

SOCI 1001A Introduction to Sociology I

Instructor	Dr. George Pollard
Term	Spring 2025
Course Delivery	Online
Email Address	GeorgePollard@cunet.carleton.ca

COURSE DESCRIPTION

SOCI 1001A introduces the familiar, if invisible, ideas and structures that form culture and society. These ideas and structures form, in large part, who you are and what you do, when, where, why, how and with whom. The course goal is to improve your awareness and understanding of social life and society.

Here are a few examples of what Sociology can help you understand. Why women earn almost 82 cents for every dollar earned by men doing the very same work. The script for buying a coffee at *Starbucks*. Why substance abuse is worse in British Columbia than in Newfoundland. Why social rank affects life expectancy and encourages serial killers. Yikes! Why some people believe Paul McCartney died in a car accident in June 1965; a prominent fast-food chain serves fried rodents and the *Candyman* is real. Why we date or marry people who are more like than unlike us; opposites attract, but not for long. Why hook-handed murderers have an important role in courtship. Why traffic lights are red, amber and green.

Course focus is on how theory, well formulated ideas and methods can help give you a fuller and better understanding of social life. The approach is simple: only you can teach yourself sociology, but you can learn to see the world as does a sociologist. This is a scary thought! To do this, you must attend lectures, read and think. Mostly, you need to learn to think of course content and social life.

EVALUATION

A brief test based exclusively on the lectures from 2:35 pm to 9 pm on 27 May 2025; there is no need to introduce extra material. This test is worth 10% of your final grade. You will find the test on Brightspace. You will send your completed exam via Brightspace.

Final exam will distribute on last day of class. The exam will be due at the end of the day on 26 June 2025, per the Calendar. You will find the examination on Brightspace. You will send us your completed exam via Brightspace.

TEXT

Robert Brym (2022) offers the main course readings. Scott (2014) gives you formal definitions and brief explications of core sociological ideas to help you form, define and develop an understanding of the ideas, theories and themes discussed in the readings and lectures.

Examination questions may be based on readings, lectures or both. Be prepared. Do the readings. Attend the lectures. Most important, think of course material.