

## Sociology 225H1-F: Canadian Society Syllabus

Class Time: Tuesdays 5-7pm  
Instructor: Dr. Mitch McIvor  
Email: [mitchell.mcivor@utoronto.ca](mailto:mitchell.mcivor@utoronto.ca)  
Office Hours: Wednesdays, 4-5pm on Zoom (<https://utoronto.zoom.us/j/88223768806>)

### 1. Prerequisites:

The prerequisite for taking this course is SOC100. Students without this prerequisite will be removed from the course without notice by the department.

### 2. Course Overview:

This course uses a Sociological approach to understand current Canadian society, Canada's place in global politics, and how Canadian social issues and policies compare to the issues and policies of other countries around the world. The topics considered in the course include economics, politics, happiness, health and mental health care, crime and punishment, tolerance for diversity, education, and more. The most current Canadian research and global comparative research are explored to ensure students leave with a thorough scientific awareness of where Canada is, where it is going, and what they think the best policies for Canada are moving forward.

### 3. Course Objectives:

- (1) To learn about current issues facing Canada & how other countries do better on them;
- (2) To hone critical thinking;
- (3) To improve writing skills;
- (4) To improve scientific literacy for the purpose of making evidence-based decisions and recommendations (i.e. applying academic research to life outside academia);
- (5) To have an enjoyable learning experience.

### 4. Course Readings:

There are no course readings or material to buy for this course.

### 5. Course Evaluation & Requirements:

Assignment	Weight
i. Class Attendance	12 x 1% each..... 12%
ii. Pre-Class Research	1 per student (optional)..... 10%
iii. Research Papers	2 required, up to 3 possible..... 78%
Total: 100%	

**5-i: Class Attendance (12% of final grade):**

Each class you attend on time you will receive full points (1/1). If you miss class or are more than 10 minutes late then the weight of the missed attendance will be shifted to main assignment grade.

**5-ii: Pre-Class Research Summary (Optional, limit of 1, 10% of final grade):**

You have the option for one of the 11 lectures after lecture 1 (i.e. for Lecture 2-12), to submit a 2 double-spaced page (12 Time New Roman font, normal margins) Research assignment. You can choose whichever lecture you prefer but the topic you write on **MUST** match the lecture you submit it for (for example, if you submit for week/lecture 3 then it must be on that week's topic of work & the labour market. Assignments are due before the start of the lecture you are submitting for (i.e. by 5pm).

These are not essays (e.g. no introduction and conclusion required) and the content mirrors the structure of class. In other words, you spend 2 paragraphs (half page each) outlining the 2 biggest issues related to the lecture topic, and 2 paragraphs outlining 2 of the best policy solutions to the problems you discussed. In other words, the structure of the assignment should be:

Assignment Page	Paragraphs
Page 1	Paragraph 1: First big issue related to the topic.
	Paragraph 2: Policy solution to issue 1
Page 2	Paragraph 3: Second big issue related to the topic.
	Paragraph 4: Policy solution to issue 2

The assignments should involve research with a minimum of 1 citation (they **MUST** be empirical—i.e. based on data versus just arguing/opinions/values/beliefs) per paragraph, which means 4 sources are required total. You **MUST** also include a works cited page (not counted in page count). A title page is not required, you can just put your name on the top of the paper as it appears on Quercus; though if you want a title page that's also fine, in that case it also does not count towards the page total. .

Assignments are assessed on writing quality, argument quality, originality & voice, and empiricism/following instructions. Each of these is worth 2.5/10 points.

If you choose not to do a pre-class research summary, then this 10% weight is replaced by your course essay average (i.e. the average of your best two essay grades).

