SOCI 2702A: Power & Social Change
Fall 2018 – Thursday, 8:35am to 11:25am. Location: UC 180 (TBC)

Instructor: Dr. Deborah Conners
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Office hours: Wednesday 10:15am to 11:15am, and by appointment or chance
Teaching Assistant: TBA

Carleton University acknowledges the location of its campus on the traditional, unceded territories of the Algonquin Nation. For more information see: https://carleton.ca/indigenous/resources/territory-acknowledgement/

COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course will explore how five main sociological approaches you encountered in your first-year sociology courses (functionalism, conflict theory, symbolic interactionism, feminism and postmodernism) explain the role and function of power in relation to social change. In the first part of the course we will develop tools for examining social issues through the lenses of these theoretical approaches. In the second section we will explore power in five areas of social life: precarious labour, housing and homelessness, disability and accessibility, criminalization and punishment, gender-based violence, and mass and social media. We will devote one week to each issue in a combination of lecture, guest lecture, and in-class activities. My goal is to provide you with theoretical tools and practical experience to be able to respectfully engage with various representations of how power is engaged in social issues and to discern your own positioning and values in relation to these issues.

LEARNING OUTCOMES

By the end of the course, you will be able to:
1. Articulate how power is defined within the five major sociological perspectives in relation to social change.
2. Apply these theoretical perspectives to develop your understanding of six current social issues.
3. Draw on your theoretical understandings to develop your positions on these issues and to respectfully and critically engage with others.
4. Argue for your positions and values in relation to various representations of social issues.
**REQUIRED READINGS**

Readings are available on ARES in cuLearn and listed by week below. Readings in the “for reference” section are not required but provide an opportunity for deeper engagement with the course topics. Citing these readings in the exam and assignments will be recognized in the marking.

**COURSE ACTIVITIES AND EVALUATION**

The course assignments are designed to support you to achieve the learning outcomes. Section A explores sociological understandings of power. Your learning in this area is tested in Week 6 with an in-class exam lasting 70 minutes. (30% of final mark.) Section B explores six social issues and the contexts of power within which they exist. In this section you will choose an issue in one of the six areas we are exploring (precarious employment, housing and homelessness, criminalization and punishment, disability and accessibility, gender-based violence, or mass and social media) to explore in the next two assignments. In the first, you will attend a public event addressing your chosen issue, followed by engaging in the public discourse on this issue to present your positioning and analysis. There are several ways you can do this; for example, you could write a letter to the editor of a news publication, create an infographic or write an opinion piece to post on social media, or make an in-person presentation. You will finish this assignment by documenting your experience and writing a short reflection. Examples from past years are posted in cuLearn. (14% of final mark.) In your second assignment on the issue, you are asked to demonstrate your learning in a research paper. (30% of final mark.) The participation mark (out of 26%) reflects your engagement with in-class activities each week through the term. You will have the opportunity to make up a missed class by attendance at learning support workshops hosted by the Centre for Student Academic Support. Detailed assignment descriptions and grading guidelines are posted on cuLearn.

**Submissions**

**SECTION A: EXPLORING POWER (Learning outcomes 1)**

1. Mid-term in-class exam on sociological understandings of power  
   30%  
   Week 6 (Oct. 11)

**SECTION B: SOCIAL CONTEXTS OF POWER (Learning outcomes 2, 3 & 4)**

2. Public engagement project  
   a. Attend a public event addressing a social issue in one of the six areas we are exploring (precarious employment, housing and homelessness, criminalization and punishment, accessibility, gender-based violence, or mass and social media)  
   b. Engage in the public discourse on this issue  
   c. Document and reflect on your experience  
   14%  
   Week 9 (Nov. 8)

3. Research paper on issue you explored in assignment 2  
   30%  
   Week 13 (Dec. 6)

**IN-CLASS PARTICIPATION (Learning outcomes 1, 2, 3, 4)**

26%  
Weekly
**WEEKLY SCHEDULE**

**SECTION A: EXPLORING POWER**

**Week 1: An Invitation to the examination of power and social change**  
*September 6, 2018*

By the end of this class you will be able to:

