

Sociology of Occupations and Professions

Soci 3610.03

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This course will familiarise students with concepts, theories and methods of inquiry that can be used to analyse and interpret the cultures, social organisation and social practices of contemporary occupations and professions. Concerns with competence, trust and emotional management will be central themes of the exploration. We will look for the routine as well as unexpected conflicts that emerge for the social actor around these concerns and how they help to shape occupational practices and the roles particular occupations and professions play in society more generally.

Sept. 11 Orientation

Video: **Challenger: The Final Voyage**

Required Reading: The Course Outline

Sept. 18 Sociological takes on occupations and professions 1

Required Reading Freidson, Eliot. (2001) Professional Knowledge and Skill. In The Third Logic. Chicago: University of Chicago Press, chapter 1.

Wanat, Thomas. (Feb 16, 1996). The Organizational Breakdown Behind the Challenger Disaster, *The Chronicle of Higher Education*, 42, 23; Research Library, A8.

Vaughan, Diane. (Summer 2002). media launch. *Contexts*; 1, 2; Research Library, 68.

ASA Website. (March 16, 2007). Diane Vaughan. <http://www>.

ASANET.org/page.ww?section=Awards+name=Diane+Vaughan. Downloaded June 17, 2007.

(Deadline to inform your tutorial leader of the occupation you wish to track for your portfolio project)

(see over side)

**Sept. 25 Sociological takes on occupations and professions
2**

Required Reading: Freidson, Eliot. (2001) Divisions of Labour. In The Third Logic. Chicago: University of Chicago Press, chapter 2.
Fine, Gary Alan. (Mar., 1996). Justifying Work: Occupational Rhetorics as Resources in Restaurant Kitchens. *Administrative Science Quarterly*, 41, 1. 90-115.

Oct. 2 Sociological takes on Waitressing

Required Reading: Jones, Jill and Susan Chandler. (Dec. 2001). Connecting personal biography and social history: women casino workers and the global economy. *Journal of Sociology & Social Welfare* 28.4, 173-193.
Bayard de Volo, Lorraine. (Fall, 2003). Service and Surveillance: Infrapolitics at Work among Casino Cocktail Waitresses. *Social Politics*, 10, 3, 346-376
Loe, Mika. (November, 1996). Working for Men — at the Intersection of Power, Gender, and Sexuality. *Sociological Inquiry*, 66, 4, 399-421

Oct. 9 Competence and Trust as concerns/claims of Professionalism

Required Reading: Roth, Julius. (February 1974). Professionalism: The Sociologists' Decoy. *Sociology of Work and Occupations*, 1,1, 6-23.
Evetts, Julia. (July 2006). Trust and Professionalism: Challenges and Occupational Changes. *Current Sociology*, 54, 4, 515-531.
Freidson, Eliot. (2001) Ideologies. In The Third Logic. Chicago: University of Chicago Press, chapter 5.
Lewin, Tamar. (April 27, 2007) M.I.T.'s Admissions Dean Resigns; Ends 28-Year Lie About Degrees. New York Times, Late edition, Final Section

October 16 IN-CLASS TEST

Oct. 23 Competence and Trust in Journalism

Audio Documentary: The Spin Doctor

Required Reading: Soloski, John. (1989). News Reporting and Professionalism: Some Constraints on the Reporting of the News. *Media, Culture and Society*, 11, 207-228.
Konner, Joan. (July-August 1997). Love the Profession: Fight the Industry. *Columbia Journalism Review*, 1.
(Submit your occupational portfolio for feedback)

Oct 30 Competence and Trust in Journalism 2

Required Reading: Lowrey Wilson. (2006). Mapping the Journalism– Blogging Relationship. *Journalism*, 7, 4, 477–500.
 McDevitt, Michael. (Mar 1, 2003). In Defense of Autonomy: A Critique of the Public Journalism Critique. *Journal of Communication*, 53, 1, 155-164.

Nov. 6 Competence and Trust in Child Protection work

Guest discussant: CARLY JEN EVANGELISTA, B.A PSYCH, R.N.

Required Reading: Morris, Joan. (June 2005). For the Children: Accounting For Careers in Child Protective Services. *Journal of Sociology and Social Welfare*, 32,2, 131-145.

Kanani, Karima, Cheryl Regehr, and Marvin M. Bernstein. (2002). Liability Considerations in Child Welfare: Lessons From Canada. *Child Abuse & Neglect*, 26, 1029–1043.

Valentine, Deborah P. and Miriam Freeman. (December 2002). Film Portrayals of Social Workers Doing Child Welfare Work. *Child and Adolescent Social Work Journal*, 19, 6, 455-471.

Nov. 13 Emotional Management in Service Occupations and Professions

Required Reading: Leidner, Robin. (Jan., 1999). Emotional Labor in Service Work. *Annals of the American Academy of Political and Social Science*, 561, 81-95.

Lopez, Steven H. (May 2006). Emotional Labor and Organized Emotional Care: Conceptualizing Nursing Home Care Work. *Work and Occupations*, 33, 2, 133-160.

Nov. 20 The Whistleblower: Exposing incompetence and Violations of trust.

