

SOCI 439A – Community-Engaged Sociology I¹



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Calendar Course Description

An experiential learning course that applies sociology through community engagement. This course takes sociology out of the classroom and into our communities. Students may be expected to volunteer time outside of class to work with non-profit organizations to design, develop and plan projects to serve the organizations' needs as well as attend off-campus presentations and learning experiences.

Prerequisites

- Minimum third-year standing; and
- declared Honours or Major in Sociology; or
- permission of the department.

Required Materials

All readings are linked from the course website.

Student Assessment

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| • TCPS2 (must complete to pass the course) | 2.5% |
| • Reflections (3) 5%, 10%, 12.5% | 27.5% |
| • Community Partner Site Visit Report – outline any concerns/first impressions | 5% |
| • Project Proposal & Timelines | 15% |
| • Research paper | 20% |
| • Peer Review of Research paper | 5% |
| • Article Lead (1.5-page summary, analysis, and reflection) (2@5%) | 10% |
| • Article Discussant (.5-page summary & 2 key questions) (10@1% each) | 10% |
| • Project Proposal Presentation | 5% |

I realize that this looks like a lot, but most of these are quick and easy. Also, 439A and 439B are intentionally designed for most of the “busy work” to be completed in 439A to free up time for 439B (where there are fewer assignments).

What is the course like?

Each week we will meet for 1, 3-hour seminar. Seminars usually begin with a roundtable where we chat about where we are at with our community projects and any issues/concerns we are having. Most class time will be spent reviewing/discussing articles that engage with Applied Sociology and/or issues in Community-Engaged Learning. The article discussions will be led by students in either Lead or Discussant roles. These reviews are intended to interrogate sociology and community.

In previous course deliveries, students take a few weeks before they “find their legs”. This class is designed to be different from other courses. In this space we can speak freely about our experiences in/with sociology, the department, and the university. By talking openly and honestly about where we have come from, we can better define our own sociology and where we want to take it.

The courses (both 439A and 439B) also help you define/prepare for what your life after graduation might look like. We will discuss (and have guests come to class) about what graduate school is like as well as how to prepare for going on the job-market. Students in previous classes have commented on how the course has forced them to think about what they want to do after their degree.

The last thing I will say about the course, is that we are here for our community-partners. In both developing (439A) and delivering (439B) the community projects we are leveraging our skills and abilities to help partners undertake a project they would not otherwise be able to do. We are there for them, not us.

Why should you take 439A and 439B?

If you believe that sociologists should *talk less* and *do more*, then these courses are for you. By leaving the comfort and security of the university classroom and venturing outside Ring Road, you will finally have the chance to *make your sociology matter*.

¹ This online outline is only intended to give an overall sense of the course. Detailed course outlines will be made available for all registered students on the first day of class. Only those outlines are to be considered official.