- Understand the learning objectives and activities of the course
- Identify and distinguish the five sociological perspectives to be used in this course
- Articulate a definition of “power”
- Begin to assemble the tools to analyze and evaluate power structures and social change

Reference:

**Week 2: Socialization and power**  
*September 13, 2018*

By the end of this class you will be able to:

- Define and describe functionalism
- Critique functionalist perspectives
- Explain socialization as a sociological concept
- Assess the impact of the shift to neoliberalism on processes of socialization
- Argue for your own perspective on the relationship of socialization and power

Reading for this class:

For reference:

**Week 3: Critiquing hegemonic expressions of power**  
*September 20, 2018*

By the end of this class you will be able to:

- Define and describe critical theories including feminisms
- Critique critical perspectives
- Explain the impact of social structures on individuals and social groups
- Articulate how power both reinforces social structures and pathways and is resisted
Readings for this class:

Week 4: Analyzing discourses of power
September 27, 2018
By the end of this class you will be able to:
• Define and describe postmodern theory and symbolic interactionism
• Critique postmodernism and symbolic interactionism
• Explicate and analyze discourses which exert, deny or resist the exercise of power
• Add to our tools to analyze and evaluate power and social change

Readings for this class:

For reference:

Week 5: Experiences of power: trauma and resilience
October 4, 2018
By the end of this class you will be able to:
• Define trauma and resilience in the context of power
• Analyze trauma and resilience from multiple perspectives using sociological theory
• Distinguish between, and explicate the relationships among, the five theoretical perspectives we have explored in the first 4 weeks
• Reflect on how these theoretical perspectives explain your experiences of power
• Prepare effectively for the mid-term exam

Readings for this class:
Week 6: Mid-Term Exam
October 11, 2018

SECTION B: SOCIAL CONTEXTS OF POWER

Week 7: Precarious labour – Ontario’s minimum wage
October 18, 2018

By the end of this class you will be able to:

- Articulate the impact of precarious labour conditions on society in sociological terms
- Identify and assess the approach taken by one social action organization to address power relations regarding precarious labour
- Explain your own (contingent) position on precarious labour conditions using concepts from the course

Guest speaker: $15 and Fairness, https://www.15andfairness.org

Readings for this class:

Reading week – no class
October 25, 2018

Week 8: Housing and homelessness – Who is housed, who is not, and why?
November 1, 2018

By the end of this class you will be able to:

- Articulate the impact of homelessness on society and individuals in sociological terms
- Identify and assess the approach taken by one social action organization to address power relations regarding housing
- Explain your own (contingent) position on housing and homelessness using concepts from the course

Guest Speaker: Canadian Observatory on Homelessness, http://homelesshub.ca/COH

Reading for this class:
For reference:

Week 9: Disability and Accessibility – new national legislation for Canada

November 8, 2018

By the end of this class you will be able to:
- Articulate the impact of social processes of disability and accessibility on society in sociological terms
- Explain how social power is implicated and mitigated in the proposed new national legislation
- Identify and assess the approach taken by one organization to address power relations regarding disability and accessibility
- Express your own (contingent) position on disability and accessibility using concepts from the course

Guest Speaker: TBD

Readings for this class:

For reference:

DUE: Public Engagement Project

Week 10: Criminalization and punishment – expanding OCDC

November 15, 2018

By the end of this class you will be able to:
- Articulate the impact of processes of criminalization and punishment on society and individuals in sociological terms
- Explain how social power is implicated in the proposed expansion of the Ottawa-Carleton Detention Centre
- Identify and assess the approach taken by one social action organization to address power relations regarding criminalization and punishment
• Explain your own (contingent) position on the expansion of OCDC using concepts from the course

**Guest Speaker:** Criminalization and Punishment Education Project, [http://cp-ep.org/](http://cp-ep.org/)

**Readings for this class:**
- Piche, J. & Doyle, A. (February 6, 2017). The solution to jail violence isn’t to build more or bigger jails. Ottawa Citizen.