Required Reading: Glazer, Myron Peretz and Penina Migdal Glazer. (Spring 1999). On the Trail of Courageous Behavior. *Sociological Inquiry*, 69, 2, 276-295.

van ES, Robert and Gerard Smit. (April 2003). Whistleblowing and Media Logic: A Case Study. *Business Ethics: A European Review*, 12,2, 144-150.

Freidson, Eliot. (2001) The Soul of Professionalism. In *The Third Logic*. Chicago: University of Chicago Press, chapter 9.

Nov. 27 Catching up and Summing up

READING MATERIALS:

1. The course Reading Kit. Available from the York Bookstore
2. Freidson, Eliot (2001) The Third Logic. Chicago: University of Chicago Press. Available from the York University Bookstore.

NOTE: Additional reading materials may be added from time to time.

ASSIGNMENTS AND GRADES:

1. **Weekly participation** in tutorials as specified by your tutorial instructor – 25%
2. An **in-class test** on course readings and discussions on October 16th – 25%
3. An **occupational portfolio project** to be submitted for interim ungraded assessment on October 23rd (TUT 1) and Oct 24th (TUT 2 and 3), and in final form on November 27th (TUT 1) and November 28th(TUT 2 & 3) –50% (See hand-out 1 for details)

Please read the following notes on important course policies. You are responsible for being familiar with these policies.

WHAT IF YOU MISS AN ASSIGNMENT

Don't panic! But don't wait for us to contact you – you contact us! If you do not make arrangements with us for completing a missed course assignment, you will receive a zero for that part of your final grade.

Make-up test: A make-up test will be available for those of you who missed the regularly scheduled test for a confirmed health-related or personal emergency reason. Please note that the make-up test will be offered ONLY ONCE. I will not offer special sittings to accommodate individual schedules. To write the make-up without a penalty for missing the regularly scheduled test, you will need to provide your tutorial leader with a written confirmation of your circumstances from a health practitioner. If you do not have a health or personal emergency reason, you can write the make-up test if given permission by your tutorial leader but you may receive lateness deductions. I will announce the time and place of the make up test in class and post the date and time on my office door in the Sociology Department (2096 Vari Hall).

*personal emergency includes such things as family illness and other types of unforeseen and unavoidable events that prevent you from doing the test. It does NOT include conflicting academic, employment, or travel schedules. You are expected to arrange your employment and academic obligations and your leisure activities to not conflict with your obligations to this course.

Writing Assignments: You are responsible for informing your tutorial instructor about why you have missed your assignment deadline and for confirming arrangements for submitting it late. ALL ARRANGEMENTS FOR LATE SUBMISSIONS MUST BE CONFIRMED by your T.A., even if you have discussed your situation with the course director.

Your tutorial leader will apply his/her own policy about lateness deductions.

WHOM TO SEE ABOUT WHAT

For assistance with course materials and assignments, the person to see is the person who leads your tutorial. Since your work will be graded by your tutorial leader, you need to get information about expectations for specific assignments from that person who will be either me or Diego Llovet. Each of us will emphasize some aspects of the material over others and we will have our own standards and requirements for the presentation of your work etc.

However, as the course director, I am available to meet with you individually to discuss your interests in the course material or problems that you are having with any matters related to the course. I will announce in class a regular time that I will be available in my office. In addition to this pre-announced time, you can make an appointment that is convenient to both of us. You must arrange appointments **with me directly** rather than with the Sociology Office Staff. Please talk to me during lecture time to arrange an appointment OR leave a message on my office phone mail at ext. 77986. E-mail is NOT a reliable or quick way of contacting me, especially for dealing with urgent issues.

In order to maintain fairness and a reasonable degree of uniformity in the way we assess your work, Diego and I will regularly discuss and attempt to coordinate our expectations for your work. As well we will both be involved in setting test questions and assignments that you are all required to undertake. Please be assured that as your tutorial leaders, both of us expect and encourage you to discuss grading concerns and our expectations of your work with us. We are willing to reconsider our assessments of your work if you provide us with reasons to support your concerns. When it seems appropriate and helpful, we may ask each other to read your assignment and to offer views on an appropriate grade. But please note that, normally, as the course director, I will NOT re-assess or over-ride grades assigned by Diego. I will only intervene into the grading of individual students if Diego as well as you request me to do so, or if you have attempted to reconcile differences over your grade with him and have failed. If you are not satisfied with the way I resolve your grading issues, whether the grade is assigned by Diego or myself, I strongly encourage you to discuss your concerns with the sociology undergraduate director who will be able to inform you of various routes for having your grade re-assessed by people other than me or Diego.

(see over side)

ACADEMIC INTEGRITY

Please read carefully the York University Policy on academic integrity which is attached to this outline. If I suspect or discover an instance of academic dishonesty, I follow the formal procedures outlined in this policy.

PROLONGED ILLNESS/PERSONAL CRISIS:

If you become ill for an extended period or experience a personal crisis that seriously impedes your ability to maintain pace with the course, you (or someone who can speak on your behalf) **MUST** discuss your situation with me as soon as possible. I will be willing to making special arrangements for you to complete assignments as long as you have attended at least two thirds of the classes. If you miss, or anticipate missing, more than a third of the classes, I will normally advise you to withdraw from the course since the instruction that you need in order to meet the course requirements satisfactorily takes place in class sessions.

That's all for now!

WELCOME TO THE COURSE