

SOCI 5805H Teaching Sociology

Instructor	Aaron Doyle
Term	Fall 2024
Course Delivery	In Person
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COURSE DESCRIPTION

Teaching can be a tremendously rewarding experience, and will be a central way you find meaning in your work as an academic. This course addresses teaching techniques in higher education, and the theory and research underlying them, as well as a small teaching practicum component. It is a lively and fun seminar. You will learn many practical tips and approaches to teaching your first few classes, but this course is about more than that. We will discuss how the practice of teaching is often undervalued and neglected in universities. This is not simply due to laziness, or because some individuals are “bad” teachers; instead there are systemic barriers to good teaching. Unlike most other teaching courses, this course will also incorporate some critical sociological analysis of the university and of those barriers, while acknowledging that university teachers can exercise a great deal of agency in overcoming them. We will begin to explore the notion of “critical pedagogy” and what that might mean in practice. If you are a critical sociologist, concerned with social justice, how do you put that into practice in what you do in the classroom? Do you simply teach critical content in a traditional fashion, or do you change the way you teach? If so, how? The course has been designed specifically for doctoral students (in Sociology, Anthropology, and other disciplines) who are at the beginning of their careers as university teachers. It may be appropriate for some M.A. students as well, depending on their aspirations. M.A. students considering taking the course should discuss with the instructor.