**Reference:**

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**Week 11: Gender-based Violence – IPV and Human Trafficking**

**November 22, 2018**

**By the end of this class you will be able to:**
- Articulate the impact of gender-based violence on society in sociological terms
- Identify and assess the approach taken by one social action organization to address power relations regarding gender-based violence and specifically human trafficking
- Explain your own (contingent) position on human trafficking using concepts from the course


**Reading for this class:**

**For reference:**

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**Week 12: Canadian mass media and social media**

**November 29, 2018**

**By the end of this class you will be able to:**
- Identify the relationships and interactions of neoliberalism and the media
- Identify and assess the approach taken by one social action organization to address power relations regarding Canadian media and social media
- Explain your own (contingent) position on the relationship of neoliberalism and media and mass communication using concepts from the course
Guest speaker: Ottawa Coalition to End Violence Against Women, Media project, www.octevaw-cocvff.ca

Reading for this class:


For reference:

Week 13: Bringing it all together – Power as a tool for understanding and change

December 6, 2018

By the end of this class you will be able to:

- Explain the connections among the social issues we have examined in the course
- Position yourself in relation to these issues with reference to various theoretical perspectives
- Respectfully engage with others holding different views to generate greater understanding across difference

Reading for this class:


YOUR FEEDBACK ABOUT THE COURSE: If you have any suggestions about the course, they are helpful and are encouraged at any time, and will count towards your participation mark. You do not need to wait until the course evaluation. Feedback is much more useful if it happens DURING the course. I have incorporated a number of students’ suggestions in the past.

Course Grading
In accordance with the Carleton University Undergraduate Calendar Regulations, the letter grades assigned in this course will have the following percentage equivalents:

- A+ = 90-100
- B+ = 77-79
- C+ = 67-69
- D+ = 57-59
- A = 85-89
- B = 73-76
- C = 63-66
- D = 53-56
- A- = 80-84
- B- = 70-72
- C- = 60-62
- D- = 50-52
- F = Below 50
- WDN = Withdrawn from the course
- DEF = Deferred (See above)
**Academic Regulations, Accommodations, Plagiarism, Etc.**

University rules regarding registration, withdrawal, appealing marks, and most anything else you might need to know can be found on the university's website, here: [http://calendar.carleton.ca/undergrad/regulations/academicregulationsoftheuniversity/](http://calendar.carleton.ca/undergrad/regulations/academicregulationsoftheuniversity/)

You may need special arrangements to meet your academic obligations during the term. For an accommodation request, the processes are as follows:

**Academic Accommodations for Students with Disabilities**
The Paul Menton Centre for Students with Disabilities (PMC) provides services to students with Learning Disabilities (LD), psychiatric/mental health disabilities, Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD), Autism Spectrum Disorders (ASD), chronic medical conditions, and impairments in mobility, hearing, and vision. If you have a disability requiring academic accommodations in this course, please contact PMC at **613-520-6608 or pmc@carleton.ca** for a formal evaluation. If you are already registered with the PMC, contact your PMC coordinator to send your **Letter of Accommodation** at the beginning of the term, and no later than two weeks before the first in-class scheduled test or exam requiring accommodation (*if applicable*).

*The deadline for contacting the Paul Menton Centre regarding accommodation for final exams for the Fall 2018 (December) exam period is **November 9, 2018**. The deadline for contacting the Paul Menton Centre regarding accommodation for final exams for the Winter 2019 (April) exam period is **March 15, 2019**.

