



**Western University**  
**SOCIOLOGY 2144b**  
**Sociology of Education**  
**Winter 2017**  
**Wednesday, 1:30-3:30, SSC 2036**

**Instructor: Lauren Barr**

Office Hours: Wednesday 12:00-1:00 or by appointment

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**Course Description:**

The focus of this course is on the sociological study of education in Canadian society. Applying different empirical and theoretical perspectives on education, we will do the following throughout this course:

- trace the historical development and organization of education in Canada,
- investigate patterns of educational participation,
- discuss the socialization function of schools,
- debate the relationship between school and work,
- analyze the role of education in the reproduction of social inequality, and
- learn about contemporary challenges facing education systems
- compare the Canadian education system to other systems (international)

**Learning Outcomes**

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

- Interpret historical conditions that have led to the development of current education systems and institutions.
- Challenge common-sense assumptions about school success and failure.
- Compare and contrast different sociological and theoretical perspectives regarding the schooling experiences and outcomes of different social groups.
- Analyze the relationships between educational institutions and wider social structures.
- Evaluate critically different reasons for educational reform

## Required Text

Lehmann, Wolfgang. 2016. *Education & Society: Critical Perspectives*. Don Mills, ON: Oxford University Press.

*Additional readings will be available through OWL*

## Suggested Text (will be used as a referenced in lectures at various points)

Davies, Scott and Neil Guppy 2014. *The Schooled Society: An Introduction to the Sociology of Education*. Third Edition. Don Mills, ON: Oxford University Press.

## Method of Evaluation:

In this course you will be given the option of choosing your evaluation process. You will have two options. If you opt to participation in the group project, *you are actively agreeing to engage and contribute*. If you do not like group work, choose the alternative option. More will be discussed in class.

*You will be asked to pick your option by January 15 online. If you do not choose - you will automatically be added to option 2.*

### Evaluation Breakdown: Option 1

Participation and Professionalism	20 %	Ongoing
Midterm Exam	30 %	Feb 15 in-class
Group Assignment	20 %	April 5
Final Exam	30 %	April exam period – TBD
<b>Total</b>	<b>100</b>	

### Evaluation Breakdown: Option 2

Participation and Professionalism	20 %	Ongoing
Midterm Exam	40 %	Feb 15 in-class
Final Exam	40 %	April exam period – TBD
<b>Total</b>	<b>100</b>	

## ***Evaluation Breakdown***

**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 education. I expect that you will move beyond the course material, expanding and offering new ways of thinking about education or new issues that relate to our course.

## **Participation and Professionalism: Being part of Our Community**

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.** This mark is 'easy' as long as you are engaged! You want to constantly challenge yourself and others to think about the material and the world around us.

**Each class you will be asked to submit a thought or detailed question to an ongoing journal that will contribute to your P+P mark. To submit this, you must be in class.**

**So your final P+P mark will include: Online participation; In-class participation; In-class journaling submitted each week.**

**WHY DO I CARE SO MUCH???** **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.

### **Group Assignment (optional)**

Your group project will be to identify an area of interest within education that has sociological significance and research as a group the issue / topic. As a group you will design an educational aid (a micro lesson) using PowerPoint, Prezi, or another related software program. More information will be provided in class on how this project will work online as well as in-class.

**How to Contact Me:**

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

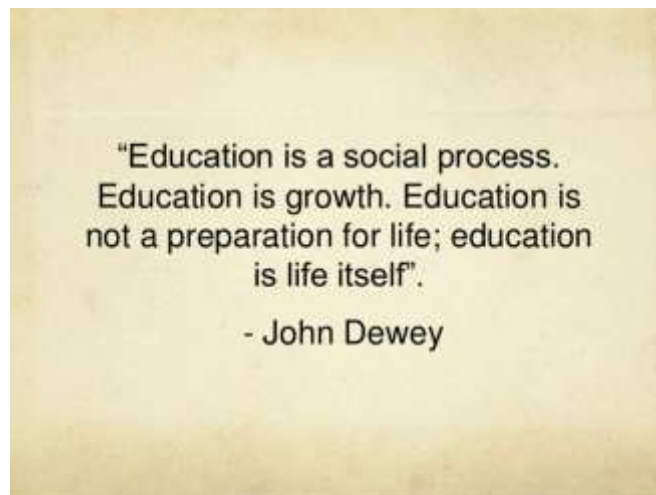
Facebook Messenger: ProfLauren Barr (can be used for virtual office hours as well) - same availability as above

OWL messages - same as above

Office: SSC 5432

**How to get important information:**

Check online on the OWL website throughout the week. I am always on adding new content, forums and announcements. It is an active part of our course and I recommend you make it a habit to login for new information.



## Important Policies

### *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 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](http://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.

#### **Statement on Use of Electronic Devices**

Electronic devices will not be permitted in examinations unless the student has an existing learning plan with Student Development.

#### ***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](http://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](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](http://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](http://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](http://uwo.ca/health/mental_wellbeing/index.html)) for a complete list of options how to obtain help.