

CARLETON UNIVERSITY
DEPARTMENT OF SOCIOLOGY AND ANTHROPOLOGY

SOCI 5005
FALL 2025
RECURRING DEBATES IN SOCIOLOGY
Seminar: Thursdays 11:35-2:25pm

Instructor: Dr. Tonya Davidson

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Office hours: Wednesdays 1-3pm, Thursdays 3-5pm

Pre-requisites & Precluded Courses: restricted to graduate students in sociology. Others may be admitted by permission of the Department.

Method of Delivery: lectures, class discussion

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.

Calendar description:

Recurring issues and debates in the discipline. Topics such as the nature of social science; the objective world versus social construction; questions of evidence, meaning and measurement;

agency versus structure; the relation between research and praxis; knowledge and power, may be considered.

Learning Outcomes:

At the end of this course, students should be able to:

Skills

- Read, annotate, and summarize a sociological reading
- Understand how and why to trace the lineage and circulation of sociological ideas
- Be able to develop a research question, research, and present a persuasive argument on a topic of Canadian sociology

Content

- Explain key debates in how sociology in Canada is defined
- Describe some of the debates concerning coloniality, gender, and social class in sociology
- Describe the relationships between European, American, and Canadian sociology

Required Readings:

Mills, C. Wright. *The Sociological Imagination*. Oxford [England: Oxford University Press, 2000 (we read three chapters)

\$30

Meghji, Ali. *Decolonizing Sociology : An Introduction*. Cambridge, UK ; Polity Press, 2021. (we read in its entirety)

\$77 (in the Campus store, likely cheaper elsewhere.. i.e. \$27 on the biggest online book seller's site)

Riggins, Stephen and Neil McLaughlin (Eds.), *Canadian Sociologists in the First Person*, McGill-Queen's University Press, 2021. (we read seven chapters)

\$47.95

****these books will be available at the Carleton University bookstore****

Readings on Ares

Class Schedule:

September 4	Course introduction: no assigned reading	
September 11 The Sociological Imagination	<p>Kemple, Thomas M., and Renisa Mawani. "The Sociological Imagination and Its Imperial Shadows." <i>Theory, culture & society</i> 26, no. 7-8 (2009): 228–249.</p> <p>Mills, C. Wright (Charles Wright). <i>The Sociological Imagination</i>. Oxford [England: Oxford University Press, 2000, Chapters 1-2</p>	
September 18 <i>Abstracted empiricism and the uses of history</i>	<p>Mills, C. Wright (Charles Wright). <i>The Sociological Imagination</i>. Oxford [England: Oxford University Press, 2000, Chapter 3 and Chapter 8</p> <p>McDaniel, Susan. "Choices and Non-Choices: Waltzing with the Micro/Macro in Sociology" In Stephen Riggins and Neil McLaughlin (Eds.), <i>Canadian Sociologists in the First Person</i>, 417. McGill-Queen's University Press, 2021.</p>	
September 25 Decolonizing Sociology	<p>Meghji, Ali. <i>Decolonizing Sociology : An Introduction</i>. Cambridge, UK ; Polity Press, 2021. Introduction.</p> <p>Smith, Linda Tuhiwai. 1999. Chapter 2: Research through imperial eyes. In <i>Decolonizing methodologies. Research and Indigenous peoples</i>, London/ New York: Zed Books. pp. 42-57.</p>	
October 2	<p>Meghji, Ali. <i>Decolonizing Sociology : An Introduction</i>. Cambridge, UK ; Polity Press, 2021. Chapter 1</p> <p>Said, Edward W. <i>Orientalism</i>. First Vintage Books ed. New York, N.Y: Vintage Books, 1979. Introduction and Chapter 1.1 "Knowing the Oriental"</p>	

October 9	<p>Cora J. Voyageur, “From Residential School to University Professor.” In Stephen Riggins and Neil McLaughlin (Eds.), <i>Canadian Sociologists in the First Person</i>, 369. McGill-Queen’s University Press, 2021.</p> <p>Meghji, Ali. <i>Decolonizing Sociology : An Introduction</i>. Cambridge, UK ; Polity Press, 2021. Chapter 2 and Chapter 3</p>	
October 16	<p>James, Carl E. “What The___ Are You Going to Do with Sociology?: Race, Community, and Professional Life.” In Stephen Riggins and Neil McLaughlin (Eds.), <i>Canadian Sociologists in the First Person</i>, 417. McGill-Queen’s University Press, 2021.</p> <p>James, Carl E. <i>Colour Matters: Essays on the Experiences, Education, and Pursuits of Black Youth</i>. Toronto, Ontario; University of Toronto Press, 2021. Chapter 2.</p> <p>Du Bois, W. E. B. <i>The Souls of Black Folk</i>. Brooklyn, New York: Restless Books, 2017. Introduction, Chapter 1 and Chapter 4</p>	
October 23	Reading week	
October 30 Canadian Political Economy	<p>Clement, Wallace. “Reflections on a Sociological Career: An Academic Autobiography.” In Stephen Riggins and Neil McLaughlin (Eds.), <i>Canadian Sociologists in the First Person</i>, 225. McGill-Queen’s University Press, 2021.</p> <p>Porter, John, Wallace Clement, Rick Helmes-Hayes, Jack Jedwab, and Vic Satzewich. <i>The Vertical Mosaic : An Analysis of Social Class and Power in Canada, 50th Anniversary Edition</i>. 50th anniversary edition. Toronto: University of Toronto Press, 2018. Chapters 1 and 6.</p>	
November 6	Carroll, William. “From Ugly American to Critical Sociologist - in Five Decades” In Stephen Riggins and Neil McLaughlin (Eds.), <i>Canadian Sociologists</i>	

