

**SOC150H1S - LEC0101, LEC2001
INTRODUCTION TO SOCIOLOGY II: SOCIOLOGICAL INQUIRIES
WINTER SESSION 2024**

**Class Time and Location: Wednesday 12:10 - 2:00
University of Toronto, St. George**

Professor: Dr. Scott Schieman

Office: Sociology Department, 700 University Ave, 17th Floor

Office Hours: By appointment; TBD (Zoom)

Lead TA: Soli Dubash

Office: Sociology Department, 700 University Ave, TBD

Office Hours: Wednesday after lecture from 14:30-16:30 at the Sociology Department, Rm. TBD
Beginning on January 24th

Course Coordinator: Alexa Carson

Office: Sociology Department, 700 University Ave, TBD

Office Hours: Thursdays, 2:00 – 3:00 pm on Zoom. Beginning on January 25th

Teaching Assistants: Daniel Hill, Emma Jennings-Fitz-Gerald, Bruce Liang, Shabnoor Nabi, Jennifer Peruniak, Alex Wilson

Course Email: soc150h1s.b@course.utoronto.ca **All emails must be sent to this email address.**

Other emails will not receive a reply. Your email must include your name and student number.

Emails will be answered within 2 business days (not weekends).

Prerequisite: The prerequisite for taking this course is SOC100H1. Students without this prerequisite will be removed from the course without notice by the university.

Course Description: In this sequel to SOC100: Introduction to Sociology, this course (SOC150) explores core themes in the discipline—but with a focus on research methods. We start with the basic foundations of empirical research and the scientific approach. We then turn to the conceptual foundations and specific elements of research, exploring different designs with examples from published research in scholarly journals. There is an emphasis on the *substantive* aspects of these topics and the research *methods* used to study them. You will be introduced to examples that illustrate different approaches to research, with analyses of data across societies and contexts. You will learn how sociologists address important questions of our time, and the ways this knowledge informs our understanding of the social world. Guest speakers—all professors in the Sociology Department at the University of Toronto (St. George)—will be sharing their insights and experiences conducting different kinds of research. Along the way, it is my hope that you discover new ideas and insights about the social forces that shape the way you think, feel, and act in everyday life. At the end of the course, students will be able to demonstrate an understanding of core sociological approaches and research methods; apply core sociological concepts to different

contexts and social problems; and understand the basis upon which we can distinguish scientific vs. unscientific claims.

Course Readings/Webpage: All assigned readings are available on Quercus. You do not need to purchase any textbooks. Lecture slides will also be posted on Quercus. The Quercus page contains an “Announcements” tab. You should check the Announcement tab regularly or set up Quercus announcements to your email. It will be the main way we communicate about course-related matters. This is where all deadlines, new content, instructions, grade releases, answers to Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) and any other pertinent information will be posted. Treat the Announcement tab as a series of appendices to this syllabus.

General Questions about the Course – From our course home page on Quercus, you will see a “Discussions” tab on the left-hand side. The forum *General Questions about the Course* is pinned at the top. It is the main space on Quercus that you will use for course-related, non-personal questions. Discussion board questions will be answered within 2 business days. Students are encouraged to answer each other’s questions as well. The Mid-term Test, Final Exam, and Research Reflection Paper will have their own discussion boards for relevant questions. If you choose, you can subscribe to discussion boards by clicking the subscribe button within each (you will then receive alerts when questions are asked and/or answered).

Evaluation/Course Requirements

Description	Date	% of Grade
Tutorials	Ongoing (2% x 6, lowest mark dropped)	10
Mid-Term Test	February 14, 12:10 – 2:00 pm, location TBA	25
FINAL EXAM	Date TBA, during final exam period	40
Research Reflection Paper	April 3 by 11:59 pm	25

Mid-Term Test and Final Exam (65% in total): There will a mid-term test and final exam that cover the assigned readings, research articles, lectures, and tutorials. The format will be communicated prior to the test/exam dates. The mid-term will cover materials from Week 1 through Week 5. The final exam will be cumulative, covering materials from Week 1 through Week 12.

