



**The University of Western Ontario**  
**SOCIOLOGY 1021E**  
**Introduction to Sociology**  
**Fall 2018 – Winter 2019**  
**Section 001**

Lecture: Wed 10:30pm-12:30pm | Room: SSC 2032

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**Instructor: Lauren Barr**

Office Hours: Wed 12:45 -2:00 or by appointment  
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*" What is sociology? It's the study of the way in which human beings are shaped by things that they don't see."*

Dr. Sam Richards

**Course Description:**

Sociology is the study of human social relations. If you are a people watcher, who likes to question what people are doing and why then sociology will offer you unlimited opportunities to think about the world we live in. Throughout this course we will examine subjects such as crime, religion, family, social change, globalization and the human experiences shared through culture and socialization. We will look at existing social problems and use our 'sociological imagination' to begin to uncover solutions to some of the issues.

The goal of this course 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.

Sociology can change your life. It can help you see the world in a new way. It can force you to reflect on your own personal beliefs and choices. It can help you build skills that will prepare you to work in the labour force and be more successful in your interactions with people. Sociology is exciting and limitless in its interests.

I hope you enjoy the journey as we build a sociological community together!

**Learning objectives and outcomes:**

**Analytical skills.** Sociologists must be able to carefully analyze data and other information, often utilizing statistical processes to test their theories.

**Communication skills.** Sociologists need strong communication skills when they conduct interviews, collaborate with colleagues, and present research results.

**Critical-thinking skills.** Sociologists must be able to think critically when doing research. They must design research projects and collect, process, and analyze information in order to draw logical conclusions about society and the groups it comprises.

**Problem-solving skills.** Sociologists' research typically is focused on identifying, studying, and solving sociological problems.

**Writing skills.** Sociologists frequently write reports detailing their findings.

*these skill descriptions came from <http://www.truity.com/career-profile/sociologist>*

**Required Text(s):**

Brym, Robert. (2018). Soc +. 3<sup>rd</sup> edition. Nelson Publishing. ISBN-13: 8780176819637

Articles for class and tutorial will be posted online

Do not throw out the card when you purchase the text. Make sure you set up your MINDTAP account so that you can access these resources!

**Method of Evaluation:**

Subject to the qualification noted below (see \*), your final grade will be determined as follows:

Test 1	5 %	Oct 15-19 (in tutorial)	
Test 2	7.5 %	Nov 26-30 (in tutorial)	
Test 3	7.5 %	Feb 4 – 8 (in tutorial)	
Test 4	10%	Mar 11 - 15 (in tutorial)	
Essay *:	40%		
	Initial Proposal	5	Oct 3
	Revised Proposal	5	Dec 5
	Paper Outline	10	Feb 13
	Final Essay	20	March 27

Tutorial Engagement	10 %	Ongoing <i>An early warning attendance and participation mark will be given by Oct 31.</i>
Final Exam	20 %	April Exam Period - TBD

\*Senate regulations require that an essay course be structured so that passing the course is dependent upon passing the essay component. What this means for this course is that (1) you must turn in your essay and (2) **your unweighted average grade for the essay must be 50% or higher**. In other words, if you fail to turn in an essay before the end of the term, or if your average essay grade is less than 50%, you will not pass the course regardless of the grades you receive on the other components listed above.

## Evaluation Breakdown:

### Tutorials

You were assigned to a tutorial as part of the registration process. Participation in the tutorials is **mandatory** and crucial for academic success. **There are no tutorials the first week of class**; tutorials will begin the week of **September 17th**. In the second term, tutorials will resume the first week of classes.

For tutorial you will be using the interactive online MINDTAP access to our text book as well as posted articles that will be found in OWL: Resources. You will be asked to read or watch videos in advance, have questions read and complete the occasional assignment either before or after tutorial. This will be explained in lecture and in tutorial for further understanding.

### Essay:

This is an essay course. As noted above, this means that it is mandatory to complete a major writing assignment of significant length and depth. This is also a great opportunity to learn how to think and write academically. This assignment is ultimately worth 40% of your mark. However, it is divided between four phases, giving you a lot of opportunity to learn, receive feedback, develop and change as you work to complete your final essay. You cannot (by nature of the course breakdown) leave this assignment to the last minute. You will spend 6 months analyzing and developing an assignment. A full outline will be provided online and we will go through this process in class and in tutorial throughout the year.

### Examinations:

All tests and the final exam will be multiple-choice with the option of a written essay for a portion of the marks. The smaller tests will be held in your regular tutorial. They will cover material up to that point. These formative assessments will act as a guide to show you if you are understanding the material as we go along, as well as practice for our final exam.

You will be given 45 min for each test. The tests will consist of questions drawn from lectures and readings. These smaller tests are not cumulative. There will be **no** midterm during the Christmas exam period. The final exam will be held during the April examination period and the date and time will be set by the Registrar's Office. You are responsible for all the material in the assigned chapters (in both the textbook and additional articles) even if this material is not discussed in lecture. The final exam in April will consist of 75 to 100 questions. **The final exam is cumulative.**

**REMEMBER: You should not finalize your travel plans until the test and / or exam schedule has been announced and you are certain about the date and time of your assessments.**

You are expected to be present for every test and assignment due date. Regular Academic Standards apply to each due date in this course.

### **Professionalism and Participation:**

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 plan for the due dates and schedule trips and other personal business around our assignments and exams.

In any 'job', you are expected to be there, act professional, be respectful, to go 'beyond' to contribute to your team. **Post-secondary education is one part of your professional career, so I encourage you to treat it as such.**

**Tutorial attendance is a required component of this course.**

If a student is absent from more than four tutorials in a term or six across the entire course, *they may be barred from taking the final examination and will fail the course.*

### **Lecture Attendance and Engagement:**

Lectures are also a required component for this course, and attendance will be taken in each session. No explicit credit is attached to your lecture attendance; however, I can assure you that your success in this course depends greatly on your attendance in class.

**In OUR class, engagement 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!*

I embrace technology in our classroom. However, I also expect students will use it responsibly. If I find students abusing this trust, you will be warned once and then asked to leave the classroom. I fully understand the lure of social media, but please take the two hours we are together to focus with me. I will give you a break each class, use that time to check in. *If you read this section on professionalism in the classroom, please send me a picture of your favorite book through messenger on OWL and I will give you a bonus mark on your first test ☺*

### **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. I do my best to create and maintain an inclusive environment. If you ever want to see me, drop into my office hours or 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](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.

### **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.