

**CARLETON UNIVERSITY  
DEPARTMENT OF SOCIOLOGY AND ANTHROPOLOGY**

**SOCI 4170 B (WINTER 2026)  
COMMUNITY ENGAGED SOCIOLOGY**

**TUESDAYS 2:35 to 5:25 PM**

**Instructor:** Dr. Sarah Gelbard (she/her)  
**Email:** [sarahgelbard@cunet.carleton.ca](mailto:sarahgelbard@cunet.carleton.ca)\*  
**Office Hours:** Tuesdays 11:00AM to noon

**Calendar Description:** Students will apply their sociological education working with community organizations in small teams to research issues and advocate for positive social change. Each team's project will include public education, sociological analysis and creating a tangible product for the partner organization. Includes: Experiential Learning Activity

**Pre-requisites:** Third-year or fourth-year standing, or permission from the instructor.

**Method of Delivery:** In-person. Note that the structure of this highly interactive course requires consistent attendance and active participation in group work. Students interested in registering after the start of term should contact the instructor.

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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.*

**\*Instructor Communication Policy:** All course announcements from the instructor will be communicated through the course Brightspace page. Students are strongly encouraged to use office hours to discuss concerns, questions, and other issues one-on-one with the instructor. Students who are unavailable to meet during office hours or who have urgent queries should email the instructor from their Carleton University email account. Always include the course code in the subject line. Please allow up to 48 hours Monday-Friday for a response.

## **Course Description:**

Welcome to Community Engaged Sociology! As you will discover, this course is different from most of the courses in an undergraduate degree. This course is light on readings and lectures, offering instead opportunities to learn while working collaboratively on one of three Social Action Projects with our community partners.

For the Social Action Projects, the class will be divided into teams. Students will learn about social issues that our partner community organizations are working to address and work with them to plan and realize a project directly related to those issues. Each team will be supported by either the instructor or a graduate student team leader. Specific readings, activities and assignments will vary depending on the team. Much of the teamwork will be done in class time. Every student is expected to contribute individually and equally to collective team efforts throughout the term.

Class discussions and skills workshops also play an important part in successfully navigating this course. Active participation during these sessions is encouraged and expected. This could mean asking questions, offering different perspectives on debates, or contributing personal experiences as valuable learning moments for others. See *Attendance, Participation, and Accountability* below.

We expect this course to be exciting and rewarding as well as demanding commitment, time, and teamwork. Past years' students have said that this course was a unique opportunity to apply what they had learned in their sociological training and to gain hands-on experience. We are confident that those who are prepared to put in the effort will have an extremely rewarding experience.

## **Learning Outcomes:**

By the end of the course, students who successfully complete the course activities will be able to:

- Use theoretical sociological and experiential learning to develop understanding of a specific social justice issue and the community-based approaches being taken to confront this issue;
- Use your enhanced sociological understanding to describe the gaps that can exist between stereotypical understandings of a social issue and the lived realities of people experiencing those issues;
- Work in teams to design, plan, and conduct a Social Action Project;
- Contribute to and maintaining positive collaborative team experiences;
- Assess the effectiveness of community engagement processes in creating engagement and social change;
- Communicate your learning in an engaging and meaningful way to diverse audiences;
- Use reflection to improve your ability to transfer your new teamwork and social advocacy skills to other contexts.

## **Reading(s)/Textbook(s):**

All required material will be available on the course Brightspace page. Some materials will require remote access to the university's online catalogue. Each Social Action Project team will have a different set of required readings. Most readings are completed in the first four weeks to gain background into the issues and to inform project planning.

### **Class Schedule Overview:**

Our weekly scheduled course time includes a mix of class sessions and group working sessions. Class sessions will be held in person. For the group working sessions, each group will be assigned a breakout room.

Below is a weekly overview. A detailed class schedule will be posted on Brightspace.

