

**SOC150H1S L0101 & L2000**  
**SOCIOLOGICAL INQUIRIES**  
**Winter 2020**  
**University of Toronto, St. George**

**Instructor:** Prof. Lance Stewart

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

**Contact Information:** lance.stewart@mail.utoronto.ca

**Office Hours:** Wednesdays, 3-5pm, 725 Spadina, Rm 335

**Course Coordinator:** Office hours are by appointment, Tuesdays 1-2pm

Sol Underwood: s.underwood@mail.utoronto.ca

**Tutorial Leaders:**

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**Course Description**

As a sequel to SOC100H: Introduction to Sociology, SOC150H continues with a more in-depth exploration of themes central to the discipline of sociology. This starts with furthering our understanding of what it means to think sociologically, and then diving into how to conduct sociological research by examining the nature, role, and relationship between sociological theory and methods. We will look at how sociologists go about doing the work of describing, analyzing, and understanding the social world in which we live. We will do so by taking our understanding of how to think and research sociologically, and applying this approach to fewer concepts, phenomenon, and issues than in SOC100H. This focused application of sociolegal inquiry allows for a greater engagement and deeper understanding of topics such as poverty, housing, race, gender, and social control. 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 central hub of the course, 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. Quercus 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 Quercus to navigate the course page. Beyond using Quercus to pose and answer questions for each other, 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 Sol Underwood and Professor Stewart. This is your main resource for any question you have about the course, including clarification on the course materials covered in lecture and in the readings. Every question will be answered by the end of the week by one of us unless a fellow student has already provided the answer. In this way, all clarifications are available to everyone in the course to benefit from.
3. **Course Coordinator** – The course coordinator is a specialized Teaching Assistant that helps you with resources related to assignments, tests and exams, Quercus, and any other organizational details of the course. Sol will be your resource to communicate needs related to Accessibility Services, extensions related to course assessments, taking the make-up exam, and any clarifications regarding Quercus. If you have any questions about assignments and tests, Quercus submissions and information, please email Sol directly (see the list above for Sol’s email).
4. **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 your resource for help with the course materials. You have access to your TAs through tutorials, drop-in office hours, and by e-mail for more personal matters. If you have any questions about course materials covered in class, it is best to talk to your TA in person during tutorials or office hours, but you can also email your tutorial TA directly.
5. **Professor Stewart** – as the Course Instructor, Professor Stewart 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 Stewart.

### **Email**

When emailing Professor Stewart or TAs, please use your utoronto.ca address. Please also include "SOC150" and a brief description in the subject line, so your email can be easily prioritized. Emails will typically be answered within 48 hours, during the workweek (i.e. Monday through Friday, between 9am-6pm). Keep in mind that for simple questions, email is the preferred method of communication. However, for longer questions, students should attend office hours and/or schedule an appointment **with the appropriate TA** or the professor.

### **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

### **Course Assessments:**

#### **Peer Contributions (5%)** – (throughout semester)

Each of you are coming to this class with a rich life, full of personal, educational, and work experiences, and are thus well equipped to contribute something worthwhile to your colleagues' learning experience. This component is here to encourage each of you to make contributions, while giving you the choice to do so in a way that you are comfortable with. There are several ways for each of you to contribute to our colleagues' experience and accrue this 5%:

1. You can be one of the volunteer lecture or tutorial note-takers.
2. You can answer your colleagues' questions on the General Questions about the Course forum on Quercus, where each question answered will be credited 1%.
3. You can accrue contributions by posting relevant material, clarifications, or reflections on the course content, such as material and insights from other sociology courses you have taken, from what you see in the media, or from your own first-hand experience. Every post made on the substantive forums that contributes to further understanding of the course materials, and is no less than 100 words in length, will be credited 1%.
4. You can also earn part of this 5% by suggesting other types of possible contributions to Professor Stewart.

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

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

Tutorial 1: Jan 13th-15th – Engaging in Critical Reading

Tutorial 2: Jan 27th-29th – Sociological Methods & Evicted Reading

Tutorial 3: Feb 3rd-5th – Study Strategies & Midterm Q+A

Tutorial 4: Feb 24th-26th – Assignment Discussion & Writing Tips

Tutorial 5: Mar 9th-11th – Written Assignment Workshop

Tutorial 6: Mar 23rd-25th – Exam Guide & Q+A

The tutorials are designed as a resource to improve skills needed for your final paper, midterm and final exam. Tutorials will also include discussing course content, to improve your understanding of materials. Each tutorial will feature an in-class activity assessed out of 2%. **To have your participation mark accepted, you must attend the tutorial you are registered in.** 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%. If you are experiencing registration and scheduling issues, please contact Sol to discuss tutorial attendance options.

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

### **Midterm (20%) – February 12th**

The 90min midterm will be held during class time between 12:10 and 13:40 on February 13th. 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 (25%) – March 25th**

Hard copy and digital copy due Wednesday, March 26th. Detailed instructions will be shared in lecture, in tutorial, and online on Quercus.

