Instructor/Contact details

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Course Description:
This course seeks to encourage students to think broadly and critically about the structural and personal dimensions of self and identity. We begin by surveying some of the major sociological perspectives on self and identity and go on by examining commonplace assumptions on how humans interact with one another. Using a series of case studies, we also consider a range of social factors that mediate the process of identity formation, including gender, social class, culture, and education.

Course Objectives:
The learning objectives are: (1) to gain a broad understanding of the reciprocal relationship between the self and society and how people’s views of themselves develop in relation to aspects of social structure; (2) to become familiar with key sociological concepts and debates concerning the nature of self and identity in contemporary society; and (3) to develop new insights into the self as social construction.

Course Pre/Co-requisites:
There are no pre-requisites for SOCI 204. Students from outside Sociology and/or the Faculty of Social Science are encouraged to consider taking this course.

1 This online outline is only intended to give an overall and approximate sense of the course. Detailed course outlines will be made available for all registered students on the first day of class. Only those outlines are to be considered official.
Required Textbook/Readings:
Required readings include journal articles assigned for each week of the course. The readings will be listed in the syllabus and available on Brightspace. It is crucial to do the readings at the beginning of each week so as to keep up with the material covered in the lectures.

The following textbook is also required: Jacobsen, M.H. (2017). *The interactionist imagination: Studying meaning, situation and micro-social order*. London: Palgrave Macmillan. The textbook is available online from the McPherson library. It is downloadable as a PDF file.

Format:

SOCl 204 will be taught online using Brightspace, Zoom, and Kaltura. Brightspace is U Vic’s new primary Learning Management Tool and it will serve as our ‘home site’ for all course content, i.e., lecture links, videos, outlines, announcements, grades. Zoom is a video conferencing tool which we will use for synchronous office hours. Kaltura is video hosting platform where the lectures will be stored. Kaltura is accessible through Brightspace.

*Lectures, Instructional Videos, PowerPoint slides, and YouTube clips.* Pre-recorded (asynchronous) lecture video clips will be posted on Brightspace each week. The clips will typically be 10-15 minutes in length. You will need to log onto the course’s Brightspace site, go to the week we are studying and click the appropriate video. The lectures will cover course material, including theoretical perspectives on self and identity, and explain aspects of the assigned readings for the week. The lecture will also include PowerPoint slides that underline and complement the lectures. In addition, students will be provided links to relevant YouTube clips.

*Weekly Discussion Forums.* After completing the assigned readings and watching the lecture videos, students can post questions on the weekly discussion forum on Brightspace. Students are encouraged to answer or respond to each other’s questions/posts. All posts/discussions will be saved and available for viewing throughout the semester.

*Office Hours.* Synchronous (live) office hours will be held on Zoom based on the content of weekly forums. The intent of the office hours is for students to ask questions on the readings and lectures. Students unable to join synchronously due to time zones differences can email any questions they have to the TA and/or the instructor.

Evaluation

3 online quizzes (60%)

Students will complete 4 online quizzes each worth 20%. The quizzes will have short essay questions designed to test knowledge from the textbook, readings on Brightspace, and lecture material (incl. videos and guest lectures). A set amount of time will be allocated for completion of the quizzes and students will need to complete the quizzes in the allocated timeframe.

1 essay assignment (40%)

The written assignment consists of a 10 double-spaced typed pages essay worth 40% of the total course grade. The assignment must be referenced using APA style. Information about the APA style is available from the UVic library website. Details on the assignment will be uploaded on Brightspace.