SOCI 2000A: FOUNDATIONS OF SOCIOLOGICAL INQUIRY
Lecture times: Mondays 2:35 to 4:25 pm
Lecture location: Unicentre, Room 231

PREREQUISITES: SOCI 1001 [0.5] AND SOCI 1002 [0.5] OR SOCI 1003 [1.0], or ANTH 1001, or ANTH 1002.

COURSE INSTRUCTOR
Dr. Michael Mopas
Office: 787D Loeb Building
Phone: 613.520.2600 ext. 2990
Office hours: Wednesdays 12 to 2 pm or by appointment
Email: michael.mopas@carleton.ca (this is the best way to get a hold of me, but please allow 24 to 48 hours for a response)

ABOUT THE COURSE
Description
This course is designed to help students gain a better understanding of the 'how's' and 'why's' of sociological inquiry. Students will be shown how to think about and view the world like a sociologist. Students will be introduced to a number of different approaches to conducting research commonly used within sociology (the research 'methods') and their underlying philosophical and epistemological foundations (the research 'methodologies'). Other topics to be discussed include: research ethics, the connections between theory and method, the advantages and limitations of different research approaches, and the various applications of social research.

Learning objectives
• To introduce students to the basic epistemological underpinnings of sociological research.
• To give students an awareness of a broad array of quantitative and qualitative research techniques.
• To encourage students to make connections between the empirical, methodological, epistemological and ethical issues involved in conducting research.
• To make students critical consumers of social research by developing their abilities to read and assess this type of work.
• To help prepare students so they can design and undertake an independent research projects in the future (should they choose to do so).
• To further develop students’ reading and writing skills.

Learning outcomes
Students who successfully complete and perform well in this course will…

Demonstrate knowledge of:
• The basic philosophical and epistemological underpinnings of sociological research.
• The advantages, limitations, and practical challenges of undertaking sociological research.
• The various methods for the collection, analysis, and presentation of quantitative and qualitative data.

Have developed the following skills:
• The ability to read, comprehend and critique a range of research approaches used in sociology.
• The capacity to critically reflect on both the content and process of a research project and to identify potential ethical issues.
• The proficiency to write about sociological research in a clear and concise manner.
• Various practical and applied skills related to university work (e.g., using the library resources, proper referencing and citation, essay writing, etc.).

Approach to teaching and learning

I am a firm believer that good teachers ‘facilitate’ learning. Good teachers not only communicate information and knowledge to their students, but also enable and encourage students to become responsible for their own learning. As such, it is my job to get you excited about this field by providing interesting and interactive course lectures, assigning thought-provoking reading material, and giving challenging (but fair) assignments, so that you can become actively involved in your own learning experience.

Expectations of students

In order to get the most out of this class, students must come to class prepared to learn. This means completing required readings in advance, listening respectfully when others are talking, raising your hand when you want to speak, and speaking in turn. Important announcements will normally be made at the beginning of lectures so please arrive on time. Also, because each class is three hours in length, you will miss a significant amount of material if you leave early or are absent, so plan to attend regularly and for the full duration of the period.

If, for whatever reason, you are unable to attend a lecture, it is YOUR responsibility for any course material (e.g., lecture notes, handouts, etc.) you may have missed. Please do NOT ask the course instructor to provide you with a ‘summary’ of what was covered in lecture. Instead, ask someone in the class if you can borrow their notes or go over with them what was covered in lecture.

COURSE MATERIALS AND RESOURCES

Required texts

The following textbooks are available for purchase at Haven Books (43 Seneca St., Tel#: 613.730.9888):


**Online resources**

A course website (using cuLearn) has been designed and placed online. Access to the website is password protected and restricted to students enrolled in this course. The website will be used by the instructor as an additional means of distributing course material and information (e.g., lecture notes, class announcements, class marks, links to course-related Internet sites, etc.). A discussion board, closely monitored by the instructor, has also been created to provide students with a forum for discussing various course-related issues outside the classroom setting.