- Week 1: Course and project introductions (class session)
- Weeks 2-5: Skills and competencies workshops #1-4 (class half-session)  
Literature/issue analysis, and project planning (group work half-session)
- Week 6: Team project plan presentations (class session)
- Week 7-10: Project development (group work session)  
*Social Action Project completed by end of week 10!*
- Week 11: Skills and competencies workshop #5 (class session)  
Project debrief and presentation prep (group work session)
- Week 12: Final team project presentations (class session)
- Week 13: Concluding discussions (class session)

### **Course Requirements & Methods of Evaluation:**

Week	Assignments	Worth	Due date
Ongoing	Attendance and participation	15%	--
Week 2	Reading summaries & response 1 (Individual)	5%	Jan 13 (Before class)
Week 3	Reading summaries & response 2 (Individual)	5%	Jan 20 (Before class)
Week 4	Social issue analysis (Individual)	10%	Jan 30 (Friday 5pm)
Week 6	Social Action Project plan presentation (Team)	--	Feb 10 (in class)
	Social Action Project plan (Team)	10%	Feb 13 (Friday 5pm)
Week 7	Mid-term report and reflection (Individual)	5%	Feb 24 (Before class)
Week 10	Social Action Project (Team)	25%	March 14-22
Week 12	Class presentation (Team)	--	March 31
Week 13	Final Social Action Project public report (Team)	15%	Apr 7 (end of class)
Week 13	End-of-term report and reflection (Individual)	10%	Apr 7 (end of class)

Note that the final schedule and due dates may be adjusted to accommodate the Social Action Projects and community partner timelines as they develop. Any schedule changes will be announced in advance and posted on Brightspace.

### **Individual Analysis, Reports and Reflections (35%):**

Each student will individually prepare summaries and responses to select course materials. These will serve to identify social issues that affect communities while informing team discussions and social action projects. Students will also document and reflect on their contributions, progress, and skills development throughout the course. Detailed assignment briefs outlining the requirements, instructions, and evaluation for each assignment will be posted on the course Brightspace page.

### **Social Action Project (50%):**

Each team will undertake a public education, community engagement, and/or advocacy project. Our partner community organizations and projects for Winter 2026 will be announced in the first week of class. Evaluation of this project will be based on (a) assessment of the organizational representative and the team leader on how well the project met the goals of the project plan, and (b) the team member's, organization's and team leader's experience of the process. Your mark in the team project will reflect your individual effort through team leader and team member assessments of your contribution. Detailed assignment briefs outlining the requirements, instructions, and evaluation for each assignment will be posted on the course Brightspace page.

### **Attendance, Participation, and Accountability (15%):**

ATTENDANCE IS MANDATORY and will contribute to your success and accountability to your team. This is a fast-moving course and each piece builds upon the others. Your work contributes to your team moving forward. It will not be possible to 'catch up' or 'binge' content near at the end of the term. Please take the time at the beginning of the term to look at your overall schedule and make space to do each assignment in the expected time frame. If consistent attendance is not possible given your other commitments, you may need to consider taking the course another term.

Attendance and participation will be noted each week. *If you are unable to attend a weekly group work session*, you must let your project team know and negotiate an alternate contribution to make-up for your missed participation. *Similarly, if you are absent during a class session*, you must arrange with the professor to make-up the missed in-class work. This includes absences due to short-term medical or other extenuating circumstances.

Any unaccounted for absences will be penalized by 5% deduction of the final grade.

Throughout the term, take care to flag potential timeline and capacity conflicts early with your team and team leader. Life happens, and the more notice your team has, the more likely they can plan around, adapt, and find solutions so that the work can still proceed in a timely way. Your team leader will note, with your input, the impact (negative or positive) that any missed, delayed, or altered deliverables had on the team's work, your proactiveness and accountability to the team, and what impact it should have on your grade.

**Assignment Submission:** Assignments are submitted electronically using the course Brightspace page. Assignments will not be accepted via email. Save your work frequently and have a backup copy of your finished work before submitting it. For Brightspace assignment submission support, see <https://carleton.ca/brightspace/students/submitting-assignments/>.

Late submissions, including delays related to technical issues, will be penalized by 10% per day (including weekends). See details for extension requests below.

