

SOC150H1S
SOCIOLOGICAL INQUIRIES
Summer 2017
University of Toronto, St. George

Instructor: Prof. Christian Caron

Class Time and Location: Mon and Wed 6-9pm, Location: MP102

Contact Information: christian.caron@utoronto.ca

Office Hours: by appointment

Teaching Assistants

Valerie Damasco: valerie.damasco@utoronto.ca

Andrew Nevin: andrew.nevin@mail.utoronto.ca

Course Description

Using topics such as the mass media, crime and deviance, education, health, or others, this course continues to examine what is Sociology, its relationship with common sense and other disciplines, and the nature and goals of sociological research. Students will also have an opportunity to learn and develop important skills useful to prepare for second year courses and beyond.

Teaching Philosophy

My teaching philosophy is organized around three key principles, collaborative learning, transparency, and choice. We do not learn alone, we learn in conversation with others. We learn by listening, by asking questions, by explaining. The classroom will be organized in such a way as to foster this collaborative learning environment through an emphasis more on discussion and interactive learning than on simply delivery content. Students will also have opportunities to pursue this collaborative learning approach in more depth through certain assignments. Learning is also a process and you should receive continual feedback on your thoughts and application of the material in assignments in order to know where you are doing well, where you are falling a little short and most importantly have the opportunity to make changes and improve. Finally, you will have different ways to make meaningful choices in how to demonstrate your knowledge and employ your skills developed during the semester.

The course is organized in such a way that it privileges the development and deployment of various skills, namely critical reading, critical writing and effective and inquisitive discussion and their relationship with one another. Writing notes while reading, organizing and synthesizing the material and one's own thoughts, communicating this effectively to colleagues, and asking probing questions are all part of this course's teaching approach. It is essential for you to keep up with the reading and to read actively. Active reading means taking notes as you read, making a list of questions you have as you read, and ideally reading far enough ahead that you have a chance not only to read but to think about what you have read. The expectation is that you will have read each class's readings by our class meeting. The goal is to foster a community of learners who will help each other make their way through the material, topics and issues, in collaboration with one another.

Prerequisite

The prerequisite to take SOC150H is one of SOC100H or SOC102H or SOC103H. Students without the prerequisite will be removed at any time discovered and without notice.

Exclusion

SOC101Y1, SOC102H1+SOC103H1, SOC200H1, SOC200Y1, SOCB05H3, SOC221H5, SOC200Y5

Communication

This course will rely heavily on Portal (<https://weblogin.utoronto.ca/>) to facilitate this community of learners. It will act as the 'nervous system' of this course. On the Portal page you will find this syllabus, assignments, announcements, grades and student-generated content on a series of discussion boards. You should check the Announcement tab on a regular basis as it will be the main mechanism to communicate about course related matters. Treat the Announcement tab as a series of appendices to this syllabus. While the Portal page will start relatively small, it will grow slowly in size over the course of the semester. One element present at launch is a discussion board called Questions about the Course. This discussion board is to be used for all course-related questions of a non-personal nature this semester, question about the course content, activities, assignments, exams, deadlines, and in the first week of class, the best place to ask clarifications about the ILP system. This way all clarifications provided are available to every student in the course. Of course, feel free to contact me by e-mail for any questions of a more personal nature regarding illness, special accommodations, grade review or anything else you might want to discuss with me privately. All e-mails are answered within 48h unless explicitly stated otherwise.

Course Materials

All course reading material can be found on Blackboard. Students are expected to read the readings prior to class and be prepared to engage in class discussions about the week's reading.

Evaluation

In-Class Activities – 20% (every class)
Annotated Bibliography – 20% (due August 8th)
Final Write-ups – 25% (due August 14th)
Final Exam – 35% (TBA – during August exam period)

Lecture Schedule

July 5th – Introduction to the course
July 10th – Sociological Inquiries
July 12th – How Do We Know?
July 17th – Introduction to Research Process
July 19th – Finding Sociological Literature
July 24th – Reading Sociological Work
July 26th – Asking Sociological Questions
July 31st – Conceptualization
August 2nd – Operationalization

August 7th - Holiday

August 9th – Communication and Ethics

August 14th – Conclusion/Overview

Missed Deadlines

In case of illness, you must supply a duly completed Verification of Student Illness or Injury form (available at www.illnessverification.utoronto.ca). The original form must be given to me in person, within 5 business days. If a personal or family crisis prevents you from meeting a deadline, you must get a letter from your college registrar (it is recommended you always advise your registrar if a crisis is interfering with your studies).

Academic Integrity

Students are expected to know and adhere to the University's principles of academic integrity. Any act of plagiarism or other unethical behavior will be addressed in accordance with University guidelines. Please see the "Code of Behaviour on Academic Matters" 6 (<http://www.governingcouncil.utoronto.ca/policies/behaveac.htm>) for specific information on academic integrity at the U of T.

Accessibility and Student Accommodations

Students with diverse learning styles and needs are welcome in this course. If you may require accommodations, please feel free to approach me and visit the Accessibility Services Office (<http://studentlife.utoronto.ca/accessibility>) as soon as possible.

Writing Support

Students are urged to seek assistance from the University of Toronto writing centre should they anticipate problems in this area. The writing centre can be visited on the web at: <http://www.utoronto.ca/writing/centres.html>