

UNIVERSITY of GUELPH

COLLEGE OF SOCIAL AND APPLIED HUMAN SCIENCES
Department of Sociology and Anthropology
WINTER 2022

Instructor: Prof. Saara Liinamaa

Email: sliinama@uoguelph.ca

Time: Wednesday, 2:30pm-5:20pm*

Office: 607 MacKinnon

Office Hours: Tuesday 3 – 4

Classroom: TBD

**This is an in-person seminar, not a hybrid or remote class. Students will not have the option to join the class online.*

SOC* 4430: Alternative Social Possibilities

Course Description

Sociology does not just investigate and analyze society, it also develops research and practices directed toward creating alternatives to the existing order. What do alternatives to the constraints of present-day society look like? Is every future a dream of the past? How are problems identified? Who imagines these solutions? How are they implemented?

This course will examine big ideas as well as pragmatic solutions to the question of social change that animates so much of the critical and progressive literature in sociology. This seminar will explore practical and experimental approaches to social change, including topics such as utopian thinking, experiments in collective living, art and creativity, no border activism, prison abolition, and anti-oppression pedagogy. Students will learn about past and present approaches to social change, and they will also experiment with transformative practices via class activities and assignments.

As a seminar, the learning environment will focus on dialogue, active learning, belonging, and creativity. Students are expected to participate in a range of classroom activities and should be prepared to practice developing alternative social possibilities within the classroom. This is not a lecture-based class.

Evaluation*

Discussion Leader

Weekly Questions

Experimental Pedagogy Assignment

Social Alternatives Final Project and Essay

*exact grade breakdown to be posted on the final course syllabus