**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](https://www.chicagomanualofstyle.org/tools_citationguide/citation-guide-2.html)

**‘Grace days’ in lieu of short-term extension requests:** Each student has a total of three ‘grace days’ that can each be applied as a 24-hour extension to any Brightspace assignment submission without penalty. It does not apply to team assignments. You do not need to disclose the reason for the late submission or contact the instructor to request a ‘grace day’ extension in advance. ‘Grace days’ include extension requests for short-term illness, mental health and wellness, appointments, other commitments, religious holidays, or deadline conflicts with other courses. To apply one or more grace days, include a note in the comment section with your submission in Brightspace.

**Longer-term extension requests:** In the case of longer-term extension requests (exceeding 3 days) for medical or other extenuating circumstances please speak to the instructor ideally before the assignment due date or as soon as possible. See Carleton policy for Academic Consideration Policy for Students in Medical and Other Extenuating Circumstances. Note that due to the nature of the course, it may not be possible to accommodate long-term absences or extension requests.

**Grade values:** 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	

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## 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](mailto: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 February/March examinations is **February 1, 2026** and **March 15, 2026** for April 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](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 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](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>

### **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.

### **Generative artificial intelligence (AI) tools:**

Unless explicitly permitted, either generally or for a specific assignment, any use of generative AI tools to produce assessed content is considered a violation of academic integrity standards. As our understanding of the uses of AI and its relationship to student work and academic integrity continue to evolve, students are required to discuss their use of AI in any circumstance not described here with the course instructor to ensure it supports the learning goals for the course.

*AI use in this course:* Students may use AI tools for basic word processing functions, including grammar and spell checking (e.g. Grammarly, Microsoft Word Editor, Copilot). All other use of AI tools in the preparation or creation of the assignments in this course is prohibited. If you have questions about a specific use of AI that isn't listed above, please consult your instructor.

*Why have I adopted this policy?* This policy ensures that student voices and ideas are prioritized and authentically represented, maintaining the integrity of the work produced by students while allowing basic support to enhance clarity, correctness, layout and flow of ideas. The goal of adopting a limited use of AI is to help students develop foundational skills in writing and critical thinking by practicing substantive content creation without the support of AI.

### **STATEMENT ON STUDENT MENTAL HEALTH:**

“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/>”

### **Emergency Resources ([on and off campus](#))**

- Crisis/Urgent Counselling Support: 613-520-6674 (Mon-Fri, 8:30-4:30)
- Suicide Crisis Helpline: call or text 9-8-8, 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.
- For immediate danger or urgent medical support: call 9-1-1

### **Carleton Resources**

- 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/>
- Centre for Indigenous Support and Community Engagement  
<https://carleton.ca/indigenous/cisce/>
- Equity & Inclusive Communities: <https://carleton.ca/equity/>
- Career Services: <https://carleton.ca/career/>

## Off Campus Resources

- Distress Centre of Ottawa and Region: call 613-238-3311, text 343-306-5550, or connect online at <https://www.dcottawa.on.ca/>
- Mental Health Crisis Service: call 613-722-6914 or toll-free 1-866-996-0991, or connect online at <http://www.crisisline.ca/>
- Good2Talk: call 1-866-925-5454 or connect online at <https://good2talk.ca/>
- The Walk-In Counselling Clinic: for online or on-site service <https://walkincounselling.com>

## 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/>.



## WINTER TERM 2026 – Important Dates and Deadlines

Date	Activity
WINTER TERM 2026	
December 29, 2025	Deadline for course outlines to be made available to students registered in full winter and early winter term courses.
January 5, 2026	University reopens.
	Winter term begins. Full winter and early winter classes begin.
January 9, 2026	Last day for registration and course changes (including auditing) in early winter courses.
January 16, 2026	Last day for registration and course changes (including auditing) in full winter and late winter courses.
	Last day to withdraw from early winter 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 winter 2026 and must register for the winter 2026 term.
January 23-25, January 30- February 1, 2026	Full fall and late fall term deferred final examinations will be held.
January 31, 2026	Last day to withdraw from full winter courses and the winter portion of fall/winter courses with a full fee adjustment.
February 1, 2026	Last day for academic withdrawal from early winter courses.