**5-iii Research Papers (best 2 count, option of submitting up to 3, 78% of Final Grade)**

The primary component of your grade in the course will be derived from academic essays. Your essay(s) can be written on any of the substantive topics we cover, and you can choose the scope of the paper (i.e. how narrow or broad you define the problem). The essays can be turned in via Quercus at any point before the noted due dates (Oct.17<sup>th</sup> for the first paper, and Dec.5<sup>th</sup> for the second and third paper—if you decide to write a third paper). Since you can submit an essay on any topic during any week, it is entirely up to you what week or weeks you submit your essays—i.e. for the week you submit, your essay topic does not need

to match the lecture topic, which means you can submit on any topic for any week. This gives you flexibility in that you can choose what week or weeks works best for you to write and submit your essay. ***The one rule is that you must submit one of your essays by week/lecture 7 (i.e. by Tuesday, October 17<sup>th</sup>).*** Otherwise, the final day to submit essays without late penalties is Tuesday, Dec.5<sup>th</sup> (i.e. the last day of class).

***Late Policy.*** For both deadlines (Oct.17 for Paper #1, Dec.5<sup>th</sup> for Paper #2 & #3-if applicable), we offer a 7-day grace period; in other words, as long as we receive your paper within 7 days of the deadline then we will NOT take any late penalties off. After the grace period ends (after Oct.24 for Paper #1 and after Dec.12<sup>th</sup> for Paper #2), papers are assessed a 2% per day late penalty. Please be advised though, the VERY last day we can accept papers in order for them to be graded in time for the final grade deadline is Dec.20<sup>th</sup>. Papers will not be accepted after this date.

Finally, while writing two essays is required, you are also given flexibility in the opportunity to submit more than two essays. In the case that you submit 3 essays, we will automatically keep your best two grades and the lowest essay grade will be dropped—under no circumstances will the lowest essay grade be kept or used if 3 essays are submitted. PLEASE NOTE: if you are worried about grades, this means that you should submit an essay early. Essays are due in electronic form on Quercus.

The essays must be 4 double spaced pages long, they MUST include a works cited page and at least 8 academic sources, and they should include the following sections:

- A one paragraph intro with a clear outline and thesis;
- Three paragraphs outlining how Canada is doing on the issue in question, specifically compared to other countries OR how Canada has changed over time when it comes to the issue in question (how you choose to define the scope of the issue is up to you);
- Three paragraphs on what Canada can do to improve on the issue that displays evidence-based decision making;
- A one paragraph conclusion.

## **6. Course Policies & Important Information for Students:**

### ***6-i: Quercus:***

Quercus will be an important resource during this class. The syllabus can be downloaded as an electronic copy from the course site on Quercus and I will post the lecture material on Quercus the night before each lecture. Quercus will also be where you find assignment instructions and where assignments are submitted.

### ***6-ii: Lecture & Attendance:***

Full and complete attendance (on time) is required to do well in this course and is my expectation. Students are responsible for being aware of what is said in class (including administrative announcements) as well as for the content presented in class. To do well in the course students will need to attend class and take notes. If you miss a lecture, it is your

responsibility to find a fellow student willing to share notes (the instructor will provide their notes that lecture is based on but class discussions will move beyond these).

### **7-iii: 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. the grade of zero on an 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. You should familiarize yourself with the University of Toronto's Code of Behaviour on Academic Matters (<http://www.governingcouncil.utoronto.ca/policies/behaveac.htm>).

### ***Ouriginal***

Students will be required to submit their assignments to the University's plagiarism detection tool for a 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 tool's reference database, where they will be used solely for the purpose of detecting plagiarism. The terms that apply to the University's use of this tool are described on the Centre for Teaching Support & Innovation web site (<https://uoft.me/pdt-faq>). For some of your assignments, we will be using the software Ouriginal. It uses text matching technology as a method to uphold the University's high academic integrity standards to detect any potential plagiarism. Ouriginal is integrated into Quercus. For the assignments set up to use Ouriginal, the software will review your paper when you upload it to Quercus. To learn more about Ouriginal's privacy policy please review its Privacy Policy.

### **7-iv: Emails**

Students are encouraged to email the instructor with questions or problems related to the course but please strive to be professional in your emails. When emailing include "SOC297" and a brief description in the subject line, so your email can be easily prioritized. Emails will typically be answered within 48 business hours (i.e. not including weekends). It is strongly preferred that you use your university associated email and please follow appropriate contextual email etiquette—have an appropriate opening (ex: Hi, Good morning) and closing (ex: Thank-you, Sincerely), use proper spelling and grammar, and avoid using acronyms (ex: ttyl, fwiw, imo, asap, etc.). Keep in mind that for simple questions, email is the preferred method of communication. For longer questions, however, students should attend office hours or ask during lecture time.

