

Sociology 150H1S LEC5101 – Winter 2018
Sociological Inquiries

Instructor

Prof. La Touche

725 Spadina Avenue, Rm. 270

Office Hours: Tuesdays 1:00-3:00pm and by apt.

Email: rachel.latouche@utoronto.ca

Class Details

Location: Bahen Centre 1160

Class Time: Tuesday 6-8pm

Web Page: portal.utoronto.ca

TAs:

TBA – Course Coordinator

Valerie Damasco – Course Mentor (valerie.damasco@utoronto.ca)

Chang Lin – Course Mentor

Office Hours: TBD

Tutorial:	5101	Monday 11am-12pm	(SS 1086)
	5104	Monday 3pm-4pm	(SS 1086)
	5108	Tuesday 5pm-6pm	(SS 1084)
	5109	Tuesday 8pm-9pm	(SS 1088)
	5111	Wednesday 1pm-2pm	(SS 1088)
	5112	Wednesday 3pm-4pm	(SS 1084)
	5113	Thursday 1pm-2pm	(SS 1084)
	5114	Thursday 3pm-4pm	(SS 2105)

Course Description

This course will familiarize you with scholarship in Sociology surrounding issues of inequality. As a class, we will learn how sociologists tackle social problems regarding inequality by translating substantive interests into empirical research questions. In addition, we will learn how to engage with existing scholarship to revise, revisit and strengthen our research questions, in preparation for research design. While becoming better acquainted with sociological research, you will learn a number of complementary skills such as critical reading, argumentation, organization, synthesis and communication. In addition to being core, evaluated skills in this course, these will prepare you for upper-level courses in Sociology and beyond.

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.

Course Philosophy

This course will require a thorough investment of time, energy and thoughtfulness on the part of all its participants. To be successful, it is essential for you to keep up with readings and to read actively. Active reading means taking thorough notes while you read, looking up terms and concepts with which you are unfamiliar, and developing questions where you require points of clarity. The expectation is that you will have read the week's readings

before class and will be prepared to discuss them accordingly. In class and tutorial, we will foster and participate in a collaborative learning environment. As such, student participation is mandatory including class discussions, tutorial activities and Blackboard submissions.

Evaluation

Critical Reading Submissions	15%
Tutorial Participation Exercises	15%
Annotated Bibliography	15%
Literature Review and Research Question Proposal	20%
Final Exam (TBA – during April final exam period)	35%
TOTAL	100%

Required Readings

Available from the U of T bookstore:

Sears, Alan and James Cairns. *A Good Book, In Theory: Making Sense Through Inquiry* 3rd Edition.

Additional readings will be posted on Blackboard – designated by (BB)

Course Resources

Four key resources will be available to help you succeed in this course. Please consult these resources often and correspond with Course Coordinator – Mitch McIvor – if you have suggestions for additions and/or improvements.

- 1) Blackboard – UofT Portal (<https://weblogin.utoronto.ca/>) will help you navigate, collaborate and communicate throughout this course. Please consult the portal page for any and all questions you have regarding course content, deadlines, contact information, and course resources.
 - a. The SOC150H1S Portal page contains an “Announcements” tab. You should check this tab regularly as it will be the main mechanism to communicate about course-related matters. This is where all deadlines, new content, instructions, grade releases, resources and any other pertinent information will be posted.
- 2) Course Readings – The course readings are a resource in and of themselves. They will provide examples of published sociological scholarship in a variety of forms (journal articles, policy reports, etc.). They should be used as examples demonstrating that sociological research can be presented in a range regarding quality, content, rigor and structure. While reading, you should be taking detailed notes about the authors’ research questions, arguments, evidence, methods, data and conclusions.
- 3) TAs –

- TBA: Course Coordinator
 - As the Course Coordinator, Mitch is responsible for all administrative matters related to scheduling, registration, grading, tests and exams, submission issues, special accommodations, missing grades, deadlines, etc. You should feel free to contact him by e-mail if you have any questions or concerns about any of these matters.