Students will be expected to check the website on a weekly-basis and are encouraged to actively participate in the online discussions.

**COURSE SCHEDULE AND ASSIGNED READINGS**

The readings assigned for each week will directly relate to the lecture material and expand upon many of the issues covered in class. Students will be expected to have all assigned readings completed PRIOR to each class.

**September 10: Introduction**
Required readings: None

**September 17: How do we know what we know?**
Required readings: *The Research Process*, Chapters 1 and 2

**September 24: Coming up with a research problem and designing a project**
Required readings: *The Research Process*, Chapter 3; *Making Sense*, Chapter 2

**October 1: Theory and research**
Required readings: *Making Sense*, Chapter 3

**October 8: THANKSGIVING HOLIDAY**
** NO CLASS **

**October 15: Approaching research: Quantitative or qualitative?**
Required readings: *The Research Process*, Chapter 4

**October 22: FALL BREAK**
** NO CLASS **

**October 29: Ethical issues**
Required readings: *The Research Process*, Chapter 9; *Making Sense*, Chapter 6
** READING RESEARCH ASSIGNMENT DUE **

**November 5: Deciding what to study**
Required readings: *The Research Process*, Chapters 5 and 6
November 12: ... And how to study them
Required readings: *The Research Process*, Chapters 7 and 8

November 19: Analyzing and writing up quantitative data
Required readings: *The Research Process*, Chapters 10 and 11; *Making Sense*, Chapter 4

November 26: Analyzing and writing up qualitative data
Required readings: *The Research Process*, Chapter 12; *Making Sense*, Chapter 5

December 3: Mixed Methods and course wrap-up
Required readings: *The Research Process*, Chapters 13 and 14

**December 7: Course wrap-up and exam review
Required readings: None

**The last class is on Friday, December 7, 2018 (same time and location)

COURSE REQUIREMENTS AND METHODS OF EVALUATION

Students will be evaluated as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Assignments</th>
<th>Grade</th>
<th>Due Date</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Reading research assignment</td>
<td>20%</td>
<td>October 29, 2018</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tutorial participation and exercises</td>
<td>20%</td>
<td>N/A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Research proposal</td>
<td>30%</td>
<td>December 3, 2018</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Final Exam</td>
<td>30%</td>
<td>TBA</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Reading research assignment**

This assignment will require students to read, assess, and critically reflect on a published research article. More explicit instructions for this assignment will be distributed during the second week of the semester.

**Tutorial participation and exercises**

Tutorials will be held after lecture from 4:25 to 5:35 pm. All students are expected to attend these tutorials. More explicit instructions about the tutorials will be provided on the first day of class.

**Research proposal**

For this assignment, students will draw on the materials covered in class to write a short (10-12 page) research proposal. More explicit instructions for this assignment will be distributed during the second week of the semester.
Final exam (formally scheduled)

The final exam is designed to test students' knowledge and understanding of the key concepts and ideas covered in the course. The final exam will be formally scheduled during the university’s final exam period.

COURSE POLICIES

Every student enrolled in this class is responsible for reading the following course policies. It contains everything you need to know about the rules, requirements and regulations set out for this course.

Submitting assignments and late penalties

All assignments must be handed in at the beginning of class on the due date. Assignments submitted electronically (via fax or e-mail) will NOT be accepted.

Subject to the extension policy outlined below, there will be a 2% per day deduction from assignments submitted late. The late penalty applies equally to Saturday and Sunday. That is, a paper due on Tuesday that is handed in on Wednesday (1 day late) will be subject to a 2% deduction. The same paper handed in on the following Monday (6 days late) will be subject to a 12% deduction.

Late assignments will only be accepted if they are delivered personally to the instructor OR deposited in the assignment drop-box located in the Sociology and Anthropology Main Office (7th Floor, Loeb Building, B750). Please do NOT slide your papers under my door!

Extension policy

Students must request an extension PRIOR to the due date of an assignment. To receive an extension for an assignment, a student must provide written documentation of his or her inability to complete the assignment on time.

