

SOCI 436

Issues in Sociology & Social Justice¹

Instructor: Dr. Bill Carroll

Course Description:

Sociology has, from its inception in the nineteenth century, had a complicated relationship with currents, movements and practices of social justice. In this course, we explore that relationship, focusing on the contemporary scene and the future possibilities that lie within that scene. Although SOCI 436 is a sociology course, our definition of sociology is broad, and moreover, the course is also an elective in the interdisciplinary Minor/Diploma Program in Social Justice Studies. I hope the course will take on an interdisciplinary flavor as our discussion progress.

The course will involve more discussion, and workshops, than lecture. The makes, I hope, for a dynamic and interesting experience, but it also requires commitment and preparation by all members of the class. SOCI 436 is not only a seminar-style course; it is also a writing course. Throughout the term, students will write a number of small reflective essays, leading to a term paper, which is due in August.

Course Format:

Participation is crucial to this course's success! I will begin each session with a relatively short lecture, introducing the topic and readings, and giving you some background as to how they fit into our course problematic, i.e., the complex relationship between sociology and social justice. But most of our time together will involve discussion.

Topics May Include:

Sociology, Knowledge and Power

Public Sociology

Critical Sociology

Sociology and alternative policies

Activism, movements and solidarity

Sociology, radicalism and the left

Course Readings

Most readings will be posted to the BrightSpace website, as weblinks or pdfs.

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.