- Valerie Damasco and TBA: Course Mentors
 - As the Course Mentors, Valerie and Patricia will assist students with the transition to and preparation of university level work in this course. This includes clarifying standards for quality scholarship, understanding and incorporating feedback on course assignments, utilizing course and campus resources, and preparing for the final exam. Both Valerie and Patricia will have regular office hours. If you plan to attend, you should email either Valerie or Patricia in advance, so they can prepare accordingly.
 - In addition to the responsibilities outlined above, Valerie and Patricia are available to help students understand how this course prepares them for others in Sociology, and will make available, upon request, information about the degree program.

4) Professor La Touche –

- As the Course Instructor, Professor La Touche is ultimately responsible for every aspect of the course. You are encouraged to seek her out after class or during office hours. If you have questions or concerns about any aspect of the course, or anything else you might want to discuss privately, feel free to e-mail her. E-mails are typically answered within 48 hours.

Week #	Date	Course Outline	
1	Jan 9	Course Introduction: Epistemology Readings: S&C Preface	Tutorials: No
2	Jan 16	Sociological Inquiries: Research Interest to Research Question Readings: S&C Chapter 1	Tutorials: Yes
3	Jan 23	Sociological Inquiries: Research Interest to Research Question II Readings: S&C Chapter 3	Tutorials: No
4	Jan 30	Starting the Research Process/ Finding Sociological Work Readings: S&C Chapter 2	Tutorials: Yes
5	Feb 6	Choosing and Organizing Sociological Work Readings: S&C Chapter 4	Tutorials: No Annotated Bibliography Due Friday Feb 9th @ 6pm
6	Feb 13	Reading Sociological Work Readings: Strategic Reading (BB) LaCour & Green 2014 (BB)	Tutorials: Yes Critical Reading Submission #1 Due Friday 16th @ 6pm
7	Feb 20	Reading Week Readings: Sigelman and Welch 1993 (BB)	
8	Feb 27	Evaluating Sociological Argumentation Readings: S&C Chapter 5	Tutorials: Yes Critical Reading Submission #2 Due Friday March 2nd @ 6pm
9	Mar 6	Ethics Readings: Ethical Issues for Social Researchers 2018 (BB) Segran 2015 (BB)	Tutorials: No
10	Mar 13	Making Sense of Sociological Work Readings: S&C Chapter 6 Annotated Bibliography (BB)	Tutorials: Yes Critical Reading Submission #3 Due Friday March 16th @ 6pm
11	Mar 20	Making Sense of Sociological Work II Readings: S&C Chapter 7	Tutorials: Yes
12	Mar 27	Communicating Research Readings: TBA	Tutorials: No
13	Apr 3	Course Overview/Exam Review Readings: No	Tutorials: No Literature Review and Research Question Proposal Due April 3rd @ 6pm
14	TBD	Final Exam	

Course Policies

Attendance and Preparation

Attendance in all classes and tutorials is mandatory. Students are responsible for all material presented in class. Students who are unable to attend class on a given day are responsible for obtaining notes on all material covered, including lecture material and course announcements. In addition, students are expected to complete all assigned readings in advance of the class period for which they are assigned.

Tutorials/Tutorial Participation Exercises

Tutorial attendance is mandatory and students are required to complete participation exercises in each of the six tutorials held for this course. Sessions are designed to help solidify course content and prepare you for the Annotated Bibliography – due Friday February 9th and the Literature Review and Research Question Proposal – due Tuesday April 3rd. Tutorial attendance will be taken and participation exercises will be graded. Unless otherwise specified, participation exercises are due at the end of the tutorial session. Each participation exercise is equally weighted (3%) and the **five highest marks** will be included in your final course grade. Since only five (5) tutorial exercises will be included in your final grade, you may miss one (1) tutorial exercise without penalty (e.g. If you miss one tutorial session and consequently, do not hand in a participation exercise, you are NOT required to provide documentation to your TA and/or Professor). However, in the event that you miss more than one tutorial session and the complementary tutorial exercises, accommodations WILL NOT be made unless you provide documentation of your legitimate absence FOR EACH OCCASION. Otherwise, **no makeup tutorials will be scheduled and marks for participation exercises will not be reweighed.**

Email

When emailing your professor or TAs, please use your utoronto.ca address. Please also include “SOC150” and a brief description in the subject line, so your email can be easily prioritized. Emails will typically be answered within 48 hours. Keep in mind that for simple questions, email is the preferred method of communication. However, for longer questions, students should attend office hours and/or schedule an appointment with the appropriate TA or the professor.