Written documentation will generally take the form of a doctor’s note. For non-medical notes, the instructor will accept a note from the Registrar’s Office (or similar University official), social worker, clergy member, lawyer, etc.

Once the student has provided the instructor with adequate documentation of their inability to complete the assignment on time, the student and the instructor will negotiate a new due date for the assignment. Assignments submitted after the negotiated deadline will be subject to the late penalty outlined above.

Courtesy during lectures

Please do NOT come to class if you intend to sleep, surf the web, or chat with friends. This kind of behaviour annoys me and other students in the class. You're far better off staying at home or doing something else. If you do intend on coming to class, there are a few general rules that all students must abide by:

1. Cell phones must be turned OFF (not to ‘vibrate’).
2. Unless there is a class discussion going on, there is NO TALKING during lectures.
3. Laptop computers are for NOTE TAKING ONLY – not e-mail, web surfing or playing online games. Anyone caught doing either of these activities will no longer be permitted to use a computer during lectures and tutorials.

‘Getting help’

If you are having trouble with the course material or require additional assistance writing an assignment, please come and see me as soon as possible.

Office hours

My office hours are posted on my office door (787D in the Loeb Building). You are welcome to drop by during office hours or you may make an appointment if you feel you need extra time or cannot make the times I have allotted. If my door is open, you are welcome to see me even if it is not during my office hours. If my door is shut, please do NOT knock unless it is an emergency. If my door is shut, I am either working, on the phone or not in the office.

Contacting me via email

Please note that you will be able to link your MyCarletonOne account to other non-MyCarletonOne accounts and receive e-mails from me. However, for me to respond to your emails, I need to see your full name, CU ID, and the e-mail must be written from your valid MyCarletonOne address. Therefore, it would be easier to respond to your inquiries if you send all e-mail from your connect account. If you do not have or have yet to activate this account, you may wish to do so by visiting https://students.carleton.ca/. Please allow at least 24 to 48 hours for a reply.

Missing lectures

Attendance at lectures is mandatory. If, for whatever reason, you are unable to attend a class, it is YOUR responsibility for any course material (e.g., lecture notes, handouts, etc.) you may have missed. Please do NOT ask me to provide you with a ‘summary’ of what was covered in lecture. I simply do not have the time to do this. Instead, ask someone in the class if you can borrow their notes.

REGULATIONS COMMON TO ALL COURSES AT CARLETON UNIVERSITY

Assignment Directions:

All assignments will be handed out during class time so questions/concerns may be addressed. All graded assignments will be returned at the end of the class period.

Copies of Written Work Submitted:

Always keep a hard copy of all essays, term papers, written assignments or take-home tests submitted in your courses in case one is lost or misplaced by the instructor or teaching assistant.
Plagiarism:

The University Senate defines plagiarism as “to use and pass off as one’s own idea or product the work of another without expressly giving credit to another.” However, plagiarism represents merely one mode of academic dishonesty. Carleton University has a new Student Academic Integrity Policy. It can be found on the Student Service website at [http://www.carleton.ca/studentsupport/](http://www.carleton.ca/studentsupport/). Please read the policy and be aware of its contents.

A student found to have plagiarized an assignment may be subject to one of several penalties including but not limited to: a grade of zero, a failure or a reduced grade for the piece of academic work; reduction of final grade in the course; completion of a remediation process; resubmission of academic work; withdrawal from course(s); suspension from a program of study; a letter of reprimand.

All allegations of plagiarism are reported to the faculty of Dean of FASS and Management. Documentation is prepared by instructors and departmental chairs. The Dean writes to the student and the University Ombudsperson about the alleged plagiarism. The Dean reviews the allegation. If it is not resolved at this level then it is referred to a tribunal appointed by the Senate.

Intellectual property:

Student or professor materials created for this course (including presentations and posted notes, labs, case studies, assignments and exams) remain the intellectual property of the author(s). They are intended for personal use and may not be reproduced or redistributed without prior written consent of the author(s).

