

**SOCIOLOGY 101Y: INTRODUCTION TO SOCIOLOGY, 2014-15**  
**12:00–14:00, Wednesdays, Convocation Hall**

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**Course Coordinator:** Jaime Nikolaou ([j.nikolaou@utoronto.ca](mailto:j.nikolaou@utoronto.ca)), Dept of Sociology, Rm ???  
Office hours: ???

**Senior TA:** Jenna Valleriani ([jenna.valleriani@utoronto.ca](mailto:jenna.valleriani@utoronto.ca)), Dept of Sociology, Rm 225  
Office hours: ???

### Course Goal

This course will challenge your views on a wide range of issues that affect us all. It will also excite your interest in a unique sociological way of understanding your world. The course showcases the eclectic nature of the discipline and the contemporary debates that animate it. We will analyze the globalization of culture, emerging patterns of class and gender inequality in Canada and internationally, the redefinition of sexuality, changes in the organization of families, the social dimension of environmental problems, criminal and deviant behaviour, and so on. You will learn to understand these and other pressing social issues by analyzing the way the social world is organized. We may like to think of ourselves as perfectly free but powerful social forces open up some opportunities and close off others, constraining our freedom and helping to make us what we are. By examining the operation of these social forces, sociology can help us know ourselves. The course is also about skills-building, skills useful not only for success at U of T, but beyond the walls of the university. That means you will learn about sociology not solely by reading about it, but also by practicing it.

### Communication & Portal

The organizing principle of this course is that learning is a social process that takes place not only by reading, attending lectures, and listening to teaching assistants, but also by students interacting with each other. To foster a cooperative learning environment, this course is organized around a mix of lectures, in-class engagement, and outside-of-class assignments and participation. The course will rely heavily on the U of T Portal (<https://weblogin.utoronto.ca/>) to facilitate this “study group” atmosphere. The Portal will act as the ‘nervous system” of this course, a place where you will find this syllabus, PowerPoint slides, assignments, announcements, grades, and student-generated content on a series of discussion boards. While the Portal page will be small at the outset, it will grow as the course progresses. The Portal plays an especially important role due to the large enrollment in this course (1440 students). The large class size presents several unique challenges, such as the need for extra layers of organization and communication. We need to rely on several mechanisms of communication to make sure all students have the information they need to be successful and for this information to be delivered consistently to everyone. To this end, there are six key resources for students in this course:

- 1) Announcements – The SOC101Y Portal page contains an “Announcements” tab. You should check the Announcement tab regularly. It will be the main mechanism to communicate about course-related matters. This is where all deadlines, new content, instructions, grade releases, and any other pertinent information will be posted. Treat the Announcement tab as a series of appendices to this syllabus.
- 2) General Questions about the Course – This forum is one of the two main spaces on the Portal (the other being your TA Corner) that you will use for course-related, non-personal questions. This is the quickest way to get a reply to a question: the go-to place for all the questions about course content, activities, assignments, exams, deadlines, etc. This forum is monitored mainly by Prof. Caron, along with Jenna Valerianni (the Senior TA) and Jaime Nikolaou (the Course Coordinator). Every question will be answered by one of these people unless a colleague has already provided the answer. In this way, all clarifications are available to everyone in the course.
- 3) TAs – (Amny Athamny, Anna Slavina, Kieran Innocenzi, Patricia Louie, Yuki Tanaka, Chris Tatham, Gordon Brett, and Sasha Reid) Each student has signed up on ROSI for a tutorial, which means that you have your own TA. Your teaching assistant will help you all year regarding substantive project described below. You have access to your TAs through weekly in-person tutorials, online in what we call “TA Corners,” and through regular office hours as well as office hours by appointment. TA Corners are forums for all the students of a TA (Amny’s Corner, Anna’s Corner, Kieran’s Corner, etc.) in which you can ask your TA questions, offer advice, seek guidance, and help your colleagues with everything having to do with assignments. Think of it as an ongoing online tutorial that goes hand-in-hand with weekly in-person tutorials. Your TA is the go-to resource for everything having to do with assignments. Note: The name of your TA can be found in the chart below.