Research Reflection Paper (25%): There is one research reflection paper (1,000-1,250 words, double-spaced) related to a specific research topic based on research articles. Details will be forthcoming on Quercus. Due 11:59 pm on April 3. [See the late policy below]

Tutorials (10% - 2% X 6 tutorials, lowest mark dropped)

Each student should sign up on ACORN for a tutorial, which means that you have your own tutorial session and TA. Due to room capacity, you must only attend the tutorial that you are registered for on Quercus. Each of the six tutorials (50 minutes per session) will involve discussions and questions related to in-class materials—primarily the assigned research articles. Your grades will be based on the completion and quality of your responses. Normally, these discussions and questions will relate to core themes of the assigned research articles and will be designed to reinforce the materials covered in-class lecture. Attendance is mandatory for all sessions and tutorial content will be included in the midterm and final exam. Only the best five exercises will be counted. This means

that your first missed tutorial mark will be dropped. If you miss a second tutorial for any reason the mark will be automatically transferred to your final exam—that is, the final exam will be worth an additional 2% for each missed tutorial. Missing all tutorials will result in your final exam being worth 50% of the final course grade. Due to this generous policy, make-up tutorial activities are not necessary nor available. Do not email the teaching team requesting a make-up tutorial activity.

The six (6) tutorial sessions will take place during the following weeks:

Tutorial 1: Week 5, February 5 - 7

Tutorial 2: Week 8, March 4 - 6

Tutorial 3: Week 9, March 11 - 13

Tutorial 4: Week 10, March 18 - 20

Tutorial 5: Week 11, March 25 - 27

Tutorial 6: Week 12, April 1 - 3

Policies

Emails: All emails must be sent to: soc150h1s.b@course.utoronto.ca. Other emails will not receive a reply. Before emailing with a question, check the syllabus, Quercus course announcements and FAQs. If your question is not covered by these resources, consider using the Discussion board or asking your question during office hours. If your question is of a personal or private nature, email: soc150h1s.b@course.utoronto.ca. All emails must be written in a respectful tone and include your name (as it appears on Quercus) and student number. Emails will be answered within 2 business days (not including weekends).

Make-up Test: We offer a make-up test ONLY in the following circumstances:

- (1) Due to illness. In this case with your absence must either be declared on ACORN or medical documents must be provided via the make-up registration form.
- (2) Due to unexpected extenuating circumstances, such as a family or non-illness-related personal emergency. In which case, you must contact your college registrar and have them email the course email to confirm the circumstance.

A make-up midterm test will be held on February 28th 12:10-14:00 with location TBD. If you also miss the make-up midterm (with appropriate documentation), then the 25% midterm grade will be transferred to the final exam.

We will provide a link to a registration form for the make-up immediately after the midterm is completed. You must fill out this form and upload your documents there to be eligible for the makeup. Do not email us about your request to take the make-up! The form is all that is required.

Late Policy for Research Reflection Paper: There is a 7-day grace period to submit the paper that is automatically applied to everyone (so there is no need to email us). The due date is 11:59 pm on April 3rd. The 7-day grace period ends 11:59 pm on April 10th. In other words, there are no late penalties if your paper is received within 7 days of the April 3rd deadline. Papers submitted after this 7-day grace period will receive a **15% reduction per day**. If you opt to use the 7-day grace period and something happens (e.g., you get sick, there is a personal emergency, etc.), you may request a further extension if your circumstance happened before the 7-day grace period began and if that

continues to affect you severely throughout the grace period. The ultimate decision to grant this further extension is up to the instructor. *We strongly advise submitting the paper by the April 3rd deadline.*

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

Other Accommodations: Your college registrar's office is there to support you in the event of an illness, personal, or family-related emergency, or issue that is hindering your success as a student. If there is an ongoing issue that hinders your studies, please contact your registrar as they will be able to connect you with appropriate resources and supports and can provide documentation to your instructors that will aid in receiving accommodations. UofT's My Student Support Program (My SSP) provides students with real-time and/or appointment-based confidential, 24-hour support for any school, health, or general life concern at no cost.

