

SOC100H1F – LEC0101/LEC2000
INTRODUCTION TO SOCIOLOGY I – SOCIOLOGICAL PERSPECTIVES
Fall 2018
University of Toronto, St. George

Instructor: Prof. Christian Caron

Class Time and Location: Wednesdays Noon-2pm, Location: Con Hall

Contact Information: christian.caron@utoronto.ca

Office Hours: Wednesdays 10-11am

Teaching Assistants

TBA

Course Description

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 examine what is “Canadian” culture, the role and impact of mass media on our lives, and the patterns of class, gender and racial and ethnic inequality in Canada and internationally. We will also take up the topic of health and mental health, crime and deviance, and politics and social movements to further our understandings of both the discipline of Sociology and the social worlds in which we live our lives. 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.

Communication and Quercus

While this course involves a fair bit of independent learning, the organizing principle of the course is that learning is a social process that takes place not only by reading, attending lectures and tutorials, 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, tutorials, in-class engagement, and outside-of-class participation. The course will rely heavily on the UofT LMS (Learning Management System) Quercus to facilitate this “study group” atmosphere. The Quercus page for this course will act as the “nervous system” of the course, a place where you will find this syllabus, PowerPoint slides (a partial set will be posted Tuesdays before the lectures and a full set by Thursday mornings), assignment instructions, announcements, grades, and student-generated content on a series of discussion boards. While the Quercus page will be small at the outset, it will grow as the course progresses. The LMS plays an especially important role due to the large enrollment in this course (900+ students). The large class size presents several unique challenges, such as the need for extra layers of organization and communication. Students should make use of the thread subscription function and the search engine within the Quercus to navigate the course page. Beyond that, we will rely on several other communication mechanisms to ensure all students have the information they need to be successful and for information to be delivered consistently to everyone.

To that end, there are several key resources for students in this course:

1) *Announcements* – The SOC100H Quercus 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 the main space on Quercus 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 questions about course content, activities, assignment, exams, deadlines, etc. This forum is monitored mainly by Professor Caron, along with the TAs. Every question will be answered by one of us unless a colleague has already provided the answer. In this way, all clarifications are available to everyone in the course.

3) *TAs* – (TBA). Each student has signed up on ACORN for a tutorial, which means that you have your own TA. Your teaching assistant will help you all semester as an additional resource for the course. You have access to your TAs through bi-weekly tutorials, drop-in office hours, and by e-mail for more personal matters.

TA1: TUT0101, TUT0102, and TUT0116

TA2: TUT0103, TUT0104, and TUT0105

TA3: TUT0106, TUT0107, and TUT0108

TA4: TUT0108, TUT0109, and TUT0110

TA5: TUT0112, TUT0113, and TUT0117

TA6: TUT0114 and TUT0115

4) *Professor Caron* – as the Course Instructor, Professor Caron is ultimately responsible for every aspect of the course. You are encouraged to seek him out after class or during office hours. 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 spaces, bi-weekly tutorials, scheduled and by appointment office hours, lectures, or e-mail with your TA or Professor Caron.

Course Material

Christian Caron, ed. *Commit Sociology*, 2nd Edition, (Toronto: Nelson, 2019)

Our textbook is a course pack of readings from seven different sources assembled specifically for this SOC100H course. The course pack is available at the UofT bookstore.

Evaluation

Peer Contributions (5%) – (throughout semester)

Each student has had a rich life full of personal, educational, and work experiences before walking into this course, and is thus well equipped to contribute something worthwhile to their colleagues’ learning experience. This component is there to encourage each of you to make these contributions, while giving each student plenty of choices in the manner in which they feel most

interested or most comfortable doing so. There are several distinctive ways for each of you to contribute to your colleagues' experience and accrue these 5%: (1) you can be one of the volunteer lecture or tutorial note-takers; (2) you can answer your colleagues' questions on your the General Questions about the Course forum, where each question answered will be credited 0.5%; (3) you can accrue contributions by posting relevant material, clarifications, or reflections on the course content, such as material and insights from other courses you have taken, from what you see in the media, or from your own first-hand experience. Every posts made on the substantive forums (Culture, Mass Media, Gender, Health, etc) that contributes to furthering the understanding of course material for your colleagues, and is no less than 100 words in length, will be credited 0.5% towards this component; (4) you can accrue grades towards this component by completing "special projects" advertised by the instructor or TAs in lecture, tutorial or online; and (5) you can also earn this 5% by suggesting other types of possible contributions to your TA or the instructor.

