

CARLETON UNIVERSITY
DEPARTMENT OF SOCIOLOGY AND ANTHROPOLOGY
Sociology 4900
Honours Thesis Seminar
Fall 2023-Winter 2024

Instructor: Amina Mire

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Course Time: Fridays: 11:35 AM-2:25PM

Method of Delivery: In person, no online component.

Please read the following information carefully:

In this course, you are expected to learn from your texts, your teacher and from one another. This requires striving towards understanding each other but it does not imply striving towards finding agreement. Our class will be racially, religiously, politically, culturally, generationally, and economically diverse. We will be of different gender identifications and sexual orientations and our lived experiences and reactions to the course material will reflect this diversity. Sharing our perspectives and interpretations on the course material will enhance everyone's learning experience and you are encouraged to openly express any disagreements with the authors you will read, with your fellow classmates, or with the Professor in the different participation fora that are available for this course. However, you are expected to conduct yourself in such a way that shows the utmost respect to others who may – or may not – share your views. Derogatory comments and hateful behavior towards others (and their views) will not be tolerated.

Carleton University acknowledges the location of its campus on the traditional, unceded territories of the Algonquin nation. In doing so, Carleton acknowledges it has a responsibility to the Algonquin people and a responsibility to adhere to Algonquin cultural protocols.

Prerequisites: Fourth year standing in the Sociology BA Honours with a 9.0 or higher in the Major or permission by the instructor.

Course Description:

This is mandatory course for students writing BA Honours Thesis in Sociology. The seminar provides supportive space where learners could enhance their practical skills and theoretical knowledge in various aspects of the sociological research process such as how to conduct a thorough literature review in a specific domain within sociology, how to generate research questions, how to select methods of data gathering and data processing, how to select appropriate methodologies and how to identify various theoretical perspectives in contemporary sociology how these theoretical perspectives shape knowledge production.

Reading (s)/Textbook (s):

There is no assigned textbook for this seminar but following text will be placed in the library reserve for the learners to use if necessary:

Robson, R. (2016). *The Real of Research: A Resource for Social Scientists and Practitioner Researchers*.

Finnbogason, J. (2007). *A Canadian Writer's Pocket Guide* (third edition)

Strunk and White (2000). *The Elements of Style* (fourth edition).

While there are no grades assigned to these readings, these above cited texts are highly useful when it comes to conducting sociological research.

Course Requirements & Methods of Evaluation:

Preliminary literature review 15% Due **on 29th Sep, 2023**

Project design 15%. **Due on 20 Oct, 2023**

Thesis proposal 15% Due **on 24th Nov, 2023**

TCPS2 CORE training 0%

Final Ethics Application to CUREB (if applicable).

Please contact me as early as possible if your research projects would deal with subjects which required research ethics approval.

First the research project is due an early draft of the thesis 20% **Due on 26th Jan, 2024**

Final draft of the thesis 35% **Due on 10 April, 2024**

Course Learning Objectives:

The course has two main objectives. First, it aims to facilitate the students' capacity to deal with the intricacies of the writing process itself. This is critically important as writing well and clearly is essential to good sociological research. The second objective of the seminar is to facilitate and enhance learners' own projects both as learners and researchers. What can learners expect to gain from taking this thesis seminar? After taking this course, students should be able to do the following tasks.

- Design and execute an independent sociological research projects,
- Gaining the necessary skills required for applying sociological methods to generate knowledge about a social phenomenon.
- Learners could also learn how to apply sociological theory to interpret social phenomena.
- Learners could also gain required skills to evaluate reliability of academic and non-academic sources about a social issue.
- Learners could also develop skills to explain complex issues in sociological discourse by learning how to critical engage with sociological literature.
- Learners could also learn how to identify and assess contested and complex sociological issues.
- By working independently, learners will also gain highly important skills that will allow them how to work autonomously.
- By conducting a year long independent research projects, learners will gain highly valuable writing and communicative skills.

Course Readings:

Required readings:

There are no required readings for this course. However, learners are responsible for conducting all the necessary research and literature survey, which could help learners properly formulate their own research projects. The best way to achieve that is by weekly reading of books, refereed journal articles, book chapters, and also relevant documentaries and media sources. And in doing so, learners will be able to identify appropriate research questions for their research projects. They will also be able to select relevant research questions, methodologies and theoretical frameworks for their specific research projects. Learners should keep in mind that the literature they are reading are often interpreted differently, depending on the theoretical frameworks &/or interpretive methodologies that different authors prefer in their own work. As a result, broader reading and close critical readings could enable learners to better navigate often vast and complex literature. In doing so learners could successfully develop their own methodologies and theoretical frameworks that are suitable to their own research projects.

