

## Teaching Reflections Fall 2018

Seriously, every semester when I write these (and I have no idea if anyone reads them, which is OK) I am convinced that I have the best job in the world. Another fantastic term with literally hundreds of hardworking, passionate and engaged students.

Some of the things that went particularly well last semester were:

- Implementation of REVEL for Soci 100  
As my students know, I was nervous about adopting the electronic version of my textbook (and yes, I really do defer my royalties to support *Out of the Rain*) but it went very, very well. In fact, in a survey 96% of students responding said they found their experience with REVEL either good, or very good. Students really liked being able to listen to the text while they were on the bus, and, doing short quizzes that culminated in 20% of their grade – students said they felt the “reward” for reading the text was a bonus. For me, I know that students were better prepared for discussions in lectures because they had to do their chapter quizzes before I covered the topic. Personally, can’t ever see going back to the print version of the text. (P.S. and although some students are still frustrated with having to pay the \$95 I think it remains great value in that this costs includes both Soci 100A and 100B (when I teach the courses) and that this confirms all students pay the same price regardless of when the new edition is released.
- I was (again) impressed (and gratified) that classroom attendance stayed so high, throughout the semester, even though I record and post all lectures.
- The TAs were a great group this semester and I had relatively little “drama” to deal with.
- I really enjoyed working with my honour’s student this semester who is doing wonderful research using a Community Engaged Learning Model.

Some of the things that I needed to “adjust” were:

- The written tutorial assignments, although I am convinced are an invaluable learning tool, were just simply too demanding on the students and the TAs. I have removed the tutorial assignments for next semester and will be adding 5% each to the midterm/final and adding a 10% Tutorial Participation mark. Students, if they still want to do some original writing can still approach me with an Option 2 proposal.

A really great semester. My thanks to all my students and TAs who made the semester such a pleasure.

/Bruce