



The University of Western Ontario

SOCIOLOGY 2144b-001

Sociology of Education

Winter 2018/2019

Wednesdays, 1:30-3:30pm, SSC2036

Instructor: Dr. Wolfgang Lehmann

Office Hours: TBA

Department of Sociology, Office: SSC5430

Email: wlehmann@uwo.ca

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.

Prerequisite(s): None

Antirequisite(s): None

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.

Draft Version Only – Final Version to be Published Before Classes Begin

Required Text(s):

Lehmann, Wolfgang (Ed). 2016. *Education and Society: Canadian Perspectives*. Don Mills, ON: Oxford University Press.

Method of Evaluation:

Midterm:	March 6, 2019	45%
Final Exam:	April exam period	55%

Evaluation Breakdown:

Both exams will be made up of multiple choice questions. All exams will test materials covered in the textbook, readings, lectures, films, and class discussions.

How to Contact Me

- In person: during office hours or by appointment in SSC 5430
- By telephone: 519-661-2111 x85385
- By email: wlehmann@uwo.ca

How to Get Important Information

Make sure to check the course OWL site regularly for course updates, cancellations, and other course-related postings.

Important Policies

Policies for Missed Exams:

Make-up exams will be granted with approved documentation only. If you have a conflict with one of the exam dates, it is your responsibility to discuss it with the Academic Counseling office as soon as possible, but no later than one week before the regularly scheduled exam and provide documentation of the conflict. If approved, you will be allowed to schedule a make-up exam.

If you miss an exam (this includes make-up exams) due to illness or for any other unforeseen reason, please notify me (Dr. Lehmann) within 24 hours of the missed exam. No documentation is required when you notify me, but I need to know that you missed the exam within 24 hours. You then must provide notification and documentation to your Academic Counselor within 48 hours. If your problem is medical in nature, you should be seen by your doctor on the date of the exam or on the date an assignment is due. If your Academic Counselor agrees that your reasons are legitimate and are supported by your medical doctor's documentation, you will be allowed to write a make-up exam (or hand in your assignment at a later date).

Make-up Exams

There will be one makeup date set by the Department for students needing to write a make-up exam (with approved accommodation from your academic counseling office). This makeup exam may or may not be in the same format as the original exam.

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If a student misses a make-up exam due to sickness or another documented reason, then the weight of the mid-term will be added to the weight of the final exam. In cases where there is no approved justification for the absence, the student will receive a grade of zero on the exam.

Scantron Exams

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.

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.

Compassionate Grounds

Serious Illness of a Family Member: Inform your instructor as soon as possible and submit a medical certificate from the family member's physician to your home faculty's Academic Counseling office.

In Case of a Death: Inform your instructor as soon as possible and submit a copy of the newspaper notice, death certificate or documentation provided by the funeral director to your home faculty's Academic Counseling office.

Grade Guidelines

The Department of Sociology has grade distribution guidelines that all instructors are required to follow. For Sociology courses at the 2100 level, class averages must be in the range of 70-75%.

Course Schedule

Course Introduction

January 9, 2019

Part I: What happens in schools?

1) Socialization and Skill Development

Jan. 9 & 16, 2019

- Historical roles of education
- Manifest and hidden curriculum: Skills for a modern world

Lehmann Chapter 1 & 2

2) Preparation for higher education

January 23, 2019

- Expansion and tuition
- Access and retention

Lehmann Chapter 3

3) Preparation for work

January 30, 2019

- Education and employment
- Human capital and competitiveness

Lehmann Chapter 5

4) Streaming and Curriculum

February 6, 2019

- Streaming and inequality
- Who learns what and for what outcomes?
- What we learn and who decides what we learn: curriculum

Lehmann Chapter 4

5) School cultures and safety

February 13, 2019

- Social hierarchies and bullying
- Zero tolerance and safety

Lehmann Chapter 13

READING WEEK

February 20, 2019

Part II: Inequality at School

6) Low-income Students (Social Class)

February 27, 2019

- Explaining persistent inequalities in schools: the role of social class
- Structural and cultural explanations

Lehmann Chapter 6

Midterm Exam

March 6, 2019

7) Gender

March 13, 2019

- Women's/girl's educational attainment and boy crisis
- Single sex schooling
- Sexuality and schooling

Lehmann Chapter 9 & 10

8) Race & Ethnicity

March 20, 2019

- First Nations Students in Canada
- Multiculturalism vs. Anti-racism

Lehmann Chapter 7 & 8

Part III: Reform Pressures

9) Neo-liberalism: Choice and Accountability

March 27, 2019

- Choice: Privatization
- Accountability: Standardized Testing
- Role of Teachers

Lehmann Chapter 11

10) Alternative Models

April 3, 2019

- Alternative schooling (private, home, and democratic)
- Distance Learning

Lehmann Chapter 14