- 4) Jenna Valerianni, Senior TA – as the Senior TA, Jenna does not have her own students. Instead, she will assist the other TAs in their tasks and be an additional resource for all students in the course. She will have regular office hours to offer assistance on projects, and she will have a strong presence on Portal, keeping an eye on both the TA Corners and the General Questions about the Course forums. Moreover, she is the person to contact by e-mail if you have questions or concerns about your course project that you prefer not to post on Portal
- 5) Jaime Nikolaou, Course Coordinator – as the Course Coordinator, Jaime is responsible for all administrative matters such as scheduling, registration, iClickers, online contribution grading, tests and exams, assignments, submission issues, grade reviews, special accommodations, etc. You should feel free to contact her by e-mail if you have any questions or concerns about any of these matters.
- 6) Prof. Caron & Prof. Brym – as the Course Instructors, they are ultimately responsible for every aspect of the course. You are encouraged to seek them out after class or during office hours. Prof. Caron is the lead instructor, so if you have any questions or concerns about any aspects of the course, or anything else you might want to discuss privately, feel free to e-mail him. E-mails are typically answered within 48 hours.

You will always have someone or somewhere to turn to for assistance, whether monitored online forums, weekly tutorials, weekly office hours, lectures, or e-mail with Jenna, Jaime, and the instructors.

### Required Course Material

1. Christian Caron and Robert Brym, eds. *Commit Sociology*, 1<sup>st</sup> Custom Edition, vol 1 (Toronto: Nelson, 2013). Main fall textbook.
2. Christian Caron and Robert Brym, eds. *Commit Sociology*, 1<sup>st</sup> Custom Edition, vol 2 (Toronto: Nelson, 2013). Main winter textbook.
3. Robert Brym *Sociology as a Life or Death Issue*, 3rd Canadian ed. (Toronto: Nelson, 2015). A book of linked readings.
4. iClicker remote control. Please bring your iClicker to every lecture. It will be used every week.

All of these items can be purchased at the U of T Bookstore, 214 College Street. Items 1, 2, and 3 are bundled together at a discount while items 3 and 4 are also sold separately. Items 1, 2, and 4 are exactly the same as the items used last year, so you can buy used versions. Item 3 is a new edition of a book that was not available last year; you should NOT buy the 2nd edition, which was used last year. You are responsible for all the material just listed, which you will need for assignments, the tests, and the exam.

### Evaluation

#### *In-Class Peer Participation (10%)*

In-class activities will take place during each lecture. They will involve collaboratively discussing, and individually answering, with your iClicker, a series of questions related to the week's course material. There will be 20 of these in-class activities, each worth 0.5%. While you are highly encouraged to attend each lecture, sometimes there are health, work, or family emergencies that cause people to miss some classes. There are thus two course-designed alternatives to iClicker participation. If you miss one or a handful of lectures over the year, you can make up the missing grades through take-home assignments. Each take-home assignment has a value of 0.5%, replacing one missed, in-class participation. Several take-home assignments will be made available over the course of the year, each with its own instructions and deadlines, and enough to make up for a few missed classes. The second alternative is to opt out of the iClicker in-class participation entirely and submitting instead a 2,000-word essay that will be assessed for 10% of your grade. You can opt out by e-mailing Jaime, the Course Coordinator, to ask for this option. She will then send students the instructions for the essay content in the first week of the Winter semester.

#### *Online Peer Contributions (5%)*

Five percent of your grade will come from making 20 "significant contributions" (one per week, each worth 0.25%) to any of the online course forums on the Portal: your TA Corner, the General Questions about the Course forum, or any of the substantive topic discussion forums. Significant contributions include (1) helping other students with their questions; (2) offering clarification or additional thoughts and information on some aspect of the readings or course material; (3) submitting a link to a web site containing documents or video clips with a few sentences describing its relevance to course material; (4) linking something students saw in the mass media, a news article, or content from another course to some relevant aspect of course material; or (5) fostering or participating in discussions that highlight an issue touched upon in the readings or course material. Contributions are credited as significant if they are deemed useful to fellow students by meeting one of these criteria. All posts, other than answering colleagues' questions, including all links to other sources, should be well annotated with no less than 100 words discussing their relevance to course material. Contributions of less than 100 words, or contributions not furthering the understanding of course material, will not be credited as significant. Students will be updated on the status of their contributions regularly basis so they can keep track of their progress.

### Tests (20%)

Two, 75-minute, multiple-choice tests will be worth 10% each. Test 1 is Nov 5<sup>th</sup>. Test 2 is Feb 4<sup>th</sup>. You should bring several pencils and your U of T ID card to both tests. Students will write these tests in various locations on the St George campus, locations to be announced.

