however you can work with any of the coaches.

**Advising:** See an advisor for planning ahead into next year and dealing with administrative tasks this year; what averages you need for specific programs, what to do if you have a family emergency or serious illness, how to calculate your grade point average, making sure you have the right prerequisites, help with registering or withdrawing from courses, etc. Your advisors are: Susan Burhoe, Rachelle Thibodeau, Al Blunt.

Coaching and Advising appointments can be booked online at: [www.carleton.ca/esp](http://www.carleton.ca/esp)

### **Assistance for Students:**

- Student Academic Success Centre (SASC): [www.carleton.ca/sasc](http://www.carleton.ca/sasc)
- Writing Tutorial Services: [www.carleton.ca/wts](http://www.carleton.ca/wts)
- Peer Assisted Study Sessions (PASS): [www.carleton.ca/sasc/pass\\_home/index.html](http://www.carleton.ca/sasc/pass_home/index.html)

## FYSM 1900 B

### The Strange World We Live In: Introduction to Social Sciences Preliminary Schedule

(Text in Blue Italics are developmental workshops)

- September 9:           1) "Welcoming" Introduction to the Course  
                              2) Tipi Teaching
- September 16:         1) What the heck is Anthropology?  
                              2) *Intro to key services with ESP/AESP*  
                              \*\*\* *Writing Assignment is due* \*\*\*
- September 23:         1) The Wacky World of Culture?  
                              2) *Editing your work simplified*
- September 30:         1) Bizarre or not? Exploring cultures.  
                              2) *Introduction to Library services with Martha*
- October 7:             1) Myth, Magic, Ritual and Arts  
                              2) *Facilitation and presentation techniques*  
                              \*\*\* *Observation Assignment is Due (Field Work)*\*\*\*
- October 14:            1) The Sociological Imagination.  
                              2) **Mini Presentations**
- October 21:            1) "What did you just call me?"  
                              Social Stratification and the Search for Order  
                              2) **Mini Presentations**
- Oct 27th – 31st        Fall Break– No scheduled class
- November 4:           1) Science Fiction and Social Sciences  
                              2) **Mini Presentations**
- November 11:         2) **Mini Presentations**  
                              2) *Review of Degree Options*
- November 18:         1) Taboo Subjects  
                              2) **Mini Presentations**
- November 25:         1) Are you really a Goth? Exploring Subcultures  
                              2) *Study techniques with the mentors*
- December 2:           1) Exam review and Pot luck!  
                              2) *Techniques for taking an Exam*

\*\*\* *EXAM - time and place will be scheduled by the university* \*\*\*

- January 6:** The Bucket List "Cultural and geographical must see places"
- January 13:** 1) The Stereotypical lecture. Again!  
2) *Application to degree and your GPA*  
\*\*\* *First Writing Assignment is due* \*\*\*
- January 20:** 1) Stranger in a Strange Land experiencing Culture Shock.  
2) *Beginning your research*
- January 27** 1) Aboriginal people in Canada  
\*\*\* *Fall Essay Proposal due* \*\*\*
- February 3:** 1) International Indigenous Struggles  
2) *Writing Workshop with your friendly neighborhood coach*
- February 10:** 1) Guest Lecture: TBD  
2) *Doing research: methodology and techniques*  
\*\*\* *Second Writing Assignment is due* \*\*\*
- February 16-20:** No Classes - Winter Break– No scheduled class
- February 24:** 1) Space, Place and Identity Guest Lecture: Paul Williams (tentative)  
2) *Critical writing for the social sciences*
- March 3:** 1) Communicate this! Language and communications.  
2) *Transition to a degree.*
- March 10:** 1)     ?  
2) *The art of writing for your audience*
- March 17:** 1) Get out of my space! The silent language.  
\*\*\* *Final Paper due* \*\*\*
- March 24:** Artistic Creations in the Social Sciences Guest Lecture: Jen Gilbert  
2) *Career services workshop*
- March 21:** End of creativity: Exploring Society and Control.
- April 7:** 1) Conspiracy?? Maybe!  
2) *Pot luck and celebration*