Final Grades:

**Final course grades are determined by the course instructor, subject to approval of the Faculty Dean.**

Grading System:

Letter grades assigned in this course will have the following percentage equivalents:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grade</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A+</td>
<td>90-100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A</td>
<td>85-89</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A-</td>
<td>80-84</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B+</td>
<td>77-79</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B</td>
<td>73-76</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B-</td>
<td>70-72</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C+</td>
<td>67-69</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C</td>
<td>63-66</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C-</td>
<td>60-62</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D+</td>
<td>57-59</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D</td>
<td>53-56</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D-</td>
<td>50-52</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>F</td>
<td>Failure. No academic credit</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>WDN</td>
<td>Withdrawn from the course</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DEF</td>
<td>Official deferral</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Withdrawal without Academic Penalty:

The last day to withdraw from fall term courses is December 7, 2018.
Requests for Academic Accommodation:

1. For Students with Disabilities
Students with disabilities needing academic accommodations are required to contact a co-coordinator at the Paul Menton Centre (ex. 6608) to complete the necessary letter of accommodation. The student must then make an appointment to discuss his or her needs with the instructor at least two weeks prior to the first class or ITV test. This is to ensure sufficient time is available to make the necessary accommodation arrangements. Deadlines for submitting forms for formally scheduled exam accommodation: November 9, 2018.

2. For Religious Observance
Students requesting academic accommodation on the basis of religious observance should make a formal, written request to their instructors for alternate dates and/or means of satisfying academic requirements. Such requests should be made during the first two weeks of class, or as soon as possible after the need for accommodation is known to exist, but no later than two weeks before the compulsory academic event. Accommodation is to be worked out directly and on an individual basis between the student and the instructor(s) involved. Instructors will make accommodations in a way that avoids academic disadvantage to the student.

Students or instructors who have questions or want to confirm accommodation eligibility of a religious event or practice may refer to the Equity Services website for a list of holy days and Carleton’s Academic Accommodation policies, or may contact an Equity Services Advisor in the Equity Services Department for assistance (ext. 5622).

3. For Pregnancy
Pregnant students requiring academic accommodations are encouraged to contact an Equity Advisor in Equity Services (ext. 5622) to complete a letter of accommodation. The student must then make an appointment to discuss her needs with the instructor at least two weeks prior to the first academic event in which it is anticipated the accommodation will be required.

4. For Survivors of Sexual Violence
As a community, Carleton University is committed to maintaining a positive learning, working and living environment where sexual violence will not be tolerated, and where survivors are supported through academic accommodations as per Carleton’s Sexual Violence Policy. For more information about the services available at the university and to obtain information about sexual violence and/or support, visit: www.carleton.ca/sexual-violence-support

5. Accommodation for Student Activities
Carleton University recognizes the substantial benefits, both to the individual student and for the university, that result from a student participating in activities beyond the classroom experience. Reasonable accommodation must be provided to students who compete or perform at the national or international level. Please contact your instructor with any requests for academic accommodation during the first two weeks of class, or as soon as possible after the need for accommodation is known to exist. https://carleton.ca/senate/wp-content/uploads/Accommodation-for-Student-Activities-1.pdf
Petitions to Defer:

Students unable to complete a final term paper or write a final examination because of illness or other circumstances beyond their control or whose performance on an examination has been impaired by such circumstances may apply within five working days to the Registrar’s Office for permission to extend a term paper deadline or to write a deferred examination. The request must be fully and specifically supported by a medical certificate or other relevant documentation. Only deferral petitions submitted to the Registrar’s Office will be considered.

Addresses (phone extensions):

Registrar’s Office (3500) 300 Tory
Student Academic Success Centre (7850) 302 Tory
Paul Menton Centre (6608) 501 Unicentre
Writing Tutorial Service (6632) 229 Paterson

Assistance for Students

- Student Academic Success Centre (SASC): [http://www.carleton.ca/sasc](http://www.carleton.ca/sasc)
- Tutorial Services: [http://www.carleton.ca/wts](http://www.carleton.ca/wts)