### Small assignments (5%)

There will be five small written assignments, about one per month, worth 1% each, to be submitted through the Portal. The instructions for each assignment will be delivered online and during tutorials. These small assignments are organized around the various steps necessary for the completion of a major project (the “Content Analysis,” described immediately below), namely 1) topic, 2) research question, 3) operationalization/coding scheme, 4) data gathering, and 5) data analysis.

### Content Analysis (20%) – Due March 30<sup>th</sup>

The major research assignment is a newspaper content analysis worth 20% and consisting of 7-8 pages (12pt font Arial or Times New Roman, one-inch margins all around), not including title page and bibliography. This project will involve choosing a topic linked directly to course content, formulating an appropriate research question, operationalizing key variables, sampling the *Globe and Mail*, the *National Post*, and/or the *Toronto Star*, gathering data, classifying this data within your designed coding scheme, and discussing your findings. Detailed instructions will be offered in the early weeks of the Fall semester and will be discussed throughout the year in tutorials and in the TA Corners on the Portal. Three copies of the assignment must be submitted, through 1) Portal, 2) Turnitin.com AND 3) as a hard copy to Rm 225, 725 Spadina Ave, no later than Monday, March 30<sup>th</sup> at 4pm. Note: There are no late penalties per day late because assignments will not be accepted past the due date without submission of U of T’s Verification of Illness form.<sup>1</sup> Without this documentation, any assignments submitted the day after the deadline will receive a grade of zero.

### Final Exam (in April, scheduled by the university) (40%)

A two-hour, cumulative, multiple-choice exam drawing on material from the whole course, Sept until April.

### Tutorials – Starting Sept 15<sup>th</sup> and running until March 27<sup>th</sup>

Teaching Assistants (MA and PhD sociology students) lead tutorials. They will be held every week between September and March unless announced otherwise. Tutorials start on September 15<sup>th</sup> (see below for full schedule). Tutorials are organized mainly to provide students with instructions and guidance on how to complete the content analysis. They are also an opportunity to ask colleagues and the TA questions and sharpen the tools necessary to be successful in this course. You are expected to attend all tutorials because that each tutorial session builds on the previous one. Just like lecture, if you miss one or several, you will want to get notes from a peer (perhaps through your TA Corner) so as not to fall behind.

GROUP	DAY	TIME	TA	LOCATION (New locations TBA)
Alligator	Monday	10-11am	TBA	RW 143 (Ramsey Wright Laboratories, 25 Harbord St.)
Beaver	Monday	11am-12pm	TBA	SS 2127 (Sidney Smith Hall, 100 St. George St.)
Cougar	Monday	12-1pm	TBA	UC A101 (University College, 15 King’s College Circle)
Dragonfly	Monday	1-2pm	TBA	UC 52 (University College, 15 King’s College Circle)
Eagle	Monday	2-3pm	TBA	HI-CART (St. Hilda’s College, 44 Devonshire Pl.)
Fox	Monday	3-4pm	TBA	CR 406 (Carr Hall, 100 St. Joseph St.)
Goat	Tuesday	9-10am	TBA	SS 2105 (Sidney Smith Hall, 100 St. George St.)
Hamster	Tuesday	10-11am	TBA	WI 523 (Wilson Hall, 40 Willcocks St.)
Iguana	Tuesday	12-1pm	TBA	CR 406 (Carr Hall, 100 St. Joseph St.)
Jackal	Tuesday	1-2pm	TBA	UC 52 (University College, 15 King’s College Circle)
Koala	Tuesday	1-2pm	TBA	RW 143 (Ramsey Wright Laboratories, 25 Harbord St.) Tutorials 1-3
Lobster	Tuesday	2-3pm	TBA	HI-CART (St. Hilda’s College, 44 Devonshire Pl.)
Moose	Tuesday	3-4pm	TBA	RW 229 (Ramsey Wright Laboratories, 25 Harbord St.)
Numbat	Tuesday	3-4pm	TBA	WI 523 (Wilson Hall, 40 Willcocks St.)
Octopus	Tuesday	6-7pm	TBA	
Peacock	Wednesday	9-10am	TBA	
Quail	Wednesday	9-10am	TBA	
Raccoon	Wednesday	10-11am	TBA	RW 229 (Ramsey Wright Laboratories, 25 Harbord St.)
Squirrel	Wednesday	10-11am	TBA	MP 134 (McLennan Physical Labs, 255 Huron St.) Tutorials 1-3

<sup>1</sup> Complete and submit the form at <http://www.illnessverification.utoronto.ca/>.