### **7-v: Accessibility Accommodations**

If you have a disability or health consideration that may require accommodations, Accessibility Services is your home base for support. It is important to contact the office as soon as possible so that accommodations for your needs are in place before classes start. All information about your disability is confidential and won't be shared with units outside of Accessibility Services without your consent. Accessibility services can be contacted by e-mail ([www.accessibility.utoronto.ca](http://www.accessibility.utoronto.ca)) or alternatively you can reach them by phone at 416-978-

8060. If you require an accommodation, please forward the instructor your AS letter of Academic Accommodations as soon as possible.

### 7-vi: Illness Related Accommodations

If you require accommodation due to illness you will need to have an original Verification of Student Illness or Injury form completed by a doctor on or before the day of the course activity you require accommodation for (you may find the form at [www.illnessverification.utoronto.ca](http://www.illnessverification.utoronto.ca)). All documentation must be received via email or in a sealed envelope addressed to the course instructor. PLEASE NOTE: These procedures are temporarily altered due to COVID, please see the link for current procedures.

### 7-vii: 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.

## 8. Course Schedule

September 2023						
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
3  Week 1	4	5	6	7  Classes Begin	8	9
10  Week 2	11	12  Lecture 1: Setting Up Class	13	14	15  Prof Mclvor Office Hours 3-4pm ( <a href="#">Link Here</a> )	16
17  Week 3	18	19  Lecture 2: Education	20  Prof Mclvor Office Hours 4-5pm ( <a href="#">Link Here</a> )	21	22	23
24  Week 4	25	26  Lecture 3: Work & The Labour Market	27  Prof Mclvor Office Hours 4-5pm ( <a href="#">Link Here</a> )	28	29	30

October 2023						
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1  <b>Week 5</b>	2	3  <b>Lecture 4: Economic Inequality</b>	4  Prof McIvor Office Hours 4-5pm ( <a href="#">Link Here</a> )	5	6	7
8  <b>Week 6</b>	9  Thanksgiving- University Closed	10  <b>Lecture 5: Gender Inequality</b>	11  Prof McIvor Office Hours 4-5pm ( <a href="#">Link Here</a> )	12	13	14
15  <b>Week 7</b>	16	17  <b>Lecture 6: Indigenous Inequality</b>  <b>Must Submit First Essay by this Date.</b>	18  Prof McIvor Office Hours 4-5pm ( <a href="#">Link Here</a> )	19	20	21
22  <b>Week 8</b>	23	24  <b>Lecture 7: Tolerance</b> <b>Grace Period for Paper #1 Ends</b>	25  Prof McIvor Office Hours 4-5pm ( <a href="#">Link Here</a> )	26	27	28

November 2023						
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
29  <b>Week 9</b>	30	31  <b>Lecture 8: Crime &amp; Punishment</b>	1  Prof McIvor Office Hours 4-5pm ( <a href="#">Link Here</a> )	2	3	4
5	6  Last Day to Drop Fall Classes	7	8	9	10	11
<b>Fall Reading Week- No Classes</b>						

November 2023						
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
12  <b>Week 10</b>	13	14  <b>Lecture 9: Happiness</b>	15  Prof Mclvor Office Hours 4-5pm ( <a href="#">Link Here</a> )	16	17	18
19  <b>Week 11</b>	20	21  <b>Lecture 10: Politics &amp; Government Spending</b>	22  Prof Mclvor Office Hours 4-5pm ( <a href="#">Link Here</a> )	23	24	25
26  <b>Week 12</b>	27	28  <b>Lecture 11: Open Topic</b>	29  Prof Mclvor Office Hours 4-5pm ( <a href="#">Link Here</a> )	30	1	2

