

CARLETON UNIVERSITY
DEPARTMENT OF SOCIOLOGY AND ANTHROPOLOGY

SOCI 2170B
WINTER 2026
FOUNDATIONS IN SOCIAL JUSTICE

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Pre-requisites & Precluded Courses: [SOCI 1001](#) and [SOCI 1002](#), or [SOCI 1003](#) [1.0], or [ANTH 1001](#), or [ANTH 1002](#).

Method of Delivery: This course will be delivered in person, with no options for online participation.

Course Description and Objectives:

In this course, we will study the topic of social justice from a sociological and intersectional perspective. These perspectives will help us understand two things. First, we will learn that social injustice is not inevitable or natural, but actively and continuously produced by institutions, culture, and interactions. Second, we will explore several systems of inequality (including those based on class, colonization, race, nationality, sex/gender, sexuality, age, ability, immigration status, and religion) to learn how various forms of injustice are interconnected. Further, we will use our sociological knowledge to create an engaging piece of public scholarship on an issue or experience that affects you at Carleton.

This class is part of the Social Justice Stream in the Sociology program – four courses that build your capacities to make a difference in the world. Combining hands-on, deep work with rigorous analysis and understanding, the social justice stream offers the best of sociology! The classes are SOCI 2170 (Foundations in Social Justice), SOCI 3170 (Social Justice in Action), SOCI 3430 (Studies in Collective Action and Social Movements) and SOCI 4170 (Community-Engaged Sociology).

Learning Outcomes:

By the end of this course, you will:

- Develop a critical perspective on diverse forms of inequality
- Understand, analyze and critique social injustice as dynamic, intersectional, and structural
- Apply sociological thinking to everyday manifestations of social injustice
- Hone your abilities to work in groups and independently
- Gain first-hand experience in creating and presenting a piece of public scholarship
- Become (I hope) a more conscious and critical social actor who actively questions, confronts and resists inequality in their daily life

Readings:

Students are not required to purchase textbooks or other learning materials for this course. All readings are accessible online. Please see course Ares on Brightspace.

Course Requirements & Methods of Evaluation:

Weekly Responses and Class Participation: 25%

Social Justice Public Scholarship Piece: 75%

Topic Proposal: 5%

Intersectional Reflection: 20%

Annotated Sources: 10%

The Piece: 25%

Presentation of the Piece: 15%