Use of Generative AI in Assignments: The use of generative artificial intelligence tools or apps for assignments in this course, including tools like ChatGPT and other AI writing or coding assistants, *is prohibited*. The knowing use of generative artificial intelligence tools, including ChatGPT and other AI writing and coding assistants, for the completion of, or to support the completion of, an examination, term test, assignment, or any other form of academic assessment, will be considered an academic offense in this course. Representing as one's own an idea, or expression of an idea, that was AI-generated will be considered an academic offense in this course. This course policy is designed to promote your learning and intellectual development and to help you reach course learning outcomes.

Academic Dishonesty: University policy on academic dishonesty must be strictly followed and cheating will not be tolerated. Academic dishonesty consists of misrepresentation by deception or by other fraudulent means and can result in serious consequences, e.g., a grade of zero on a test or assignment, loss of credit with a notation on the transcript (notation reads: 'Grade of F assigned for academic dishonesty'), and/or suspension or expulsion from the university. It is your responsibility to understand what constitutes academic dishonesty: University of Toronto's Code of Behaviour on Academic Matters (<http://www.governingcouncil.utoronto.ca/policies/behaveac.htm>).

TENTATIVE SCHEDULE AND REQUIRED READINGS
This is the intended ordering of course topics and the required readings.
Modifications may occur if necessary.

PART I: INTRODUCTION TO SOCIOLOGICAL RESEARCH METHODS

WEEK 1 - January 10

Introduction to the Course

There are no required readings for this first class.

WEEK 2 - January 17

Sociology as a Science/Overview of Research Methods Part I

Assigned reading: "Human Inquiry and Science."
(from Babbie and Roberts, *Fundamentals of Social Research*)

WEEK 3 - January 24

Sociology as a Science/Overview of Research Methods Part II

Assigned reading: Sociological Research - available on Quercus and online at the following link:
<https://opentextbc.ca/introductiontosociology/chapter/chapter2-sociological-research/>

WEEK 4 - January 31

Communication of Knowledge with a Mixed-Methods Example (Quantitative/Qualitative)

Assigned reading: Schieman, Scott, Quan Mai, Phillip J. Badawy, and Ryu Won Kang. 2023. "A Forced Vacation? The Stress of Being Temporarily Laid Off During a Pandemic." *Work and Occupations* 50(2):255–283. {Please note: You are required to read the entire paper, but you are not required to understand complex statistical terms, concepts, equations, tables, or figures.}

Assigned video: "How to Read (and Understand) a Social Science Journal Article"

** The link below is for a video on how to read academic journal articles:

<https://ugresearch.ku.edu/student/researchbytes/how-read-social-sciences-academic-journal-article>

WEEK 5 - February 7

The Conceptual Foundations of Research

[Tutorial #1]

Guest speaker: Professor Blair Wheaton, Department of Sociology, University of Toronto.

Assigned Reading: Wheaton, Blair and Shirin Montazer. 2009. "Stressors, Stress, and Distress." Pp.171-199 in *A Handbook for the Study of Mental Health: Social Contexts, Theories, and Systems*. Edited by Teresa L. Scheid and Tony N. Brown. Cambridge University Press.
{Please note: You are required to read the entire paper, but you are not required to understand complex statistical terms, concepts, equations, tables, or figures.}

WEEK 6- February 14
MID-TERM TEST

******* READING WEEK: February 19 – 23 (NO CLASS) *******

**PART II: APPLICATIONS AND ILLUSTRATIONS OF
SOCIOLOGICAL RESEARCH METHODS FEATURING FACULTY FROM
THE DEPARTMENT OF SOCIOLOGY AT U OF T (ST. GEORGE)**

WEEK 7 - February 28

Methodological Focus: Survey Research

Substantive Topic: Immigration and Adolescent Achievement

Guest Speaker: Professor Leafia Ye, Department of Sociology, University of Toronto.