				RW 229 (Ramsey Wright Laboratories, 25 Harbord St.) Tutorials 4-6
Turkey	Thursday	10-11am	TBA	CR 405 (Carr Hall, 100 St. Joseph St.)
Umbrellabird	Thursday	10-11am	TBA	CR 405 (Carr Hall, 100 St. Joseph St.)
Vulture	Thursday	11am-12pm	TBA	SS 1070 (Sidney Smith Hall, 100 St. George St.)
Weasel	Thursday	11am-12pm	TBA	UC 52 (University College, 15 King's College Circle)
Zebra	Thursday	12pm-1pm	TBA	UC 52 (University College, 15 King's College Circle)

## Lectures, Tutorials and Readings Schedule

### First Half

Sept 10<sup>th</sup> – Introduction to Sociology (Caron)

“Introducing Sociology,” in *Commit Sociology*, vol 1

“Sociology as a Life or Death Issue,” in *Sociology as a Life or Death Issue*

*Tutorial: Not yet*

Sept 17<sup>th</sup> – Sociological Knowledge and Science (Caron)

“An Idea Whose Time Has Come,” in *Commit Sociology*, vol 1

“Human Inquiry and Science,” in *Commit Sociology*, vol 1

*Tutorial: Introductions & Content Analysis I*

Sept 24<sup>th</sup> – Research Methods (Brym)

“Research Methods,” in *Commit Sociology*, vol 2

*Tutorial: Content Analysis II*

Oct 1<sup>st</sup> - Culture (Caron)

“Culture,” in *Commit Sociology*, vol 1

“Global Culture: Sameness or Difference,” in *Commit Sociology*, vol 1

*Tutorial: Content Analysis III*

Oct 8<sup>th</sup> – Socialization and Social Interaction (Caron)

“Socialization,” in *Commit Sociology*, vol 1

“Society, Social Structure, and Interaction,” in *Commit Sociology*, vol 1

*Tutorial: Research Question I*

Oct 15<sup>th</sup> – Groups & Organizations (Caron)

“Groups and Social Organizations,” in *Commit Sociology*, vol 1

“McJobs: McDonaldisation and the Relationship to the Labor Process,” in *Commit Sociology*, vol 1

*Tutorial: Research Question II*

Oct 22<sup>nd</sup> – Social Stratification I (Brym)

“Social Stratification,” in *Commit Sociology*, vol 1

*Tutorial: Mentoring Session I*

Oct 29<sup>th</sup> – Social Stratification II (Brym)

“Hip Hop from Caps to Bling,” in *Sociology as a Life or Death Issue*

“The Social Bases of Cancer,” in *Sociology as a Life or Death Issue*

*Tutorial: Research Question III*

Nov 5<sup>th</sup> – Test #1

Nov 12<sup>th</sup> – Race and Ethnicity (Caron)

“Ethnic Relations and Race,” in *Commit Sociology*, vol 1

“Multiculturalism or Vertical Mosaic? Occupational Stratification among Canadian Ethnic Groups,” in *Commit Sociology*, vol 1

*Tutorial: Mentoring Session II*

Nov 19<sup>th</sup> - Gender (Caron)

“Gender,” in *Commit Sociology*, vol 1

“Sex and Gender through the Prism of Difference,” in *Commit Sociology*, vol 1

“Gender Risk,” in *Sociology as a Life or Death Issue*

*Tutorial: Operationalization/ Coding Scheme I*

Nov 26<sup>th</sup> – Sexual Orientation (Caron)

“Sexualities,” in *Commit Sociology*, vol 1

“‘Doing It’: The Social Construction of S-E-X,” in *Commit Sociology*, vol 1

*Tutorial: Operationalization/ Coding Scheme II*

\* Several online lectures will be offered throughout the year. These are relatively short and focus on single, narrow topics that supplement the readings and lectures.

