

The Trent Learning Experience

Trent University is an outstanding undergraduate university known for its commitment to a liberal arts and sciences education. Celebrated for excellence in both teaching and research, Trent consistently ranks among the top institutions nationwide for quality of education, teaching, and research. In particular, the University is renowned for its focus on the individual student through smaller class sizes, ratio of students to faculty members with Ph.D.s and access to scholarships and bursaries.

Faculty members are accomplished teachers and researchers who provide an array of opportunities for their students. It is one of Trent's goals to provide educational programs that encourage students to think critically, creatively, constructively, and to communicate their ideas effectively, as well as to

instill a curiosity that engenders lifelong learning. The Trent experience is not limited to attending lectures and labs; it is a composite of in-class and after-class learning. The University experience is about sharing new information, insight and understanding, and furthering yourself as you enrich the world around you.

Spanning the picturesque Otonabee River in the beautiful Kawartha Lakes district of Peterborough, Ontario, Trent's main campus features award-winning architecture designed to complement its natural setting. Trent's Oshawa campus also offers a selection of full undergraduate degree programs.



For more information contact

Trent University
Department of Sociology
1600 West Bank Drive
Peterborough, ON Canada
K9J 7B8

Tel: (705) 748-1011 ext. 7537
Fax: (705) 748-1213
E-mail: sociology@trentu.ca

www.trentu.ca/sociology

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Why Study Sociology at Trent?

We live in a time of widespread rapid social change – in families, in workplaces, in communications, in relationships between men and women, and in the ethnic and racial composition of Canada, and elsewhere. Governments, communities, and individuals struggle to cope with change in these, and many other areas of collective life. Though we live in an individualistic society, we all know that the change around us goes beyond the individual.

Sociology studies social change

Since its inception in the 19th century, Sociology has been devoted to the study of the causes and consequences of social change, from those arising from the industrial and democratic revolutions of the late 18th century, to those of our postindustrial and postmodern society. Above all, sociologists have explored the consequences of social change for social cohesion and social inequality and the relationship between private and public realms.



"The first wisdom of Sociology is this – things are not what they seem."

Peter L. Berger

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LEARNING TO MAKE A WORLD OF DIFFERENCE.™





Thinking Critically

Sociology at Trent provides students with a toolkit of concepts, theories, data, research skills and renewed sources of information to enable them to think critically and creatively about the social changes they experience, and about the efforts of the people to direct that change.

The Sociological Approach

Sociology meets these challenges with conceptual rigour and research into social processes at a variety of levels, from societies as a whole to the everyday interactions between groups and individuals. Sociological work is also inspired by a passion for social justice, with an ongoing concern for the causes of marginalization and exclusion, and the lives of those who are disadvantaged.

Building on a common core of required courses in theory and method, the Sociology program at Trent offers two main concentrations:

- social structures and social policies, in areas such as social inequality, families, health, work, criminal justice, organizations, social control and technology
- social interaction and culture, in areas such as religion, media, aging, ethnic and sexual identities, consumer society and professional expertise.



The Faculty

Members of the Sociology Department at Trent are committed teachers and active researchers whose research informs and enlivens their teaching. Faculty members are currently doing research in the following areas:

- aging and the lifecourse
- the use of science in criminal investigation
- the organization of work in the auto industry
- the social organization of marine biology
- sexuality and biotechnology
- celebrity culture
- the Canadian mass media
- pharmaceuticals and health care
- automobile culture

“The sociological imagination enables us to grasp history and biography and the relations between the two within society.” — C. Wright Mills

- sociological theory
- post-communist transition in East-central Europe
- sport and leisure
- women and the law

“To the adequately trained eye, the total beauty, the total meaning of the world as a whole radiates from every single point.”

Georg Simmel

Interdisciplinary Opportunities

Of course you will not only be taking Sociology at Trent, and the University offers a full range of humanities and social science disciplines, in addition to a number of innovative interdisciplinary programs in areas such as Canadian Studies, Women’s Studies, International Development Studies, Native Studies and Global Studies.

International Study

It is possible to spend a year studying at a university abroad through Trent’s International Study and Exchange Program. In the last few years, Sociology majors have attended universities around the world. Formal exchange agreements exist with universities in Malaysia, Mauritius, Scotland, the United States, Wales, England and France. These are only some of the many destinations open to Sociology students.



A Career for Tomorrow

Many Trent Sociology students go on to graduate studies at other universities and successful careers in university teaching, or in research for private companies or governments. Others pursue professional training in social work, labour relations, law

and education, or secure positions in social service or healthcare fields. Regardless of the specific area of endeavor, a degree in Sociology equips you with the skills of critical thinking, research and data analysis, and the reflexive imagination to help you understand a changing world and to contribute to it.

A sample of undergraduate course offerings:

Sociology main first-year and second-year courses:

- Introduction to Sociology
- Classical Sociological Theory
- Social Research Methods
- Self and Social Interaction
- Social Inequality

Third and fourth-year courses focus on:

- Health, religion, work, education, family, gender, sexuality, crime, culture, ethnicity, aging, media, sport and many other important topics