Late Assignments

Unless otherwise specified, all assignments are due **at the beginning of class (6pm)** on the due date provided and **MUST** be uploaded to turnitin.com by midnight on that date. Late assignments will be penalized 5 percentage points per day, including weekend days. **Late assignments will not be accepted via email.** Work handed in late should be put in the first-year mailbox in Room 225 in the Sociology Department (725 Spadina Avenue), Monday-Friday 9:00am-5:00pm; after it is date-stamped (date-stamp machine is located in Room 225).

Missed Exams

Students who miss the final exam will be assigned a grade of 0. However, students may be eligible to petition because of an excused absence with proper documentation. Proper documentation consists of an original Verification of Student Illness or Injury form completed by a doctor **on or before the day of the final exam** (you may find the form at

www.illnessverification.utoronto.ca). All petitions to defer the final exam **MUST** be negotiated through your college registrar. If documentation is received and deemed sufficient, the final exam will be deferred.

Turnitin.com

Normally, students will be required to submit their course written assignments to Turnitin.com for review of textual similarity and detection of possible plagiarism. In doing so, students will allow their essays to be included as source documents in the Turnitin.com reference database, where they will be used solely for the purpose of detecting plagiarism. The terms that apply to the University's use of the Turnitin.com service are described at <http://www.teaching.utoronto.ca/teaching/academicintegrity/turnitin/conditions-use.htm>

Assignments not submitted through Turnitin will receive a grade of zero (0 %) unless a student instead provides, along with their position paper, sufficient secondary material (e.g., reading notes, outlines of the paper, rough drafts of the final draft, etc.) to establish that the paper they submit is truly their own. The alternative (not submitting via Turnitin) is in place because, strictly speaking, using Turnitin is voluntary for students at the University of Toronto.

Writing Centres (<http://www.writing.utoronto.ca/writing-centres/arts-and-science>)

All students are encouraged to visit and make use of the available writing centres. Writing tutors may help you brainstorm ideas, develop a thesis, structure and organize your paper, present your evidence effectively, argue logically, cite appropriately and express yourself clearly and concisely. However, proofreading and copyediting for spelling, grammar, or format are not within the primary scope of the writing centres.

Accessibility

The University of Toronto is committed to accessibility. If you require accommodations or have any accessibility concerns, please visit <http://studentlife.utoronto.ca/accessibility> as soon as possible.

Academic Integrity/Academic Misconduct

The University of Toronto treats academic integrity and academic misconduct very seriously. To participate honestly, respectfully, responsibly, and fairly in the academic community at U of T, you should familiarize yourself with the University of Toronto's Code of Behaviour on Academic Matters (<http://www.governingcouncil.utoronto.ca/policies/behaveac.htm>).

In addition, students should acquaint themselves with the rules concerning plagiarism and other forms of academic misconduct, including but not limited to:

- Using someone else's ideas or words without appropriate acknowledgement.
- Copying material word-for-word from a source without quotation marks.
- Including references to sources that you did not use.
- Obtaining or providing unauthorized assistance on any assignment including (e.g.) working in groups on assignments that are supposed to be individual work
- Lending your work to a classmate who submits it as his/her own.
- Letting someone else look at your answers on a test.
- Falsifying or altering any documentation required by the University.

Student Contacts

You are responsible for all material presented in class, including announcements. If you are unable to attend class, you should obtain notes from a classmate. Write down the contact information for two of your classmates below in case you need notes.

Name: _____	Name: _____
E-mail: _____	E-mail: _____
Phone: _____	Phone: _____
Other: _____	Other: _____