



Western University
SOCIOLOGY 3308G-001

**WORK AND HEALTH ACROSS
THE LIFE COURSE**
Winter 2019

Thursdays 1:30-4:30, SSC-3010

Instructor: Dr. Kim Shuey

Office Hours: by appointment
Department of Sociology, Office: SSC5426
Email: kshuey@uwo.ca

Course Description:

Work, whether paid employment or unpaid domestic labor, impacts all facets of life, including socioeconomic status, family, and well-being. This course examines the relationship between social structures related to work and physical and mental health across the life course from a sociological perspective. Connections between work and health may differ from young to old age, and experiences at younger ages may set us on trajectories of advantage or disadvantage. Throughout the course we will pay particular attention to the ways social inequalities related to work (by class, race/ethnicity, and gender) produce differences in health outcomes.

Prerequisite(s):

Third or fourth year standing in a module in Sociology, Criminology, BMOS. BMOS students must have completed 1.0 from: [Sociology 1020](#), [Sociology 1021E](#), [Sociology 1025A/B](#), [Sociology 1026F/G](#), [Sociology 1027A/B](#). Unless you have either the prerequisites for this course or written special permission from your Dean to enroll in it, you may be removed from this course and it will be deleted from your record. The decision may not be appealed. You will receive no adjustment to your fees in the event that you are dropped from a course for failing to have the necessary prerequisites.

Learning Outcomes:

By the end of this course the successful student will be able to:

- Identify and explain the relationship between work and health across the life course from a sociological perspective.
- Demonstrate an understanding of the ways in which social change affects work and health inequality.
- Utilize class concepts to make an evidence-based, sociological argument regarding the intersection of work and health as well as variations by occupational and social location.

Expectations:

- 1) Students are expected to attend all lectures and are responsible for all material presented in lectures and from course readings. Class sessions include lectures, discussion, and in-class exercises designed to help you understand assigned readings. Lectures will often cover material not discussed in the course readings, but for which you are responsible. You also are responsible for the material covered in the readings, even if the material is not reviewed in class.
- 2) You are encouraged to participate in class discussions and raise questions throughout class.
- 3) You should do the assigned readings in preparation for class on the date indicated on the course outline.
- 4) I do not post Powerpoint slides or distribute them to students who miss class. It is important that you get to know at least one of your classmates because you will need to ask another student for notes from missed classes.

Required Text(s):

No textbook will be used. Articles are assigned weekly. A list of readings and options for accessing them will be discussed in class.

Method of Evaluation:

Midterm test (during class time, in regular classroom)	Due: February 28	30%
Essay	Due: April 4	40%
Final exam	TBD	30%

Evaluation Breakdown: (detailed information provided in class)

Exams

Exams will consist of multiple-choice and short essay questions covering the lectures, films, and reading assignments. You are responsible for all the material in the assigned readings even if this material is not covered in class. The final exam covers the material covered after the midterm and is NOT cumulative. You will not be allowed to use any electronic devices during the test. Please write legibly. Answers that the instructor cannot read cannot be graded.

Essay Assignment

This assignment involves applying the sociological tools and knowledge that you gain in this course to understand the intersection of work and health in an individual’s life. Papers must be at least 12 pages in length excluding references. I will provide detailed instructions in class. Unexcused late papers will be penalized 5% per day.

Note: All written work (including exams) is expected to meet the standards of university work. Grades will be based on mechanics, style, clarity and diction, in addition to ideas.

How to Contact Me:

Email is the best way to contact me. During weekdays, allow for 24 hours until response. During weekends, allow for 48 hours until response.

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 Assignment Deadlines:

If you miss the due date for an assignment or exam due to illness or for any other unforeseen reason, you must provide notification of and documentation for the reasons for your circumstances 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 the 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 schedule a make-up exam or hand in your assignment at a later date without penalty. Unexcused late assignments will be penalized 5% per day (including weekend days). Make-up exams may be of a different format (i.e. essay exam). Late assignments are to be placed in the Sociology drop box (5th floor SSC) upon completion.

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. 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.

Policy on Accommodation for Medical Illness

Western's policy on Accommodation for Medical Illness can be found at 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

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 (<http://www.turnitin.com>).

Policies on Examinations:

You may not use any electronic devices during 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 and phones are to be closed during in-class films and student presentations. Laptops are otherwise permitted in class but if it is observed that students are on social networking sites such as Facebook or Twitter, or are being disruptive to other students, 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.

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 661-2111 x 82147 for any specific question regarding an accommodation. Information regarding accommodation of exams is available on the Registrar's website:

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:

http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/scholastic_discipline_undergrad.pdf

Copyright

Lectures and course materials, including power point presentations, outlines, and similar materials, are protected by copyright. You may take notes and make copies of course materials for your own educational use. You may not record lectures, reproduce (or allow others to reproduce), or distribute lecture notes and course materials publicly for commercial purposes without my express written consent.

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.

Course Schedule:

Details on the readings are provided in class and in OWL. The following outline is subject to change.

WEEK 1: Jan 10

INTRODUCTION to the course: content, assignments, expectations

WEEK 2: Jan 17

INTRODUCTION TO KEY CONCEPTS: WHAT DO WE MEAN BY *LIFE COURSE, WORK, AND HEALTH?*

WEEK 3: Jan 24

INEQUALITY IN HEALTH OUTCOMES OVER THE LIFE COURSE

WEEK 4: Jan 31

PAID WORK AND HEALTH part 1: The structure of work, job stress

WEEK 5: Feb 7

PAID WORK AND HEALTH part 2: Emotional labour, work intensification

WEEK 6: Feb 14

PAID WORK AND HEALTH part 3: Gender and work

WEEK 7: Feb 21

Reading Week, No Class

WEEK 8: Feb 28

****MIDTERM EXAM****

WEEK 9: March 7

SOCIAL POLICY AND WORKPLACE POLICY

WEEK 10: March 14

RETIREMENT AND HEALTH

WEEK 11: March 21

INTERNATIONAL AND MIGRANT WORKERS

WEEK 12: March 28

UNPAID WORK AND THE INTERSECTION OF WORK AND FAMILY

WEEK 13: April 4

****ESSAY DUE****