	<p><i>in the First Person</i>, McGill-Queen's University Press, 2021.</p> <p>Carroll, William K. "Discipline, Field, Nexus: Re-Visioning Sociology." <i>The Canadian review of sociology</i> 50, no. 1 (2013): 1–26.</p> <p>Puddephatt, Antony J., and Neil McLaughlin. "Critical Nexus or Pluralist Discipline? Institutional Ambivalence and the Future of Canadian Sociology: Institutional Ambivalence and Canadian Sociology." <i>The Canadian review of sociology</i> 52, no. 3 (2015): 310–332.</p>	
<p>November 13</p> <p>Feminist Sociology</p>	<p>Smith, Dorothy. "Women's Perspective as a Radical Critique of Sociology" In <i>The Feminist Standpoint Theory Reader</i>. Edited by Sandra Harding. Routledge (2004): 21-34</p> <p>Carroll, William K. "'You Are Here': An Interview with Dorothy E. Smith." <i>Socialist Studies (St. Albert)</i> 6, no. 2 (2011).</p> <p>Hill Collins, Patricia "Learning from the Outsider Within: The Sociological Significance of Black Feminist Thought" In <i>The Feminist Standpoint Theory Reader</i>. Edited by Sandra Harding. Routledge (2004): 103-126.</p>	<p>** circulation of first drafts for peer review**</p>
<p>November 20</p>	<p>Luxton, Meg. "How Do We Know What We Know?: A Feminist Life and Times in Canadian Sociology." In Stephen Riggins and Neil McLaughlin (Eds.), <i>Canadian Sociologists in the First Person</i>, McGill-Queen's University Press, 2021.</p> <p>Armstrong, Pat. "Learning Sociology: A Participant's Perspective." In Stephen Riggins and Neil McLaughlin (Eds.), <i>Canadian Sociologists in the First Person</i>, McGill-Queen's University Press, 2021.</p> <p>Bezanson, Kate, and Meg Luxton. "Friends, Neighbours, and Community: A Case Study of the Role of Informal Caregiving in Social</p>	

	Reproduction.” In <i>Social Reproduction: feminist political economy challenges neo-liberalism</i> 263–92. Canada: MQUP, 2006.	
November 27 <i>Representing Society</i>	Becker, Howard S. (Howard Saul). <i>Telling About Society</i> . Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 2007, Chapters 8 & 13 Goffman, Erving. <i>Asylums : Essays on the Social Situation of Mental Patients and Other Inmates</i> . First edition. London: Taylor and Francis, 2017, Chapter 1: selection TBD	
December 4	Class conference	Oral presentations Final papers due

Citation Style

The Chicago author-date citation style (17th edition) is to be used in the assignments and papers of this course. For more information, please see:

https://www.chicagomanualofstyle.org/tools_citationguide/citation-guide-2.html

Course Requirements & Methods of Evaluation:

Assessments:

Weekly comprehension tests	10 X 4= 40%	Weekly (except first week)
Digging deeper	4 X 5%= 20%	Throughout (student's choice)
Canadian sociology term paper	Proposal= 5% Paper= 25% (or 5% for submission of an earlier draft and 20% for final paper; student's choice) Presentation= 10%	

Weekly Comprehension Tests: Each week will begin with an open-book test. It will be a one-page test. The objective of these tests is to ensure that everyone has committed time to engaging with and understanding the basics of the assigned reading before we embark on our class discussion.

**** If you miss a class, you can absolutely make-up the tests in my office during my office hours****

Learning Outcome: close reading, recall of material

Digging Deeper: Four times throughout the semester students are asked to dig into the bibliography of an assigned reading and access one of the texts the author cites. Students are required to:

- Access and print the chosen reading
- Read and closely annotate the reading
- Visit Prof. Davidson during her office hours and give her a summary, and engage in a discussion about the article.

Learning Outcome: close reading, research, oral presentation, knowledge of the discipline of sociology

Canadian Sociology term paper:

The objective of this assignment is to engage more deeply in a question about the discipline of sociology in the Canadian context.