Assigned reading: Ye, Leafia Zi and Jason Fletcher. 2022. “Immigrant Status and the Social Returns to Academic Achievement in Adolescence.” *Journal of Ethnic and Migration Studies* 48(15):3619-3640. {Please note: You are required to read pages 3619 up to Section 3.3 on page 3626; read section 4 Results from pages 3628 to section 4.4 Robustness tests on page 3633; Read section 5 Discussion from 3634 to 3636. You are not required to understand complex statistical terms, concepts, equations, tables, or figures.}

WEEK 8 - March 6

Methodological Focus: “Big Data”/Computational Methods

Substantive Topic: Political Orientation and the Consumption of Science

[Tutorial #2]

Guest Speaker: Professor Fedor Dokshin, Department of Sociology, University of Toronto.

Assigned reading: Shi, Feng, Yongren Shi, Fedor A. Dokshin, James A. Evans, and Michael W. Macy. 2017. “Millions of Online Book Co-Purchases Reveal Partisan Differences in the Consumption of Science.” *Nature: Human Behaviour* Volume 1/Article Number 0079:1-9. {Please note: You are required to read pages 1 – 6 up to Methods on page 6. You are not required to understand complex statistical terms, concepts, equations, tables, or figures.}

WEEK 9 - March 13

Methodological Focus: Experiments and Unobtrusive Approaches

Substantive Topics: Work/Family and Inequality; Status and Health

[Tutorial #3]

Correll, Shelley J., Stephen Benard, and In Paik. 2007. “Getting a Job: Is There a Motherhood Penalty?” *American Journal of Sociology* 112(5):1297-1339. {Please note: You are required to read the entire paper, but you are not required to understand complex statistical terms, concepts, equations, tables, or figures.}

Link, Bruce G., Richard M. Carpiano, and Margaret M. Weden. 2013. "Can Honorary Awards Give Us Clues about the Connection between Socioeconomic Status and Mortality?" *American Sociological Review* 78(2):192–212. {Please note: You are required to read the entire paper except from the Analyses starting on page 203 up to the Results on page 205. You are not required to understand statistical terms, concepts, equations, tables, or figures.}

WEEK 10 - March 20

Methodological Focus: Conjoint Experiments

Substantive Topic: Neighbourhood Contexts and Processes

[Tutorial #4]

Guest Speaker: Professor Prentiss Dantzer, Department of Sociology, University of Toronto.

Assigned reading: Silver, Daniel, Prentiss Dantzer, and Kofi Hope. 2023. "Residential Preferences, Place Alienation, and Neighbourhood Satisfaction: A Conjoint Survey Experiment in Toronto's Inner Suburbs." *Journal of Urban Affairs*. {You are required to read the entire paper, but you are not required to understand complex statistical terms, concepts, equations, tables, or figures.}

WEEK 11 - March 27

Methodological Focus: Interviews, surveys, and vignette experiments.

Substantive Topic: Discrimination and Work

[Tutorial #5]

Guest Speaker: Professor Jan Doering, Department of Sociology, University of Toronto.

Assigned Reading: Doering, Laura, Jan Doering, and András Tilcsik. 2023. "Was it Me or Was it Gender Discrimination? How Women Respond to Ambiguous Incidents at Work." *Sociological Science* 10:501-533. {Please note: You are required to read the entire paper, but you are not required to understand complex statistical terms, concepts, equations, tables, or figures—especially those featured in the Results from pages 517 -522 up to Discussion and Conclusion.}

WEEK 12 - April 3

Methodological Focus: Sociological Research and Social Policy

Substantive Topic: Aging and Care Work

[Tutorial #6]

Guest Speaker: Professor Ito Peng, Department of Sociology, University of Toronto.

Assigned reading: (1) Peng, Ito. 2018. "Culture, Institution and Diverse Approaches to Care and Care Work in East Asia." *Current Sociology* 66(4):643–659.

(2) Peng, Ito. "Why Canadians should care about the global care economy."

{Please note: You are required to read the entire paper, but you are not required to understand statistical terms, concepts, equations, tables, or figures.}

Date TBA:
FINAL EXAM