Supervision:

I am responsible for the supervision of this seminar; However, learners are welcome to ask other faculty members to supervise their work if doing so helps learner's research aims.

Writing as a practice:

I strongly encourage to use the first half of the seminar as skills building and the second half using the skills learned in the first half and apply them to conducting the final production of the research projects.

Week 1-September 8 Introduction- we will go over the objectives of the seminar

Week 2—September 15 **What is a Literature Review?** We will discuss some of the core factors which shape the process of close reading, reviewing the work of other scholars, sections and the evaluation of scholarly literature in sociology.

Week 3 September 22 **Crafting a Research Question.** In this session, we will discuss some of the ways in which literature reviewing process could lead to asking new research questions and how to select a research question.

Week 4 September 29 **Crafting strategies for your research project.** We will discuss reasons research proposals are critical to the rest of the research process such as project design, data collection strategies, etc. Notice: Preliminary literature review 15% Due on 29th Sep, 2023

Week 5 October 6 Group discussion on research proposals: How and why differently located researchers ask different research questions (locating the researcher as knowledge producer and how it informs the research process and knowledge production).

Week 6- 13 October – Discussions on thesis proposals: discussions and sharing ideas

Week 7- October 20 TCPS 2 CORE training

Week 8—**October 24-26 Fall Break. No class.**

Week 9- November 3 Sharing your research design proposal with the class (it could be a visual graphic, or a text or oral presentations). It should not beyond maximum 5 minutes presentation. Due date for the final Ethics Application to CUREB (if applicable).

Week 10 November 10 Thesis proposals and questions of epistemology, method, mythology, data collection, processing data, writing as a craft.

Week 11-November 17 Draft of the thesis as a process or thinking, revising

Week 12, November 24 Due date of an early draft of the thesis

Week 13— December 1- discussions on writing as a process of skills' development.

Winter-2023-----

Week 1- January 12---- Welcome Back and catching up

Week 2- January 19 Discussions on thesis drafting and avoiding times delays and other pitfalls

Week 3 -January 26 Early Draft of thesis is due -15% of the final grade

Week 4—February 2 Group discussions on the thesis writing process

Week 5 February 9 learners can work on their thesis- no class for this week

Week 6 February 16 From writing a thesis to knowledge production

Week 7 No classes- learners work on their projects.

Week 8 March 2—discussing working thesis draft and address additional issues such as citation style and how to cite work of others properly

Week 9 March Discussions on first drafts of the research projects.

Week 10 March 16 discussions thesis projects continue.

Week 11 March 23 Learners work on their theses-no class

Week 12 March 30 sharing experiences that were gained through the processes of thinking and acting through the creative process of research

Week 13 April 5 short presentations of theses results in class (5 minutes maximum).

Final thesis drafts are due on April 12, 2023, 35% of the final grade

The final thesis work can be uploaded via Brightspace Seminar homepage, or submitted in class as hard copy or could be sent to me via email.

Course Requirements & Methods of Evaluation:

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	

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:

<https://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 December full fall and late fall examinations and fall/winter midterm examinations is November 15, 2023.

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

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

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

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>

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/>). 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: <https://carleton.ca/career/>

Writing Services: <http://www.carleton.ca/csas/writing-services/>

Peer Assisted Study Sessions (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](#) through Carleton Central. Once you have activated your MyCarletonOne account, log into the [MyCarleton Portal](#).
 - 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 and Deadlines: Fall 2023

August 29, 2023: Deadline for course outlines to be made available to students registered in full fall, early fall, and fall/winter courses.

- September 1, 2023: Last day for receipt of applications from potential fall (November) graduates.
- September 4, 2023: Statutory holiday. University closed.
- September 5, 2023: Academic orientation (undergraduate and graduate students).

Orientation for new Teaching Assistants.

All new students are expected to be on campus. Class and laboratory preparations, departmental introductions for students, and other academic preparation activities will be held.
- September 6, 2023: Fall term begins. Full fall, early fall, and fall/winter classes begin.
- September 12, 2023: Last day for registration and course changes (including auditing) in early fall courses.
- September 19, 2023: Last day for registration and course changes (including auditing) in full fall, late fall, and fall/winter courses.

