



The University of Western Ontario
SOCIOLOGY 1025A-001
Society & You
Fall 2023
In-Person

Instructor: Dr. Robert Nonomura

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Course Description:

This course introduces the sociological imagination to help understand how underlying social forces shape our lives and how we, as individuals, can change society. The course explores key social problems, and how they shape our life courses and shift the demographic makeup of our society.

Prerequisite(s): None.

Anti-requisite(s): Sociology 1020, Sociology 1020W/X, Sociology 1021E

Course Objectives and Learning Outcomes:

Upon successful completion of this course, students will be able to:

- Apply a sociological perspective to understanding the social processes shaping key issues of contemporary social life, such as socialization, consumer decisions, family structures, cultural identity, and climate change.
- Identify the strengths and weaknesses of commonly used research methods in sociology
- Summarize and evaluate arguments presented in primary and secondary sociological texts
- Examine contemporary social issues from different social-theoretical perspectives, including functionalist, critical, interactionist, and intersectional lenses
- Demonstrate improved skills in university level reading comprehension, professional communication, and/or academic writing.

Course Material:

The required textbook for this course is:

Johnston, J., Cairns, K., & Baumann, S. 2017. *Introducing Sociology Using the Stuff of Everyday Life*. NY: Routledge.

This book is available in both physical copy and e-book formats from the Western Bookstore:

https://bookstore.uwo.ca/textbook-search?campus=UWO&term=W2023A&courses%5B0%5D=001_UW/SOC1025A

You can also “rent” access to a digital copy from external online sources like VitalSource for a lower cost. I recommend that you choose the format that best suits your learning style.

Other required weekly readings will consist of journal articles, book chapters, and knowledge mobilization resources. Links to PDFs, websites, and library resources will be provided via our online learning management system, OWL, at no cost to you.

Communication:

Students are responsible for checking the course OWL site (<http://owl.uwo.ca>) on a regular basis for news and updates. This is the primary method by which information will be disseminated to all students in the class.

When emailing the course instructor or teaching assistants, please include our course code, **Soc 1025A** in the subject heading. In doing so, you can expect a response within two business days.

Method of Evaluation:

The evaluation methods described in the course outline are essential requirements for the course.

Attendance/Participation — 5%

In-class attendance is vital to your success in the course. Lectures are designed to provide you with foundational tools for interpreting and mobilizing core course concepts. The assigned readings serve as a common point of reference for developing those tools. You will need both in order to successfully pass the exam.

Lectures also build mental stamina to follow long-form oral arguments, and they provide social and cognitive stimuli that enhances retention.

To incentivize engagement in these vital aspects of this course, 0.5% of the course grade will be awarded during each class upon your completion of a weekly attendance activity. If you miss class, you can make up the missed grade by attending Office Hours the following week. If you require an extended absence (two or more weeks) on medical or compassionate grounds, consult with me once the issue is resolved and we can discuss a fair solution for your grade.

Scholarly Skills Upgrade Quiz — 5%

This guided online quiz will consist of a set of tasks using modules developed by the Writing Support Centre. You will select from a series of modules that can help enhance your skills in academic reading and writing. You will then demonstrate your skills by responding to a series of questions (multiple choice and short answer) using the Tests & Quizzes tool on OWL. **This assignment will be available on September 24, and it will be due Oct. 3 by 11:59pm.** Late submissions will be deducted 10% per day. Assignments will not be accepted after October 8.

Article Analysis Assignment — 15%

This Assignment evaluates students' abilities to correctly interpret primary works of social science research.

Between November 8 and November 18, you will use OWL to complete a quiz on key elements of our assigned readings during this period. Full details concerning the reading(s) and the quiz format will be provided in class. Late submissions will be deducted 5% per day. Assignments without Academic Accommodation will not be accepted after November 29.

Midterm Exam — 35%

The Midterm Exam will be worth **35% of the final mark**. It will be administered **in class on October 23**. The test may consist of multiple-choice questions. A specific breakdown of these components will be provided prior to the exam. Course material from Week 1-5 will be eligible for testing.

Use of electronic devices and other written aids (notes, outlines, etc.) will not be permitted during the examination, unless otherwise stated. Students with an approved absence from the Midterm will be required to write a makeup exam during the **departmental Midterm make-up midterm exam period** (location and date TBD). The course professor or teaching assistant(s) may not be available to respond to questions during the makeup exam. Students should be aware that the make-up test will not necessarily be in the same format, be of the same duration, or cover the same material as the original test.

Final Exam — 40%

The Final Exam will be worth **40% of the final mark**. It will be administered during the **Final Exam period**. The exam will consist of multiple-choice questions.

As with the Midterm, use of electronic devices and other written aids (notes, outlines, etc.) will not be permitted during the examination unless otherwise stated. Students with an approved accommodations for the final exam will be required to write a makeup exam during the **departmental Final Exam make-up period** (date and location TBA).

The course professor or teaching assistant(s) may not be available to respond to questions during the makeup exam. Students should be aware that the make-up test will not necessarily be in the same format, be of the same duration, or cover the same material as the original test.

Note: 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. ***This applies to quizzes, the midterm, and the final exam.***

Course Schedule:

A detailed course topic and reading schedule, as well as a “quick reference” breakdown of key assignment dates, will be provided on OWL.

Student Absences:

If you are unable to meet a course requirement due to illness or other serious circumstances, please follow the procedures below.

Assessments worth less than 10% of the overall course grade: For work worth less than 10% of the total course grade, I have the capacity to grant academic considerations without referring you to academic counsellors. Come and speak to me and we can likely reach a fair and reasonable arrangement.

Assessments worth 10% or more of the overall course grade: For work totaling 10% or more of the final course grade, students must provide valid medical or supporting documentation to their Home Faculty Academic Counselling Office as soon as possible. Once the documentation is complete, we can discuss an appropriate extension on quizzes and written assignments or a rescheduling of your Discussion Facilitation to a later date.

Students with an approved absence from an in-class test or exam will be required to write a makeup exam. Course professor or teaching assistant(s) may not be available to respond to questions during the makeup exam. Students should be aware that the make-up test will not necessarily be in the same format, be of the same duration, or cover the same material as the original test.

Academic Policies:

Please review the Department of Sociology “[Important Academic Policies](https://sociology.uwo.ca/undergraduate/courses/Academic_Policies.pdf)” document https://sociology.uwo.ca/undergraduate/courses/Academic_Policies.pdf for additional information regarding:

- Scholastic Offences
- Plagiarism
- Copyright
- Academic Accommodation
- Accessibility Options
- Mental Health

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