December 2023						
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
3	4	5  <b>Lecture 12: Reasons for Optimism</b>  <b>Must Submit Second Essay by this Date</b>	6  <b>Classes End</b>  Prof Mclvor Office Hours 4-5pm ( <a href="#">Link Here</a> )	7	8	9  <b>Final Exam Period Begins</b>
10	11	12  <b>Grace Period for Paper #2 Ends</b>	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20  <b>Final Exam Period Ends</b>	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30

## 9. Resources

### Department of Sociology – University of Toronto

Course offerings, programs, faculty, old syllabi, etc

[www.sociology.utoronto.ca](http://www.sociology.utoronto.ca)

### Writing Support in Faculty of Arts and Science

Writing is a key part of a university education. The Faculty of Arts and Science at UofT has several initiatives which every students could benefit from looking into. Here is a series of writing-related resources available in Arts and Science.

1. Students can find information about college writing centres at <http://www.writing.utoronto.ca/writing-centres/arts-and-science>
2. The home page for the website “Writing at the University of Toronto” is [www.writing.utoronto.ca](http://www.writing.utoronto.ca). This includes:
  - More than 60 advice files on all aspects of academic writing available at [www.writing.utoronto.ca/advice](http://www.writing.utoronto.ca/advice). A complete list of printable PDF versions are listed at <http://www.writing.utoronto.ca/about-this-site/pdf-links-for-students>
  - Students will want to check out the “How Not to Plagiarize” and other advice on documentation format and methods of integrating sources; these are listed at [www.writing.utoronto.ca/advice/using-sources](http://www.writing.utoronto.ca/advice/using-sources).
3. Writing Plus workshop series, described at <http://www.writing.utoronto.ca/writing-plus>
1. Information about the English Language Learning program (ELL) is available at <http://www.artsci.utoronto.ca/current/advising/ell>. Sample of activities:
  - the Communication Cafe, which meets weekly at four different times and locations for the first five weeks of each term for practice with oral skills such as class discussion and presentations
  - Reading eWriting, an online program that helps students engage course readings more effectively.

### Other University Student Services:

**Academic Success Centre:** Workshops and individual support for learning skills including time management, memorization, exam preparation, note-taking, stress management.

<https://studentlife.utoronto.ca/department/academic-success/>

**Campus Safety:** For security and safety concerns. Emergencies requiring immediate response from Metro Police should go through 911, but Campus Police can respond promptly to less extreme situations. The officers are experienced in dealing with students. Non-urgent: 416-978-2323 & Campus Urgent: 416-978-2222 or 911



**Career Centre:** Research tools, workshops, & advice on choosing and preparing for careers; on-campus employment and work study listings.

<https://studentlife.utoronto.ca/departments/career-exploration-education/>

**Centre for International Experience:** Logistical and social support for international students; information and support for international student exchange students, both inbound and outbound. <https://internationalexperience.utoronto.ca/>

**Family Care Office:** Help and support for those with dependants, either younger or older <https://familycare.utoronto.ca/>

**First Nations House:** Culturally relevant services for Indigenous students and learning opportunities for all students to engage with Indigenous communities at UofT and beyond. <https://studentlife.utoronto.ca/departments/first-nations-house/>

**Health & Wellness:** Provide a range of health services for physical and mental health, as well as wellness programs <https://studentlife.utoronto.ca/departments/health-wellness/>

**Ombudsperson:** Offers confidential advice to students, faculty and staff. Assists students to engage with administrative structures, usually after all normal channels have been exhausted. <https://governingcouncil.utoronto.ca/ombudsperson>

**Student Crisis Response:** For student crisis situations involving disturbing behaviour or references to suicide or violence, call 416-946-7111 during business hours. For after hours emergencies, call Campus Safety at 416-978-2222 or Metro Police 911. <https://studentlife.utoronto.ca/service/faculty-support-for-responding-to-distressed-students/>

**Student Housing Service:** Assistance for students in finding off-campus housing. <https://studentlife.utoronto.ca/departments/housing/>

**Student Mental Health Resources:** This is a hub for tools, strategies, and experts to meet your mental health needs. <https://mentalhealth.utoronto.ca/>