

SOCI 436 ¹

Issues in Sociology & Social Justice

Instructor: Dr. Bill Carroll

Course Description:

Sociology has, from its inception in the nineteenth century, had a complicated relationship with currents, movements and practices of social justice. In this course, we explore that relationship, focusing on the contemporary scene and the future possibilities that lie within that scene. Although SOCI 436 is a sociology course, our definition of sociology is broad, and moreover, the course is also an elective in the interdisciplinary Minor/Diploma Program in Social Justice Studies. I hope the course will take on an interdisciplinary flavor as our discussion progress.

The course will involve more discussion than lecture. This makes for a dynamic and interesting experience, but it also requires commitment and preparation by all members of the class. SOCI 436 is not only a seminar-style course; it is also a writing course. Throughout the term, students will write a number of small reflective essays, leading to a term paper, which is due in December.

Course Objectives:

This is a capstone course, intended to stimulate critical thinking about the multifaceted relationship between sociology as a practice of inquiry and social justice as a practice of human emancipation. This principal objective will guide our activities, which will include brief lectures, small group and whole class discussions, weekly workshops that will be particularly interactive, and reflective writing.

Participation is crucial to this course's success! I will begin each session with a relatively short lecture, introducing the topic and readings, and giving you some background as to how they fit into our course problematic, i.e., the complex relationship between sociology and social justice. But most of our time together will involve discussion.

¹ This outline is only intended to give an overall sense of the course. A detailed course outline will be made available in August before the first day of class. Only that outline is to be considered official.

Course Pre-requisites:

Minimum fourth-year standing **and** declared Honours or Major in Sociology or Minor in Social Justice Studies

Topics May Include:

Sociology, Knowledge and Power

Public Sociology

Critical Sociology

Sociology and alternative policies

Activism, movements and solidarity

Sociology, radicalism and the left

Required Resources May Include:

Most readings will be posted to the BrightSpace website, as weblinks or pdfs.