



The University of Western Ontario
SOCIOLOGY 4466G / 9154b
Professionals and their Work:

Winter 2021

Wednesdays, 9:30am-12:30pm

Online, Synchronous, Details TBA

Instructor: Professor T.L. Adams

Office Hours: TBA

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Course Description

This course examines professions, professionals, and their work within Canadian society and elsewhere in the world. Attention will be paid to the structure of professional work, and workers' experiences within professions, as well as intersectional inequalities within and across professions within and across historical contexts. Among the topics explored are the following: Professions and mental health, the future of professions, education and training, finding a job and launching careers, professional misconduct, and workplace change.

Prerequisites:

4466: Enrolment in fourth year of a Sociology or Criminology module.

9154: Enrolment in a graduate program.

Unless you have either the requisites 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.

Antirequisite(s): None

Learning Outcomes:

By the end of this course, students should:

- * Understand the characteristics of professions, and their implications for society.
- * Be aware of various theoretical accounts of professions.
- * Be able to reflect critically on professions, professionals and expertise.

* Understand the changing nature of professions and professional work.

Required Text:

No required text. Selected readings only.

Evaluation:

Class attendance	All weeks	13%
Mini-paper 1	March 3, 2021 (or earlier)	25%
Lead Class discussion	Selected Weeks	12%
OPTION A		
Mini-paper 2	April 12, 2021	25%
Mini-paper 3	April 12, 2021	25%
OPTION B		
Longer Paper	April 12, 2021	50%

*** Option B is mandatory for 9154b students**

Evaluation Details:

Mini-paper 1: Choose one article or a chapter of an assigned book. Summarize the major arguments of that book, and provide some critical reflection on it. Papers should be approximately 5-6 pages double-spaced with 2 or so pages devoted to summary, and the remainder devoted to critical reflections, including what did you like or dislike about the article. Are their arguments you think are important? Why or why not? How does it relate to other material you have read in the course?

Class Attendance: Attendance at on-line classes is expected. If you cannot attend a class due to illness or other reasons please inform Professor Adams ahead of time. With respect to class attendance you receive 1 mark for each of the classes you attend and participate in (with a bonus point for good attendance and participation).

OPTION A

Mini-Papers 2 and 3: As with mini-paper 1, choose an article or assigned chapter. Write a mini-paper summarizing and critically evaluating it. Emphasis here will be placed on the quality and extent of your critical reflections.

OPTION B

Longer Paper: Write a 10 page paper (double spaced), on a profession or professional issue of your choice. If you choose this option, make sure to discuss your topic with Professor Adams ahead of time.

How to Contact Me:

The best ways to contact me are through email (tladams@uwo.ca)

How to get important information:

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

Important Policies

Policies for Assignment Deadlines:

For all assignments, small extensions are available as long as you talk to me beforehand. If you miss the due date for an assignment due to illness or for any other unforeseen reasons, you must provide notification of and documentation respecting 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 quiz 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 hand in your assignment, or have your grade re-weighted, depending on the circumstances. If none of these steps are followed, late marks will be deducted of 1% per day.

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

Policy on Electronic Devices During 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: https://counselling.ssc.uwo.ca/procedures/medical_accommodation.html.

Academic Consideration for Missed Work

Students who are seeking academic consideration for missed work during the semester may submit a *Self-Reported Absence (SRA)* form online provided that the absence is **48 hours or less** and the other conditions specified in the [Senate policy](#) are met. Two important exceptions to this rule: SRAs will NOT be allowed for final examinations or assessments worth more than 30% of a given course. Students whose absences are expected to last **longer than 48 hours**, or where the other conditions detailed in the policy are not met (e.g., work is worth more than 30% of the final grade, the student has already used 2 self-reported absences, the absence is during the final exam period), may receive academic consideration by submitting a [Student Medical Certificate](#) (for illness) or other appropriate documentation (for compassionate grounds) to your Home Faculty Academic Counselling office.

All students pursuing academic consideration, regardless of type, must contact their instructors no less than 24 hours following the end of the period of absence to clarify how they will be expected to fulfill the academic responsibilities missed during their absence. Students are reminded that they should consider carefully the implications of postponing tests or midterm exams or delaying submission of work, and are encouraged to make appropriate decisions based on their specific circumstances.

www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/Academic_Consideration_for_absences.pdf

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/academics/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:

https://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 (www.uwo.ca/health/mental_wellbeing/index.html) for a complete list of options how to obtain help.

Course Schedule and Readings:

January 13	Week 1: Introduction to course – what are professions?
January 20	Week 2: Theories of Professions and their role in society.
January 27	Week 3: Professions Historically
Feb 3	Week 4: Professional Education and Training
February 10	Week 5: Finding a Job / Settling into Careers
Feb 15-19	Reading Week
Feb 24	Week 6: Gender and Professional work
March 3	Week 7: Race and Professional work
March 10	Week 8: Intersectionality and professional work
March 17	Week 9: Workplace Change & precarious work
March 24	Week 10: Mental Health
March 31	Week 11: Professional Misconduct
April 5	Week 12: Future of Professional Work