



The University of Western Ontario
SOCIOLOGY 1025A-001
Society and You Fall 2016
Section 001

Lecture: Mon 12:30-2:30 | Room: UCC 146

Instructor: Lauren Barr

Office Hours: TBD
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“Apathy and indifference are likely to give way as images of what might be arise”

~C. Wright Mills ~

Course Description:

In modern Canadian society, most people believe that individuals shape their own destiny. And, to a certain extent that is true – we, as individuals, make decisions every day that shape the kind of life we lead. You made a decision about if you would attend university, how hard to work in your classes, where to live when attending school, and the type of summer job you want. But, of course, you do not get to make those decisions just as you chose. In this class, we will learn about how individual choices (sometimes called agency) are structured in society. We have the ability to make decisions, but our choices are often shaped by larger social forces.

C. Wright Mills tried to tackle these complicated issues with what he called the Sociological Imagination. Mills calls on us to try to see the connections between our individual lives and the larger society in which we live. He argues that we can only really understand our own lives and biographies if we understand the larger history of our society as a whole. Once we make these connections, we will be able to see the relationship between our own personal troubles, problems that we face as individuals, and larger public issues, social problems that arise in society. In this class, we will develop our sociological imaginations and focus on three core parts of sociology: social inequality, social institutions, and social change.

Learning objectives and outcomes:

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 individual experience and societal reality
2. Apply (extend) the theories and ideas discussed in class

3. Conduct research on an existing social problem and propose a plan for social change, all while working in a group
4. Communicate with clear critical reading, thinking and analytical skills.

Required Text(s):

- Symbaluk & Bereska. (2013). *Sociology in Action: A Canadian Perspective*. 2nd Ed. Nelson Publishing.
- MindTap for Sociology in Action will be used for Tutorials + online articles

Method of Evaluation:

Sociology in Action Group Work	40 %	Ongoing - see outline
Midterm	30 %	Oct 24
Final Exam	30 %	December exam period

Evaluation Breakdown:

Sociology in Action Group Work: 40%

Prep Work (to be done and submitted the day before class)	15
Solution / Suggestions to Solve the World's Problems	15
Engagement (participation, preparation and professionalism)	10

Throughout the course, a series of 'working sessions' will be included in tutorial as part of our engagement with the material. You will be asked to sign up with a partner, or group of up to 4 people. You are not allowed to change groups once the year has begun.

* If you know that you will be absent, you are asked to let your group know and follow up with them after.

The objective of the Group Project is to challenge the dominant way of thinking about the assigned topic and generate viable solutions to the presented problem. You want to encourage students to move outside the comfort zone and really analyze why society is the way that it is and for what purpose. You will be practicing PRAXIS and examining work that is being done in the community to promote and support social change.

You will be given time in tutorial to work on this research so please ensure that you are present. A *detailed outline will be provided in class.*

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.

REMEMBER: 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.

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 and 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 expect 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 from you. I expect that 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 part of your professional career, so I encourage you to treat it as such.

In OUR 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!

Lecture Schedule and Readings

Will be found on the course website: <http://owl.uwo.ca>

You are expected to become familiar with this website and check it several times each week!

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.

Also, the university offers support as well ...

SUPPORT SERVICES

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 about how to obtain help.

Here's the link to the official policy:

http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/exam/courseoutlines.pdf

How to Contact Me:

Email: lbarr2@uwo.ca (ensure you add the class course number in the Subject line). I will return a response within 48 business hours (Mon - Fri 9-5).

Facebook Messenger: ProfLauren Barr (can be used for virtual office hours as well) - same availability as above

OWL messages - same as above

Office: 5432

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.