Date	Activity
	Last day to request Formal Examination Accommodations for Feb/Mar 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.
February 6, 2026	Last day for summative tests or examinations, or formative tests or examinations totaling more than 15% of the final grade, in early winter undergraduate courses, before the official Feb/Mar final examination period (see examination regulations in the Academic Regulations of the University section of the Undergraduate Calendar/General Regulations of the Graduate Calendar).
February 13, 2026	Last day of early winter classes.
	Last day for final take-home examinations to be assigned in early winter 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 an instructor as a due date for term work for early winter courses.
	April examination schedule available online.
February 16, 2026	Statutory holiday. University closed.
	Deadline for course outlines to be made available to students registered in late winter courses.
February 16-20, 2026	Winter break, no classes.
February 21-22, February 28-March 1, 2026	Final examinations in early winter undergraduate courses will be held.

Date	Activity
February 23, 2026	Late winter classes begin.
February 27, 2026	Last day for registration and course changes (including auditing) in late winter courses.
March 1, 2026	<p>Last day for receipt of applications for admission to an undergraduate degree program for the fall/winter session from applicants whose documents originate outside Canada or the United States.</p> <p>Last day for receipt of applications to Bachelor of Architecture, Bachelor of Industrial Design, Bachelor of Information Technology (Interactive Multimedia and Design), Bachelor of Music, Bachelor of Science in Nursing and Bachelor of Social Work degree programs for the fall/winter session.</p> <p>Last day for receipt of applications for admission from candidates who wish to be guaranteed consideration for financial assistance (including Carleton fellowships, scholarships and teaching assistantships) administered by Carleton University. Candidates whose applications are received after the March 1 deadline may be considered for the award of a fellowship, scholarship or teaching assistantship (Graduate students only).</p>
March 6, 2026	Last day to withdraw from late winter term courses with a full fee adjustment.
March 13-15, 2026	Early winter undergraduate deferred final examinations will be held.
March 15, 2026	Last day for academic withdrawal from full winter, late winter, and fall/winter courses.
	Last day to request Formal Examination Accommodations for April full winter, late winter, and fall/winter final examinations from the Paul Menton Centre for Students with Disabilities. Note

Date	Activity
	that it may not be possible to fulfil accommodation requests received after the specified deadlines.
March 25, 2026	Last day for summative tests or examinations, or formative tests or examinations totaling more than 15% of the final grade, in full winter term or fall/winter undergraduate courses, before the official April final examination period (see examination regulations in the Academic Regulations of the University section of the Undergraduate Calendar/General Regulations of the Graduate Calendar).
April 1, 2026	Last day for graduate students to submit their supervisor-approved thesis, in examinable form to the department.
	Last day for receipt of applications from potential spring (June) graduates.
	Last day for summative tests or examinations, or formative tests or examinations totaling more than 15% of the final grade, in late winter 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).
April 3, 2026	Statutory holiday. University closed.
April 8, 2026	Winter term ends.
	Classes follow a Friday schedule.
	Last day of full winter, late winter, and fall/winter classes.
	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.

Date	Activity
	Last day that can be specified by an instructor as a due date for term work for full winter, late winter, and fall/winter courses.
April 9-10, 2026	No classes or examinations take place.
April 11-23, 2026	Final examinations in full winter, late winter, and fall/winter courses will be held. Examinations are normally held all seven days of the week.
April 23, 2026	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.
May 1, 2026	Last day for receipt of applications for undergraduate internal degree transfers to allow for registration for the summer session.
May 15-27, 2026	Full winter, late winter term, and fall/winter deferred final examinations will be held.
June 1, 2026	Last day for receipt of applications for admission to an undergraduate program for the fall/winter session except for applications due March 1.
June 15, 2026	Last day for receipt of applications for undergraduate degree program transfers for the fall term.