**For Religious Obligations:**
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. For more details, visit the Equity Services website: [www.carleton.ca/equity/wp-content/uploads/Student-Guide-to-Academic-Accommodation.pdf](http://www.carleton.ca/equity/wp-content/uploads/Student-Guide-to-Academic-Accommodation.pdf)

**For Pregnancy:**
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. For more details, visit the Equity Services website: [www.carleton.ca/equity/wp-content/uploads/Student-Guide-to-Academic-Accommodation.pdf](http://www.carleton.ca/equity/wp-content/uploads/Student-Guide-to-Academic-Accommodation.pdf)

**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 is 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](http://www.carleton.ca/sexual-violence-support)

**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](https://carleton.ca/senate/wp-content/uploads/Accommodation-for-Student-Activities-1.pdf)

**Plagiarism**

Plagiarism is the passing off of someone else's work as your own and is a serious academic offence. For the details of what constitutes plagiarism, the potential penalties and the procedures refer to the section on Instructional Offences in the Undergraduate Calendar. Students are expected to familiarize themselves with and follow the Carleton University Student Academic Integrity Policy (See [https://carleton.ca/registrar/academic-integrity/](https://carleton.ca/registrar/academic-integrity/)). The Policy is strictly enforced and is binding on all students. Academic dishonesty in any form will not be tolerated. Students who infringe the Policy may be subject to one of several penalties.

**What are the Penalties for Plagiarism?**

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.

**What are the Procedures?**

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.

**Assistance for Students:**

Academic and Career Development Services: [http://carleton.ca/sacds/](http://carleton.ca/sacds/)

Writing Services: [http://www.carleton.ca/csas/writing-services/](http://www.carleton.ca/csas/writing-services/)

Peer Assisted Study Sessions (PASS): [https://carleton.ca/csas/group-support/pass/](https://carleton.ca/csas/group-support/pass/)

**Important Information:**

- 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).
- Students must always retain a hard copy of all work that is submitted.
- Standing in a course is determined by the course instructor subject to the approval of the Faculty Dean. This means that grades submitted by the instructor may be subject to revision. No grades are final until they have been approved by the Dean.
- Carleton University is committed to protecting the privacy of those who study or work here (currently and formerly). To that end, Carleton’s Privacy Office seeks to encourage the implementation of the privacy provisions of Ontario’s *Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act* (FIPPA) within the university.
- In accordance with FIPPA, please ensure all communication with staff/faculty is via your Carleton email account. To get your Carleton Email you will need to activate your [MyCarletonOne account](https://mycarletonone.carleton.ca) through Carleton Central. Once you have activated your MyCarletonOne account, log into the [MyCarleton Portal](https://mycarletonone.carleton.ca).
• Please note that you will be able to link your MyCarletonOne account to other non-
MyCarletonOne accounts and receive emails from us. However, for us to respond to your
emails, we need to see your full name, CU ID, and the email must be written from your valid
MyCarletonOne address. Therefore, it would be easier to respond to your inquiries if you would
send all email 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/

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**Important Dates**

**Fall 2018**
- **August 29**: All Fall term syllabi must be posted
- **September 3**: Labour Day – University Closed.
- **September 5**: Classes start.
- **September 14-16**: Summer term deferred examinations will be written.
- **September 20**: Last day to withdraw from fall term and fall/winter courses with a full fee
  adjustment. Withdrawals after this date will result in a permanent notation of WDN
  to appear on the official transcript.
- **October 5**: December exam schedule available online.
- **October 8**: Thanksgiving Day – University closed.
- **October 22-26**: Fall break, no classes.
- **November 23**: Last day for summative tests or final examinations, or formative tests or
  examinations totaling more than 15% of the final grade in Fall term courses before
  the official examination period.
- **December 7**: Classes follow a Monday schedule.
  Fall term ends. Last day of classes. Last day for academic withdrawal from Fall term
  courses. Last day for take-home examinations to be assigned (except those that
  conform to the Academic Regulations of the University in the Undergraduate
  Calendar/General Regulations of the Graduate Calendar). Last day for handing in
  term work and the last day that can be specified by a course instructor as a due
  date for Fall term courses.
- **December 9-21**: December exams: Final examinations for Fall courses, mid-terms for Fall/Winter
  courses. Exams are normally held all seven days of the week.
- **December 21**: All take-home exams are due except those that conform to the Academic
  Regulations of the University in the Undergraduate Calendar/General Regulations of
  the Graduate Calendar.
- **December 24**: All Winter term syllabi must be posted
- **December 25 - January 1**: University closed