**** note: you can do this as a group or partner project if you want to. Collaboration is a great academic skill.****

Possible areas:

- What is Canadian sociology for? (i.e. Why sociology?)
- Who is Canadian sociology for? (a question about dissemination)
- What drives Canadian sociology? (a question about epistemological underpinnings, dominant driving theoretical orientations, social problems)

Possible strategies:

- Develop a research project that focuses on the Canadian sociological association (its conference proceedings, award-winning books, online workshops)
- Develop a research project that focuses on the Canadian Review of Sociology
- Develop a research project that focuses more closely on the history of the present of Carleton University's Department of Sociology and Anthropology

- Develop a research project that explores how sociologists are represented as experts in the media

Learning Outcome:

- The objective of this course in “Recurring Debates” is to familiarize students with the intellectual tradition and discipline in which they are stepping.
- Research skills—developing a research project, gathering data, close reading
- Writing skills
- Oral presentation skills

Proposal: In one page, clearly detail your research question. Justify why the research question is interesting and important. Explain how you will do the proposed research within the semester (methods of accessing/ collecting data). Include a bibliography.

Paper: Answer your research question in the form of an essay. Your final project should be between 4000-6000 words. Imagine your paper as a potential “Research Note” for the *Canadian Review of Sociology*

- Follow the department’s style guide here: <https://carleton.ca/socanth/student-life/undergraduate/style-guide/>
- And: https://www.csa-scs.ca/files/www/Journal/Canadian_Review_of_Sociology_July_2024_EN.pdf
- Use Chicago style
- AI Policy: do not use any form of artificial intelligence for this assignment
- Submit your papers in hard copy in class
- Late policy: 2%/ day unless accommodations have been discussed

Oral Presentation: Prepare and deliver a 10-15 min presentation of your paper. These presentations will be delivered in our final class. Other faculty from the department will be invited to this class.

Additional Information

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/>

Carleton is committed to providing academic accessibility for all individuals. You may need special arrangements to meet your academic obligations during the term. The accommodation request processes, including information about the Academic Consideration Policy for Students in Medical and Other Extenuating Circumstances, are outlined on the Academic Accommodations website (<https://students.carleton.ca/course-outline/>). For an accommodation request, the processes are as follows:

Academic Accommodations for Students with Disabilities

The Paul Menton Centre for Students with Disabilities (PMC: <https://carleton.ca/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 October/November examinations is **October 1, 2025** and **November 15, 2025** for December examinations.

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:

“As a student you may experience a range of mental health challenges that significantly impact your academic success and overall well-being. If you need help, please speak to someone. There are numerous resources available both

on- and off-campus to support you. For more information, please consult <https://wellness.carleton.ca/>”

Mental Health and Wellbeing: <https://carleton.ca/wellness/>

Health & Counselling Services: <https://carleton.ca/health/>

Academic Advising Centre (AAC): <https://carleton.ca/academicadvising/>

Centre for Student Academic Support (CSAS): <https://carleton.ca/csas/>

Equity & Inclusive Communities: <https://carleton.ca/equity/>

Career Services: <https://carleton.ca/career/>

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/>.

FALL TERM 2025 – Important Dates and Deadlines

Date	Activity
August 27, 2025	Deadline for course outlines to be made available to students registered in full fall, early fall, and fall/winter courses.
August 31, 2025	Last day for receipt of applications from potential fall (November) graduates.
September 1, 2025	Statutory holiday. University closed.
September 2, 2025	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 3, 2025	Fall term begins. Full fall, early fall, and fall/winter classes begin.
September 9, 2025	Last day for registration and course changes (including auditing) in early fall courses.
September 16, 2025	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 Graduate Studies will not be eligible to graduate in fall 2025 and must register for the fall 2025 term.
September 19-21, 2025	Full summer and late summer term deferred final examinations will be held.
September 30, 2025	Last day to withdraw from full fall and fall/winter courses with a full fee adjustment.

Date	Activity
October 1, 2025	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 9, 2025	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 10, 2025	December examination schedule (fall term final and fall/winter mid-terms) available online.
October 13, 2025	Statutory holiday. University closed.
October 15, 2025	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 16, 2025	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 20, 2025	Deadline for course outlines to be made available to students registered in late fall courses.
October 20-24, 2025	Fall break, no classes.

Date	Activity
October 25-26, November 1-2, 2025	Final examinations in early fall undergraduate courses will be held.
October 27, 2025	Late fall classes begin.
November 7, 2025	Last day to withdraw from late fall term courses with a full fee adjustment.
November 14-16, 2025	Early fall undergraduate deferred final examinations will be held.
November 15, 2025	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 21, 2025	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).
November 28, 2025	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).

Date	Activity
November 30, 2025	Last day for receipt of applications from potential winter (February) graduates.
December 5, 2025	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 6-7, 2025	No classes or examinations take place.
December 8-20, 2025	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 20, 2025	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 24, 2025 at noon through January 2, 2026 inclusive	University closed.