Tutorials (10%) – (every other week)

There will be six tutorials for SOC100H this semester, held every other week:

Tutorial 1: Sept 17th-19th – Into Sociology and Culture

Tutorial 2: Oct 1st-Oct 3rd – Mass Media and Networks

Tutorial 3: Oct 15th-17th – Social Stratification and Race/Ethnicity

Tutorial 4: Oct 29th-Oct 31st – Micro Assignment Instructions

Tutorial 5: Nov 12th-Nov 14th – Gender and Health and Mental Health

Tutorial 6: Nov 26th-Nov 28th – Crime and Deviance and Politics and Social Movements

The tutorials are designed as part discussion groups, part Q+A, and part midterm and final exam prep. Each tutorial will feature an in-class activity assessed out of 2%. If you complete all six in-class activities during those tutorials, then the best five grades out of six will be compiled to produce the total of out of 10%.

Midterm (25%) – October 24th

The 90min midterm will be held during class time between 12:10 and 13:40 on October 24th. Every student will be assigned a room to complete the midterm based on their surnames. The locations will be widely publicized well ahead of the midterm.

Micro Assignment (10%) – hard copy and digital copy due Wednesday, Nov 28th

Detailed instructions will be shared in lecture, the third tutorial, and online on Quercus.

Final Exam (50%) – tba, December exam period

A three-hour cumulative exam drawing on material from the whole course

Lectures and Readings Schedule

Readings should be completed before lecture. Lectures will not systematically summarize the readings, but instead build and go beyond them.

Sept 12th: Introduction to Sociology

Chapter 1: Into Sociology, p1-25

Sept 19th: Culture

Chapter 2: "I am Canadian": What is "Canadian" Culture? p26-44

Week of Tutorial 1

Sept 26th: Mass Media

Chapter 3: Mass Media: Living in the Electronic Age, p45-66

Oct 3rd: Networks, Groups, and Organizations

Chapter 4: Networks, Groups, Bureaucracies, and Societies, p67-94

Week of Tutorial 2

Oct 10th: Social Class and Inequality

Chapter 5: Social Stratification, p95-121

Oct 17th: Race, Ethnicity and Immigration

Chapter 6: Race and Ethnicity: Defining Ourselves and Others, p122-142

Week of Tutorial 3

Oct 24th: Midterm

Oct 31st: Gender and Sexuality

Chapter 7: Gender, p143-165

Week of Tutorial 4

Nov 14th: Health and Mental Health

Chapter 8: Illness and Health Care, p166-205

Week of Tutorial 5

Nov 21st: Deviance, Crime, and the Law

Chapter 9: Crime and Deviance, p206-241

Nov 28th: Politics and Social Movements

Chapter 10: Politics and Social Movements, p242-269

Week of Tutorial 6

Micro Assignment due on Nov 28th

Dec 5th: Conclusion & Review

Chapter 1: Into Sociology, p1-25

Classroom Etiquette

Note that Convocation Hall is a large room, that noise carries easily, and that this presents challenges when we are using it as a classroom. Accordingly, every student has a role to play to make the lecture hall a conducive environment to learning for two hours every week. You should be mindful of your noise level. Do not distract other students. Keep verbal exchanges with

friends and colleagues few and at the level of a murmur. The distracting noise level is the most often-mentioned concern of students in Convocation Hall. Let's work hard to prevent this issue from being disruptive.

Missed Deadline and/or missed Midterm

Note that the late penalty is 1pt out of 10 per day for the micro assignment. In case of documented illness for micro assignment deadline or midterm, contact the professor within two business days and make sure to provide a copy of the UofT completed Verification of Student Illness or Injury form (available at www.illnessverification.utoronto.ca) or a doctor's note within a week. If a personal or family crisis prevents you from meeting the assignment deadline or causes you to miss the midterm, you must get a letter from your college registrar (it is recommended you always advise your registrar if a crisis is interfering with your studies). Finally, if you miss the final exam for any reason, you will want to contact your college registrar immediately.

Academic Integrity

Students are expected to know and adhere to the University's principles of academic integrity. Any act of plagiarism or other unethical behavior will be addressed in accordance with University guidelines. Please see the "Code of Behaviour on Academic Matters" 6 (<http://www.governingcouncil.utoronto.ca/policies/behaveac.htm>) for specific information on academic integrity at the U of T.

Accessibility and Student Accommodations

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

Writing Support

Students are urged to seek assistance from the University of Toronto writing centre should they anticipate problems in this area. The writing centre can be visited on the web at: <http://www.utoronto.ca/writing/centres.html>