

Last Revised: September 2024

**COURSE INFORMATION**

**Course Title:** Sociology of Work and Business

**Course Number:** SOCI 202

**Credits:** 3

**Total Weeks:** 14 (Fall, Spring)  
12 (Summer)

**Total Hours:** 39

**Course Level:**

- First Year       Second Year  
 New               Revised Course  
 Replacement Course

**Department:** Social Sciences

**Department Head:** Audrey McDougall

**Former Course Code(s) and Number(s) (if applicable):** N/A

**Pre-requisites (If there are no prerequisites, type NONE):** SOCI 101 & SOCI 102

**Co-requisite Statement (List if applicable or type NONE):** NONE

**Precluded Courses:** N/A

**COURSE DESCRIPTION**

This course examines the nature of work in pre-industrial, industrial and contemporary society with a particular emphasis on the characteristics of work organization and activities today and on the experience of work. It introduces and assesses several concepts that allow us to think sociologically about this fundamental part of the social world.

**LEARNING OUTCOMES**

Upon successful completion of the course, students will be able to:

- describe the changes in the contemporary workplace and the shift to precarious work
- understand the implications of the racialization and feminization of work
- outline the challenges in balancing work and non-work demands
- outline the contradictions facing people at work today
- explain how markets, capitalism and globalization affect the workplace.

**INSTRUCTION AND GRADING**

Instructional (Contact) Hours:

Type	Duration
Lecture	39
Seminars/Tutorials	
Laboratory	
Field Experience	
Other ( <i>specify</i> ):	
Total	39

**Grading System:** Letter Grades  Percentage  Pass/Fail  Satisfactory/Unsatisfactory  Other

**Specify passing grade:** 50%

**Evaluation Activities and Weighting** (total must equal 100%)

Assignments: 20% <i>Specify number of, variety, and nature of assignments: 1 small group presentation</i>	Lab Work: <b>N/A</b> %	Participation: 15% <i>Specify nature of participation: <b>active participation in class and small group discussions during classes throughout the semester</b></i>	Project: <b>N/A</b> % <i>Specify nature of project:</i>
Quizzes/Test: weekly quizzes 15% (total)	Midterm Exam: 25%	Final Exam: 25%	Other: %

**TEXT(S) AND RESOURCE MATERIALS**

Provide a full reference for each text and/or resource material and include whether required/not required.

Krahn, Harvey J., Hughes, Karen D., and Lowe, Graham S. (2021) Work, Industry and Canadian Society. (Required reading)

Throughout the course, the instructor may recommend additional reading material.

**COURSE TOPICS**

List topics and sequence covered.

<b>Week</b>	<b>Topic</b>
Week 1	Introduction to the course, going over the course requirements and the course outline. Introduction to key sociological concepts
Week 2	Historical Perspectives on Work. The Origins of Industrial Capitalism. Canada's Industrialization. Theoretical Perspectives.
Week 3	Contemporary Debates on Work. Changing Economies in the 20th and 21st centuries. Postindustrialism. Global Transformations. Neo-Liberalism and the Role of the State in Today's Economy.
Week 4	Canadian Employment Trends. Workforce Aging. Immigration and Greater Workforce Diversity. Gender and Work. Work-Related Mobility
Week 5	Canadian Employment Trends. Nonstandard work arrangements. Self-employment Trends. Unemployment Trends.
Week 6	Labour Markets: Opportunities and Inequality. Social Structure and Occupational Choice. Equality of Educational Opportunity. Economic Advantage and Cultural Capital. Historical Patterns of Racial and Ethnic Discrimination.

Week 7	Gender and Paid Employment. Gender and Work in Historical Context. The Wage Gap. Theoretical Perspectives on Work and Gender Inequality.
	<b>MIDTERM EXAM</b>
Week 8	Household, Family, and Caring Work. Trends in Household and Family Work. Work-Family Conflict. Marketization of Care and the “Outsourced Family”.
Week 9	Organizing and Managing Work. Understanding Bureaucracy. Scientific Management. The Human Relations Movement.
Week 10	In Search of New Managerial Paradigms. Management Paradigms around the World. Management via Organizational Culture. Lean Production. High-Performance Workplaces.
Week 11	Conflict and Control in the Workplace. Models of Managerial Control. Electronic Control. Technology and the Labour Process.
Week 12	Unions and Industrial Relations. Theoretical Perspectives on Organized Labour. Canadian Labour Movement. Women and Unions. Management Opposition to Unions.
Week 13	Alternative Approaches to Economic Organization. Worker Militancy and Class Politics. Workplace Health and Safety. Industrial Democracy: Rethinking Workers’ Rights.
Week 14	<b>FINAL EXAM</b>

### NOTES

1. Students are required to follow all College policies. Policies are available on the website at: [Coquitlam College Policies](#)
2. To find out how this course transfers, visit the BC Transfer Guide at: [bctransferguide.ca](http://bctransferguide.ca)