SOCI 434 ¹
Issues in Deviance, Crime, Law and Social Control: Identification, Surveillance and Citizenship

Instructor: Dr. Midori Ogasawara

Course Description:
This seminar course focuses on surveillance and technologies that are increasingly used in the field of crime prevention, and as means of social control in general. Today’s surveillance is often invisibly embedded in digital networks we are unaware of, so surveillance targets have been shifting from the deviant to the general population, and the boundaries between legal and illegal surveillance are being redrawn. The course explores a wide range of surveillance practices, from anti-terror measures to everyday interpersonal communications. We start with situating identification as a starting point of surveillance and learn that roles and effects of identification systems are not only the verification of a person, but also the classification of people. Next, the course draws on some key theories of Surveillance Studies, a dynamic and expanding area of research, such as the works of Foucault, Deleuze, Agamben, Bauman and Lyon. In parallel, colonial histories and neoliberal policies are examined through in-depth discussion, to analyze the social backgrounds of surveillance, from intersectional sociological perspectives (race/ethnicity, gender and class). Finally, we discuss how identification and surveillance benefit and/or harm the practices of citizenship and human rights in the digital era.

Course Objectives:
The objectives of this course are achieving an advanced understanding of major issues of identification and surveillance, applying the theories to the real world, and developing critical thinking on the past, present and future of surveillance technology. Students are encouraged to learn from others, both inside and outside the class, reconsider the meanings of civil liberty, equity and social justice, and improve their abilities to take actions for vulnerable people and

¹ This outline is only intended to give an overall sense of the course. A detailed course outline will be made available in August before the first day of class. Only that outline is to be considered official.
situations as the practice of citizenship. The assignments include a book review, in-class presentation, and a research paper.

**Course Pre-requisites:**
A minimum of third-year standing; and a declared Honours or Major in Sociology; or permission of the instructor. SOCI 202 Constructing Social Problems and SOCI 206 Crime and Deviance and/or SOCI 307 Regulation and Social Control are *recommended* prior to taking this course.

**Topics May Include:**
Identification systems, Biometrics, Edward Snowden and national security intelligence, Predictive policing, Internet and social media, Political economy of surveillance, Social credit score systems, and Surveillance emerging in response to the COVID-19 (such as geolocation data collection and contact tracing apps).

**Required Resources May Include:**
Lyon, David. 2009. *Identifying Citizens: ID Cards as Surveillance*. Cambridge, UK: Polity. All other required readings will be made available via CourseSpaces.