Last day to withdraw from early fall courses with a full fee adjustment.

Graduate students who have not electronically submitted their final thesis copy to the Faculty of Graduate and Postdoctoral Affairs will not be eligible to graduate in fall 2023 and must register for the fall 2023 term.
- September 22-24, 2023: Full summer and late summer term deferred final examinations will be held.
- September 30, 2023: Last day to withdraw from full fall and fall/winter courses with a full fee adjustment.
- October 1, 2023: Last day for academic withdrawal from early fall courses.

Last day to request Formal Examination Accommodations for Oct/Nov final examinations from the Paul Menton Centre for Students with Disabilities. Note that it may not be possible to fulfil accommodation requests received after the specified deadlines.
- October 6, 2023: December examination schedule (fall term final and fall/winter mid-terms) available online.
- October 9, 2023: Statutory holiday. University closed.
- October 13, 2023: Last day for summative tests or examinations, or formative tests or examinations totaling more than 15% of the final grade, in early fall term undergraduate courses, before the official Oct/Nov final examination period (see examination

regulations in the Academic Regulations of the University section of the Undergraduate Calendar/General Regulations of the Graduate Calendar).

October 15, 2023: Last day for receipt of applications for admission to an undergraduate degree program for the winter term from applicants whose documents originate from outside Canada or the United States.

October 20, 2023: Last day of early fall classes.

Last day for final take-home examinations to be assigned in early fall courses, with the exception of those conforming to the examination regulations in the Academic regulations of the University section of the Undergraduate Calendar/General Regulations of the Graduate Calendar.

Last day that can be specified by a course instructor as a due date for term work for early fall courses.

October 23, 2023: Deadline for course outlines to be made available to students registered in late fall courses.

October 23-27, 2023: Fall break, no classes.

October 28-29,
November 4-5, 2023: Final examinations in early fall undergraduate courses will be held.

October 30, 2023: Late fall classes begin.

November 10, 2023: Last day to withdraw from late fall term courses with a full fee adjustment.

November 15, 2023: Last day for academic withdrawal from full fall and late fall courses.

Last day to request Formal Examination Accommodations for December full fall and late fall examinations and fall/winter midterm examinations from the Paul Menton Centre for Students with Disabilities. Note that it may not be possible to fulfil accommodation requests received after the specified deadlines.

Last day for receipt of applications for admission to an undergraduate degree program for the winter term.

November 17-19, 2023: Early fall undergraduate deferred final examinations will be held.

November 24, 2023: Last day for summative tests or examinations, or formative tests or examinations totaling more than 15% of the final grade, in full fall term or fall/winter undergraduate courses, before the official December final examination period (see examination regulations in the Academic Regulations of the University section of the Undergraduate Calendar/General Regulations of the Graduate Calendar).

- December 1, 2023: Last day for receipt of applications from potential winter (February) graduates.
- Last day for graduate students to submit their supervisor-approved thesis, in examinable form to the department.
- Last day for summative tests or examinations, or formative tests or examinations totaling more than 15% of the final grade, in late fall term undergraduate courses, before the official final examination period (see examination regulations in the Academic Regulations of the University section of the Undergraduate Calendar/General Regulations of the Graduate Calendar).
- December 8, 2023: Fall term ends.
- Last day of full fall and late fall classes.
- Classes follow a Monday schedule.
- Last day for final take-home examinations to be assigned, with the exception of those conforming to the examination regulations in the Academic Regulations of the University section of the Undergraduate Calendar/General Regulations of the Graduate Calendar.
- Last day that can be specified by an instructor as a due date for term work for full and late fall courses.
- Last day for receipt of applications for undergraduate degree program transfers for winter term.
- December 9, 2023: No classes or examinations take place.
- December 10-22, 2023: Final examinations in full fall and late fall courses and mid-term examinations in fall/winter courses will be held. Examinations are normally held all seven days of the week.
- December 22, 2023: All final take-home examinations are due on this day, with the exception of those conforming to the examination regulations in the Academic Regulations of the University section of the Undergraduate Calendar/General Regulations of the Graduate Calendar.
- December 25, 2023 through January 3, 2024 inclusive: University closed.

