

**SOC150H1S L0101 & L2000**  
**SOCIOLOGICAL INQUIRIES**  
**Winter 2019**  
**University of Toronto, St. George**

**Instructor:** Prof. Christian Caron

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

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**Teaching Assistants**

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**Course Description**

In this sequel to SOC100H: Introduction to Sociology, SOC150H continues to explore a series of themes central to the discipline of sociology, but does so in more depth. This starts with an examination of the nature, role, and relationship between sociological theory and sociological research. We will look at *how* sociologists go about doing the work of describing, understanding, and changing the social world in which we live. We will do so by narrowing our focus on fewer concepts, phenomenon, and issues than in SOC100H to allow for a greater engagement and deeper understanding of topics such as poverty, housing, race, gender, social control, and social change. These topics will be brought to life through exposure to ground-breaking pieces of work by contemporary sociologists active in the field today.

**Prerequisite**

The prerequisite to take SOC150H is one of SOC100H or SOC102H or SOC103H. Students without the prerequisite will be removed at any time discovered and without notice.

**Exclusion**

SOC101Y1, SOC102H1+SOC103H1, SOC200H1, SOC200Y1, SOCB05H3, SOC221H5, SOC200Y5

**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. 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 SOC150H 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* – (see list above with e-mails). 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 tutorials, drop-in office hours, and by e-mail for more personal matters.

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**

Material for this course comes in two forms: 1) PDFs of chapters and articles made available for free on the Quercus course page, and 2) Matthew Desmond’s 2016 *Evicted: Poverty and Profit in the American City* available at the UofT bookstore for \$15-20, and through any major online bookstore. Students are expected to have completed the readings each week prior to tutorial and lecture.

### **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 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 in lecture or online; and (5) you can also earn this 5% by suggesting other types of possible contributions to the instructor.

*Tutorials* (10%) – (every other week)

There will be six tutorials for SOC150H this semester, held in the following weeks:

Tutorial 1: Jan 14<sup>th</sup>-16<sup>th</sup> – Sociological Inquiries & Sociological Theory

Tutorial 2: Jan 28<sup>th</sup>-Jan 30<sup>th</sup> Oct 1<sup>st</sup>-Oct 3<sup>rd</sup> – Sociological Research & Methods

Tutorial 3: Feb 4<sup>th</sup>-Feb 6<sup>th</sup> – Structure and Agency & Midterm Q+A

Tutorial 4: Feb 25<sup>th</sup>-Feb 27<sup>th</sup> – Assignment Discussion & Social Class

Tutorial 5: Mar 11<sup>th</sup>-Mar 13<sup>th</sup> – Race & Gender

Tutorial 6: Mar 25<sup>th</sup>-Mar 27<sup>th</sup> – Social Control & Social Change

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%.

*\*Note tutorials are normally held every week, except tutorial 2 and 3 which take place on back to back weeks*

*Midterm* (20%) – February 13<sup>th</sup>

The 90min midterm will be held during class time between 12:10 and 13:40 on February 13<sup>th</sup>. 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.

*Written Assignment* (20%) – hard copy and digital copy due Wednesday, March 27<sup>th</sup>

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

*Final Exam* (45%) – tba, April exam period

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

## **Reading and Lecture Schedule**

***Week 1 – Jan 9<sup>th</sup> – Sociological Inquiries***

Sociological Inquiries - available as pdf on Quercus

***Week 2 – Jan 16<sup>th</sup> – Sociological Theory***

Sociological theory - available as pdf on Quercus

*Week of tutorial 1*

***Week 3 – Jan 23<sup>rd</sup> – Sociological Research***

Sociological research - available as pdf on Quercus

*Evicted – Prologue: Cold City*

***Week 4 – Jan 30<sup>th</sup> – Sociological Methods***

Sense and Nonsense – available as pdf on Quercus

In Their Own Words – available as pdf on Quercus

How To Do Ethnography Right – available as pdf on Quercus

*Week of tutorial 2*

***Week 5 – February 6<sup>th</sup> – Structure and Agency***

Neoliberalism – available as pdf on Quercus

Social Institutions – available as pdf on Quercus

If Hitler Asked You To Electrocute a Stranger, Would You? Probably – available as pdf on Quercus

*Finish Evicted's Part One: Rent by February 6<sup>th</sup>'s lecture*

*Week of tutorial 3*

***Week 6 – February 13<sup>th</sup> - Midterm***

***Week 7 – February 20<sup>th</sup> – Reading Week***

***Week 8 – February 27<sup>th</sup> – Social Class***

Rethinking American Poverty – available as pdf on Quercus

Inequality and the Growth of Bad Jobs – available as pdf on Quercus

*Finish Evicted's Part Two: Out's by February 27<sup>th</sup>'s lecture*

*Week of tutorial 4*

***Week 9 – March 6<sup>th</sup> – Race***

Five Fallacies About Racism – available as pdf on Quercus

Racial Formation In the United States – available as pdf on Quercus

Race As Class – available as pdf on Quercus

***Week 10 – March 13<sup>th</sup> – Gender***

Barbie Girls vs Sea Monsters: Children Constructing Gender – available as pdf on Quercus

*Week of tutorial 5*

***Week 11 – March 20<sup>th</sup> - Social Control***

From the Panopticon to Disney World – available as pdf on Quercus  
The Docile Body in School Space – available as pdf on Quercus  
*Finish Evicted's Part Three: After's by March 20<sup>th</sup>'s lecture*

***Week 12 – March 27<sup>th</sup> – Social Change***

Agency and Structural Change - available as pdf on Quercus  
Evicted – Epilogue  
*Week of tutorial 6*

***Week 13 – April 3<sup>rd</sup> – Conclusion/Review***

Evicted – About This Project

**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 2pt out of 20 per day for the written assignment. In case of documented illness for the 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](http://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>