

**Department of Sociology**  
**University of Toronto**  
**SOC397H1S – Selected Topics in Sociological Research**  
***International Criminal Justice and Atrocities***  
**Winter (January-April) 2016**  
**Class time: Monday, 1-3 pm, UC144**  
**Professor Ron Levi**

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**Office Hours:** M, 3:30-4:30pm, Munk School of Global Affairs Observatory Building

**SCOPE AND AIMS**

This course focuses on international criminal justice, including the sociological, legal, and broadly political aspects for responding to war crimes, genocide, crimes against humanity, and terrorism. This will include understanding the legal thinking that is the core of international criminal law, while attending to the social dynamics that seek to explain this violence and the role of institutions in responding to atrocities. Readings will include legal cases, social science research articles that provide insight into the social dynamics of these crimes, and articles from the media that provide representations of how we approach these atrocities. By combining these perspectives, this course will provide students with both sociological and legal tools for understanding how we have come to respond to the worst atrocities and wartime violence over the 20<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup> centuries.

**PREREQUISITES**

Prerequisites: 200+ level sociology course; Exclusions: WDW445; WDW425 (08/09); SOC395H1F (13/14); SOC397H1S (14/15).

Students without any of these prerequisites, or who have taken these course exclusions, will be removed at any time discovered and without notice.

**READINGS**

Readings are available on BlackBoard.

**EVALUATION**

Short Reading Assignments (weekly) .....	10%
Take-home assignment (due 8 February) .....	30%
Problem-Solving Assignment (due 14 March).....	35%
Test (in class, 4 April) .....	25%

**Handing in Assignments**

Assignments must be handed in (or time-stamped) by the time and due date specified. Papers handed in on the due date after the time indicated on each assignment will be subject to a late penalty as outlined below.

All assignments must be handed to the instructor in hard copy in class and electronically via BlackBoard. The instructor and TA will NOT accept electronic copies of assignments via email. Do not put submissions under the office door of the instructor. The instructor is not

responsible for student assignments submitted in this way. Students must always keep an extra hard copy of their assignment for their own records. For instructions on how to upload an assignment using BlackBoard, please see:

<http://youtu.be/nZu0J9i7F3Q>

### **Reading Submissions (10%)**

This is a third year course, and the focus is on strong critical thinking, reading, and writing skills. Each week you are required to submit at the beginning of the class a short one page (250 words) typed analysis of the main themes and arguments of the assigned articles for that week. There is no reading submission for week 1 or week 12. Once students hand in a minimum of **seven** reading submissions, they will be eligible to receive **one** free point.

This should not be a simple description of the content of the readings, but an attempt to engage with the material analytically – as ways of thinking about the material. The “Critical Reading” page at <http://www.writing.utoronto.ca/advice/reading-and-researching/critical-reading> provides some excellent guidelines.

Your analysis should include the following:

- What are the readings about?
- What is/are the author’s main argument(s) or central claims?
- Is there evidence for these claims? What is it?
- What are the shortcomings of the evidence?
- What did you learn?
- Did the author overlook anything? Please reflect on previous weeks here where relevant.

Each submission is worth 1% of your final grade. Assignments will be scored as a 0, 0.5, or 1.0.

Due to the nature of this assignment, no makeup opportunities will be granted nor will the weight be transferred to another component of this course.

**Attendance:** Full and complete attendance is critical for learning the material in this course. Excessive lateness and other problematic in-class behaviour will not be tolerated and will result in mark penalties or other punitive action at the discretion of the instructor.

### **Late or missed tests and assignments**

*Late penalties (this excludes the Reading submissions):*

- Assignments will be penalized 5% per day including weekends and holidays. The penalty will be applied to work handed in after 4:10 p.m. on the due date.
- The penalty will run from the day the assignment was due until the day it is submitted electronically via Blackboard. You are still required to submit a hard copy at the next class. The electronic copy must be identical to any hard copy submitted.
- **Assignments that are more than 5 days late will not be accepted unless they are accompanied by valid documentation of circumstances beyond student’s control.**

- Accommodation provision: In general, for missed or late tests or assignments we follow University of Toronto policy about accommodation for the following three reasons:
  1. Illness, as documented with a 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, and submitted with your work at class or to your TA during their office hours.
  2. Religious observances, following the guidelines at <http://www.viceprovoststudents.utoronto.ca/publicationsandpolicies/guidelines/religiousobservances.htm>
  3. Other documented unplanned circumstances entirely beyond the student's control (e.g., a court subpoena or a funeral).

For all the above, students must request an extension prior to the due date if at all possible.

Late work will never be accepted without proper documentation from a student's physician or college registrar. Once the student has provided adequate documentation of their inability to complete the assignment on time, the student and the TA will negotiate a new due date for the assignment. Papers submitted after the negotiated deadline will be subject to the late penalty outlined above.

For tests: students who miss a test will receive a mark of zero, unless within three days of the missed test, students who wish to write the make-up test give their TA a written request for special consideration which explains why the test was missed, accompanied by proper documentation from a physician or college registrar. A request should be accompanied by contact information (the student's telephone number and email address) so the date, time and place of the make-up test can be communicated to the student. A student who misses a test and the subsequent make-up test for a valid reason, with proper documentation from a physician or college registrar, will not have a third chance to take the test. Instead, the grade assigned for the missed test will be the same as the grade the student earns for the other test in this course.

### **Grade appeals**

The instructor and teaching assistants take the marking of assignments very seriously. Nonetheless, mistakes and oversights occasionally happen. If you believe that to be the case, you must adhere to the following rules:

- If it is a calculation error simply alert the TA of the error via email.
- In the case of substantive appeals, you must:
  1. Wait at least 24 hours after receiving your mark.
  2. Carefully re-read your assignment, all assignment guidelines and marking schemes and the grader's comments.

### **Remarking Procedures:**

Your request must be submitted in writing to the TA who graded the assignment. Requests must be submitted within one month the graded work was made available for pick up. The particular day you choose to retrieve your assignment is irrelevant. To request a remark, you

must submit a written request explaining precisely why you believe your assignment should receive a different grade. As well, please remember that on a remark your grade may go up or down. The grade after the remark will be the grade recorded on the assignment. If you are not satisfied with the decision of the TA, submit a written request for a second rereading to the Instructor within two weeks of the reread being made available for pick up by the TA.

***Work remarked by the instructor:***

The Instructor will remark the entire assignment, not simply the questions or portion you believe were scored improperly. Note that in the course of remarking your assignment, he may discover errors or defects that were not originally detected on the paper or test. As a result, it is possible that your revised mark may actually go down, rather than going up or staying the same. The revised mark stands. It is not to your advantage to submit a request for a second remarking unless you believe you will actually gain points.

***We will not discuss your assignment/ test on the day that it is handed back. All requests for re-grading must be made in writing.***

**Email**

- All course communication should be conducted through Blackboard or your Utormail account.
- All emails must include the course code (i.e., SOC397H1) in the subject line.
- All emails should be signed with the student's full name and student number.
- Emails from students will generally be answered within 72 business hours of receipt.
- Emails should be sent to your TA, not the professor
- Students cannot submit their work by fax, email or to the receptionist at the Department of Sociology.

**Grading:** See U of T guidelines:

<http://www.artsandscience.utoronto.ca/ofr/calendar/rules.htm#term>

**Accessibility needs:** 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.

**Plagiarism:** cheating and misrepresentation will not be tolerated. Students who commit an academic offence face serious penalties. Avoid plagiarism by citing properly: practices accepted by teachers 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.