The University of Western Ontario

SOCIOLOGY 1027A 001
Life Is Not Always Fair
Fall 2017
Friday’s 10:30-12:20

Instructor: Jennifer Reynolds
Office Hours: Thursday’s 4:30-5:30pm
Department of Sociology, Office: SSC 5209
(please book an appointment during these times through email correspondence)
Email: jnugent5@uwo.ca

Teaching Assistants:
Lyn Hoang (lhoang3@uwo.ca)
Bea Waterfield (bwaterfi@uwo.ca)

Course Description:

In this introductory sociology course, we will explore the various social processes, structures and institutions that shape the social world in which we live. We will challenge many commonly held assumptions, such as the idea that the success of individuals is always the outcome of talent and hard work, and that who commit crime have low self-control, are dangerous, and that many should be sequestered in an institution. Throughout the term students will be introduced to important sociological debates about the nature of inequality, and how different social institutions, structures, and processes are implicated in the creation and maintenance of this inequality.

Learning Outcomes

By the end of the course students will be able to:

- Challenge common-sense assumptions about social live by applying sociological reasoning.
- Describe and examine a range of key sociological concepts and theoretical approaches and assess their merits for the explanation of social institutions, processes and behaviours.
- Demonstrate knowledge of major dimensions of social inequality and social structure in contemporary societies.
- Explain how different sociological research approaches are used to answer sociological questions.
- Demonstrate the skills necessary to engage in further sociological studies.

Antirequisites: There are no anti-requisites to this course, but please do note that you cannot take more than 7.0 credits at the 1000-level in your degree.
Required Text(s):


Method of Evaluation:

Test #1 (20%)
Test #2 (25%)
Final Exam (30%)
Tutorial Participation (10%)
Tutorial Quizzes (best 3 of 4) (15%)

Evaluation Breakdown

Your grade for this course will be based on your performance on two exams.

(1) Test #1 (20%) and Test #2 (25%)

The questions will include True/False, multiple choice and short-answer/fill in the blank questions.

(2) Final exam (30%): Date TBA (During final exam period in December)

Similar to the first two tests, the final exam will include both multiple choice and short-answer questions. The final exam is non-cumulative.

The examinations will cover a variety of course material (lectures, assigned readings, films shown in class, discussions etc.). Students are responsible for material covered in class regardless of whether they are present for each class. It is important to note that you are responsible for taking lecture notes/accessing notes from fellow students. It might be helpful to make contact with a peer early in the course in case it becomes necessary for you to miss a class. It will also be your responsibility to access/view any films that may be shown during a class in which you miss.

(3) Tutorial Participation (10%)

Tutorial participation will be a combination of tutorial attendance and active contribution to discussions during tutorials.

(4) Tutorial In-Class “Surprise” Quizzes (15%)

Over the course of the term there will be 4 quizzes given at the beginning of tutorial classes. Only 3 of these will count toward your final grade. This means that if you get a bad grade on one quiz, you can make up for it on another OR if you miss a class you will still have a chance to write 3 quizzes. Note: there will be NO make-ups for missed quizzes. These quizzes will be MC, TF, or fill-in-the blank and will be created by your TA. Your TA will give you more information on what to expect regarding these quizzes during the first week of classes.
How to Contact Me:
If you have got a question or would like to discuss course content further, please come and see me during my office hours. If you are in class during my office hours and wish to speak with me regarding course material, you can book an appointment with me in person or through e-mail. If you wish to contact me via email, please be advised that I will respond to your message within two business days. I will not provide email responses to questions that have already been addressed on the course outline or in class lectures.

How to get important information:
OWL will be used to post course information, content, reminders and important instructions regarding deadlines, expectations, requirements, etc. It is expected that you check OWL regularly to ensure that you are kept up to date on new and revised course content. From time-to-time I may post or e-mail additional content that may aid in your learning and understanding of course topics. This material may be used in assignments or class discussions.

Important Policies

Policies for Assignment Deadlines:
Students who miss the assignment or examinations will not be permitted to write unless they submit formal written documentation regarding their absence to academic counseling. Only reasons deemed appropriate by academic counseling will be granted the option to rewrite (ie. doctor’s note regarding illness, religious holiday, death/illness of a family member, etc.). If a student suspects that an unavoidable crisis might arise preventing them from completing the assignments or examinations, they should get in contact with the instructor as soon as possible to make alternative arrangements. Students should note that they will not be automatically granted approval for a missed assignment or test and that your home faculty’s Academic Counseling office will determine the legitimacy of your request and documentation.

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).

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.

**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.
### Course Schedule and Readings:

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<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Topic</th>
<th>Required Readings</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Sept. 8</td>
<td>Course Introduction</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Common sense vs. sociological reasoning</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sept. 15</td>
<td>Sociological Reasoning about Inequality</td>
<td>Ch. 1 (pp. 4-12; 20-end of chapter); Ch. 2 (38-45)</td>
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<td>Sept. 22</td>
<td>Social Class, Status and Inequality</td>
<td>Ch. 3</td>
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<td>Sept. 29</td>
<td>Race, Ethnicity and Inequality</td>
<td>Ch. 5</td>
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<td>Oct. 6</td>
<td>TEST #1</td>
<td>Ch. 1-3; 5</td>
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<td>Oct. 13</td>
<td>FALL BREAK – NO CLASSES</td>
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<td>Oct. 20</td>
<td>Gender, Sexuality and Inequality</td>
<td>Ch. 6</td>
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<td>Oct. 27</td>
<td>Inequality in Education</td>
<td>Ch. 9</td>
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<td>Nov. 3</td>
<td>Inequality at Work</td>
<td>Ch. 10</td>
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<td>Nov. 10</td>
<td>TEST #2</td>
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<td>Nov. 17</td>
<td>Inequality in the Legal System</td>
<td>Ch. 11</td>
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<td>Nov. 24</td>
<td>Local to Global Inequalities</td>
<td>Ch. 4</td>
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<td>Dec. 1</td>
<td>Change through Government and Social Movements</td>
<td>Ch. 12; Ch. 13 (pp. 364-367; 373-374)</td>
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<tr>
<td>TBA</td>
<td>FINAL EXAM</td>
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