



The University of Western Ontario
SOCIOLOGY 1021e
Introduction to Sociology
Fall / Winter 2016-17
Section 001

Lecture: Wed 7:00-9:00 | Room: SSC 2032

Instructor: Lauren Barr

Office Hours: TBD on campus or by appointment

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"The sociological imagination enables us to grasp history and biography and the relations between the two within society." That is its task and its promise.
C. Wright Mills.

Description:

Sociology is a discipline that examines the relationship between structure and agency. The course provides an overview of major sociological perspectives on the dynamics of interaction between structural forces and individuals/social groups. The goal is not to make you an expert but rather to provide you with a sense of what sociologists do and how they think. You will be exposed to a variety of viewpoints, with an emphasis on those that challenge the common sense understandings of society that most students bring to class.

At the end of this course, the student will be able to:

1. Use their sociological imagination and demonstrate an understanding of the relationship between social control and deviance.
2. Apply (extend) the theories and ideas discussed in class to other examples of deviance
3. Actively read and discuss academic journals on deviance
4. Develop a personalized learning assignment that allows conscious personal and academic growth through connecting course content with real world issues
5. Communicate with clear critical reading, thinking and analytical skills.

Pre-requisites: 1.0 from Sociology 1020, 1021E, 1025A/B, 1026F/G, 1027A/B.

Unless you have the requisites for this course or written special permission from your Dean to enroll in it, you will be removed from this course and it will be deleted from your record. This decision may not be appealed. You will receive no adjustment to your fees in the event that you are dropped from a course for failing to have the necessary prerequisites

Accessing the Class Homepage via SAKAI

Much of the material for this course has been placed on the class homepage established on SAKAI and students are expected to log in to their OWL account (and the class homepage) during the first week of class in order to insure that everything is working properly. The homepage for this course will contain a number of different folders that will contain things like the course outline, lectures, grades, instructions for assessments, and a link for uploading to Turnitin.com, etc.

Required Text

Bereska, Tami. 2013. *Deviance, Conformity, and Social Control in Canada*. 4th Ed.
Toronto: Pearson (*yes the most up to date version matters for this case*)

Suggested Texts

One of: Arntfield, Michael. 2015. *Murder City*. FriesenPress.
Vengatesh, Sudhir. 2008. *Gang Leader for a Day*. Penguin Publishing.

Evaluation Expectations:

Written Evaluations:

All written submissions (both formal and informal) are marked based on level of critical analysis, **succinct** arguments and overall organization of your thoughts. While grammar is not specifically marked, it will influence the delivery of your argument, so careful editing is expected. The course material is a foundation and a motivator for critical reflection on deviance. I expect that you will move beyond the course material, expanding and offering new ways of thinking about deviance or new issues that relate to our course.

Method of Evaluation

ASSESSMENT	%	DATE
Attendance	5	Ongoing
Online Engagement	15	Ongoing
Major Assignment	25	March 27
Quiz 1	7.5	Oct 2
Quiz 2	7.5	Oct 16
Exam 2	20	Jan 16
Exam 3	20	April

Major Assignment

This class will be unusual or 'deviant', in that I offer you an option on your major assignment. You will select the assignment based exclusively on your hopes for this course, personal and professional goals.

Option 1: A community group project set up with Western's Community Engaged Learning. You will dedicate your time to go out into the community with a group and work with a partner. Past projects have included education campaigns, creating training videos, conducting literature reviews for grant applications or program planning, interviewing 'deviant' groups to share their story, etc. A presentation will be given about this component in class.

Option 2: Critical argumentative essay

Option 3: Journals of Reflection (a qualitative research exercise to build better academic and self-awareness)

A detailed outline will be posted online for each assignment and discussed in-class. **You will select which one you want to do by Sept 19, 2016.**

Online Engagement (blended learning)

This section of the course will be ongoing. You are expected to put time in online (at least the equivalent of 45 min of class each week), watching videos, reflecting on lecture content, sharing information and ideas. Each person will be placed in an 'online tutorial'. You will meet your group in class, but spend most of your time interacting online. Each person will be responsible for 'facilitating' a topic. What this means is that you will monitor discussions and keep people engaged during the week you are asked to facilitate. (Essentially, you become the instructor).

I will provide a concrete outline of expectations for this mark online for September.