## **Second Half**

Jan 7<sup>th</sup> – Deviance & Crime (Caron)

“Defining Deviance,” in *Commit Sociology*, vol 1

“Crime and Deviance,” in *Commit Sociology*, vol 1

*Tutorial: Operationalization/ Coding Scheme III*

Jan 14<sup>th</sup> – Globalization (Caron)

“Globalization,” in *Commit Sociology*, vol 2

“Multinational and Global Corporations,” in *Commit Sociology*, vol 2

*Tutorial: Operationalization/ Coding Scheme IV*

Jan 21<sup>st</sup> – Global Inequality (Brym)

“Development and Underdevelopment,” in *Commit Sociology*, vol 2

*Tutorial: Data Gathering I*

Jan 28<sup>th</sup> – Politics (Brym)

“Politics and Social Movements,” in *Commit Sociology*, vol 2

“Explaining Suicide Bombers,” in *Sociology as a Life or Death Issue*

*Tutorial: Data Gathering II*

Feb 4<sup>th</sup> – Test #2

Feb 11<sup>th</sup> – Mass Media (Caron)

“Mass Media,” in *Commit Sociology*, vol 2

“Social Media: Implications for Social Life,” in *Commit Sociology*, vol 2

*Tutorial: Data Gathering III*

Feb 18<sup>th</sup> – No Class – Winter Break

Feb 25<sup>th</sup> – The Body (Caron)

“Sociology of the Body: Disability, Aging and Death,” in *Commit Sociology*, vol 2

“Be Thin: Contradictions Within the Social Construction of Beauty and Happiness,” in *Commit Sociology*, vol 2

*Tutorial: Data Analysis I*

Mar 4<sup>th</sup> – Environment (Brym)

“Sociology and the Environment,” in *Commit Sociology*, vol 2

“Hurricane Katrina and the Myth of Natural Disasters,” in *Sociology as a Life or Death Issue*

*Tutorial: Data Analysis II*

Mar 11<sup>th</sup> – Religion (Caron)

“Religion,” in *Commit Sociology* vol 2

“Religion: The Comeback,” in *Commit Sociology*, vol 2

*Tutorial: Write-up I*

Mar 18<sup>th</sup> – Education (Caron)

“Education,” in *Commit Sociology*, vol 2

“Learning the Student Role,” in *Commit Sociology*, vol 2  
*Tutorial: Write-up II*

Mar 25<sup>th</sup> – Family (Caron)

“Families,” in *Commit Sociology*, vol 2

“The Changing Face of Matrimony: Same-Sex Civil Marriage in the Twenty-First Century,” in *Commit Sociology vol 2*  
*Tutorial: Write-up III & Goodbyes*

April 1<sup>st</sup> – Committing Sociology (Caron)

“The Sociological Eye,” in *Commit Sociology*, vol 2

“Sociology as a Vocation,” in *Sociology as a Life or Death Issue*

### **Make-Up Term Tests and Deadline Extension**

A make-up test or deadline extension may be available only in *documented* cases of illness or *immediate* family tragedy that took place *before* a given test. If you miss a test or a paper deadline, **do not** contact the instructor or a TA unless you have followed the steps described here. Telling the professor or TA why you missed a deadline or a test will not be considered.

- In case of **illness**, you must supply a duly completed Verification of Student Illness or Injury form (available at [www.illnessverification.utoronto.ca](http://www.illnessverification.utoronto.ca)). A doctor’s note is not acceptable. **The form must be placed in a sealed envelope addressed to the instructor.**
- If a **personal or family crisis** prevents you from meeting a deadline, you must get a letter from your college registrar (it is a good idea anyway to advise your college registrar if a crisis is interfering with your studies). **The letter must be placed in a sealed envelope addressed to the instructor.**
- This documentation must be submitted to the 100-level course mailbox in the Dept of Sociology, Rm 225, 725 Spadina Ave. Room 225 is accessible from 9 am to 5 pm Monday to Friday except public holidays. *You must submit this documentation within two working days of the missed test or deadline of an assignment or you will not be allowed to write the make-up test or turn in a late assignment.* If an event or condition prevents you from submitting the proper documentation within this timeline, you must contact Jaime, the Course Coordinator immediately. You are not entitled to write a make-up test if you write the regularly scheduled test. Only one make-up test will be scheduled for each term test. All requests will be screened by the Course Coordinator. Students eligible to write a make-up or get an extension will be informed by e-mail.

### **Plagiarism**

Cheating and misrepresentation will not be tolerated. Students who commit an academic offence face serious penalties. Avoid plagiarism by citing properly. Practices acceptable in high school may prove unacceptable in university. Know where you stand by reading the “Code of Behaviour on Academic Matters” in the Calendar of the Faculty of Arts and Science at <http://www.governingcouncil.utoronto.ca/Assets/Governing+Council+Digital+Assets/Policies/PDF/ppjun011995.pdf>.

### **Turnitin**

Normally, students will be required to submit their course essays to Turnitin.com 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 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 on the Turnitin.com web site.

### **Accessibility**

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