### **Final Exam (40%) – tba, April exam period**

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

## **Reading and Lecture Schedule**

### **Week 1 – Jan 8th – Sociological Inquiries**

Sociological Inquiries - available as pdf on Quercus

### **Week 2 – Jan 15th – Sociological Theory**

Sociological theory - available as pdf on Quercus

Week of tutorial 1

### **Week 3 – Jan 22nd – Sociological Research**

Sociological research - available as pdf on Quercus

Evicted – Prologue: Cold City

### **Week 4 – Jan 29th – Sociological Methods I: Quantitative**

Survey Research: A Quantitative Technique – link available on Quercus

Sense and Nonsense – available as pdf on Quercus

Week of tutorial 2

### **Week 5 – February 5th – Sociological Methods II: Qualitative**

In Their Own Words – available as pdf on Quercus

How To Do Ethnography Right – available as pdf on Quercus

Finish Evicted's Part One: Rent by February 5th's lecture

Week of tutorial 3

### **Week 6 – February 12th - Midterm**

### **Week 7 – February 19th – Reading Week**

### **Week 8 – February 26th – 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 Two: Out's by February 26th's lecture

Week of tutorial 4

### **Week 9 – March 4th – Social Class**

Rethinking American Poverty – available as pdf on Quercus

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

### **Week 10 – March 11th – 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 of tutorial 5

### **Week 11 – March 18th – Gender**

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

Finish Evicted's Part Three: After's by March 20th's lecture

### **Week 12 – March 25th - Social Control**

From the Panopticon to Disney World – available as pdf on Quercus

The Docile Body in School Space – available as pdf on Quercus

Evicted – Epilogue

Week of tutorial 6

### **Week 13 – April 1st – 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 5% per day for the written assignment, including weekend days. **Late assignments will not be accepted via email or hardcopy.** In case of documented illness for the assignment deadline or midterm, please contact Professor Stewart to provide a sealed copy of the UofT completed Verification of Student Illness or Injury form in an envelope (available at [www.illnessverification.utoronto.ca](http://www.illnessverification.utoronto.ca)) or a doctor's note **within one week**. You must additionally contact Sol, the Course Coordinator, **within two business** days to be registered for the make-up midterm test. 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.

### **Tests and Exams**

The Midterm Test is scheduled for Wednesday February 12<sup>th</sup>, and will take place in a scheduled room, and not in the lecture room (Con Hall). An announcement will be provided to indicate what room you will take the exam.

The Final Exam date is TBD. Students will be notified when the exam schedule is released by the Faculty of Arts & Science.

Students who miss the midterm test will be assigned a grade of 0. However, students may have an absence excused with proper documentation in the case of illness or unforeseen personal circumstance. Proper documentation consists of a **Verification of Student Illness or Injury Form** or a **doctor's note**, completed by a medical practitioner **on or before the day of the test** (you may find the form at [www.illnessverification.utoronto.ca](http://www.illnessverification.utoronto.ca)), and must indicate the start and anticipated end date of the illness. All documentation must be received via email the **Sol, the course coordinator, within 7 calendar days of the test (i.e. by the Wednesday following the test)**. If documentation is received and deemed sufficient, you can take the make-up test, which is scheduled two weeks from the original test date (**February 26th**). All makeup tests are held during class time. Students who do not attend the scheduled make-up test will receive a grade of 0.

The Final Exam is scheduled/coordinated by the Faculty of Arts & Science. Students who miss the final exam will be assigned a grade of 0. However, students may be eligible to petition because of an excused absence with proper documentation. Proper documentation consists of an original **Verification of Student Illness or Injury Form** completed by a doctor **on or before the day of the final exam** (you may find the form at [www.illnessverification.utoronto.ca](http://www.illnessverification.utoronto.ca)). All petitions to defer the final exam **MUST** be negotiated through your college registrar. If documentation is received and deemed sufficient, the final exam will be deferred.

### **Re-Grading Assignments**

Before submitting a request to have an assignment re-graded, you must wait **2 days after the grades are released**, and then contact your tutorial TA. All requests for re-grading course assignments should be made to your TA **within one week** of the date when the assignments are returned to the class. A short memo that clearly states specific reasons to justify the request and backs up these reasons with evidence from your assignment must accompany the regrade request to your TA. No re-grading requests will be considered if they are submitted more than one week after the assignments are returned to the class. This deadline applies to all students including those who missed the class when the assignments were returned.

### **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.

You should acquaint yourself with the rules concerning plagiarism and other forms of academic misconduct, including but not limited to:

- Using someone else's ideas or words without appropriate acknowledgement.
- Copying material word-for-word from a source without quotation marks.
- Obtaining or providing unauthorized assistance on any assignment including (e.g.) working in groups on assignments that are supposed to be individual work
- Letting someone else look at your answers on a test.
- Falsifying or altering any documentation required by the University.

### **Turnitin.com**

Normally, students will be required to submit their course written assignments to Turnitin.com for 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 at

<http://www.teaching.utoronto.ca/teaching/academicintegrity/turnitin/conditions-use.htm>

Assignments not submitted through Turnitin will receive a grade of zero (0 %) unless a student instead provides, along with their position paper, sufficient secondary material (e.g., reading notes, outlines of the paper, rough drafts of the final draft, etc.) to establish that the paper they submit is truly their own. The alternative (not submitting via Turnitin) is in place because, strictly speaking, using Turnitin is voluntary for students at the University of Toronto.

**Work submitted on Quercus will be automatically scanned by Turnitin.com; you do not require a course code or password to do so.**

### **Accessibility and Student Accommodations**

Students with diverse learning styles and needs are welcome in this course. It is important to recognize that having different learning needs does not make you a lesser student, and we aim to support you as well as we can. If you may require accommodations, please contact Sol, the Course Coordinator, to let them know about the resources and accommodations you need. Also, please feel free to approach Professor Stewart or contact him to talk about visiting 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>