Professionalism and Participation:

As a student, you expect me, your professor, to be professional. You expect that I will be there, be prepared and be ready to expand on the material. You also presume that I will communicate and get work back to you in a timely manner, with constructive feedback. If for some reason I am unable to do so, you would assume that I have a valid reason and that I let you know as soon as possible, with a plan on how the work will be completed.

As your instructor, I expect the same. You will be in class. You will be ready to engage and connect with your classmates. You will push to achieve the best possible outcome. In any 'job', you are expected to be there, act professional, be respectful, to go 'beyond' and to contribute to your team. Post secondary education is one step of your professional career, so I encourage you to treat it as such.

In my class, participation is all-encompassing. It means being there, it means speaking up when you have something to contribute, it means working in groups / partners when asked and it means contributing online. You want to constantly challenge yourself and others to think about the material and the world around us.

If you are actively engaged and in touch with your instructor, your grades will improve, your experience in the class will be positive and the classroom will be much more interesting!

Examinations:

All examinations may include a combination of m/c, short answer or essay style questions. A detailed breakdown and class reviews will be provided before each exam. These exams are not cumulative, but you are expected to retain and be able to apply theory throughout the course.

Exams will be based on the material covered in the online material and assigned readings. Each quiz will be no more than 30 min, each exam will be 2 hours in length. Each of the exams *could consist of* multiple choice, true, false, and written questions.

Course Schedule and Readings: will be posted on OWL at the beginning of class

Teaching the "Whole Student"

I am **always** available to discuss life with you. Please see me, schedule an appointment and let me know if there are external factors that are influencing your success in our course or just things on your mind that you would like to talk about.

Academic Policies:

Policies for Assignment Deadlines:

Students must submit all work on time. If an assignment is late, there will be a 5% late penalty per day for up to 10 days past the due date. At that point, assignment will no longer be accepted. If a student anticipates an issue with an assignment, they are recommended to speak to their Professor and / or TA as early as possible.

A Note on Plagiarism:

Students must write their assignments in their own words. Whenever students take an idea from another author, they must acknowledge their debt both by using quotation marks where appropriate and by proper referencing such as footnotes or citations. Plagiarism is a major scholastic offence (the Scholastic Offence Policy can be viewed in the Western Academic Calendar).

Plagiarism Checking:

All required papers may be subject to submission for textual similarity review to the commercial plagiarism detection software under license to the University for detection of plagiarism. All papers submitted for such checking will be included as source documents in the reference database for the purpose of detecting plagiarism of papers subsequently submitted to the system. Use of the service is subject to the licensing agreement, currently between The University of Western Ontario and Turnitin.com (www.turnitin.com).

Policies on Examinations

Computer-marked multiple-choice tests and/or exams may be subject to submission for similarity review by software that will check for unusual coincidences in answer patterns that may indicate cheating.

Policy on Laptops and other Electronics/Phones in Class:

Laptops are permitted in class but if it is observed that students are on social networking sites such as Facebook or Twitter, they will be told to close the lid and they will not be permitted to use it for the remainder of the class. Be sure that all cell phones are turned off at the beginning of class. Recording of lectures or tutorials without the explicit consent of the Professor or TA is ground for academic discipline.

Policy on Accommodation for Medical Illness

Western's policy on Accommodation for Medical Illness can be found at www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/accommodation_medical.pdf.

Students must see the Academic Counsellor and submit all required documentation in order to be approved for certain accommodation: http://counselling.ssc.uwo.ca/procedures/medical_accommodation.html

Accessibility Options:

Please contact the course instructor if you require material in an alternate format or if you require any other arrangements to make this course more accessible to you. You may also wish to contact Services for Students with Disabilities (SSD) at 519 661-2111 x 82147 for any specific question regarding an accommodation. Information regarding accommodation of exams is available on the Registrar's website: www.registrar.uwo.ca/examinations/accommodated_exams.html

Scholastic Offences

Scholastic offences are taken seriously and students are directed to read the appropriate policy, specifically, the definition of what constitutes a Scholastic Offence, at the following web site: www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/scholastic_discipline_undergrad.pdf

Mental Health

Students who are in **emotional/mental distress** should refer to Mental Health@Western (http://uwo.ca/health/mental_wellbeing/index.html) for a complete list of options how to obtain help.