Course Description

In this introductory sociology course, we will explore the various social processes and institutions that shape the social world in which we live. We will challenge many commonly held assumptions, such as the idea that the success of individuals is always the outcome of talent and hard work, and that those who do not succeed in conventional terms must be lazy, deficient, and thus responsible for their own problems. In contrast, students will be introduced to important sociological debates about the nature of inequality, and how different social institutions and processes are implicated in the creation and maintenance of this inequality.

Some of the key questions we will be asking include:

- Who gets what kind of education?
- Who does what kind of work?
- Who gets what kind of health care?
- Who gets what kind of justice?
- Who is affected when corporations do bad things or the environment declines?

The course will conclude with a discussion of alternative approaches to learning, working, and living that some have argued contain the potential to overcome many of the problems with which modern societies are grappling.

Antirequisites
Sociology 1020, Sociology 1020W/X, Sociology 1021E

Learning Outcomes
By the end of the course, students will be able to:
• Challenge common-sense assumptions about social life by applying sociological reasoning.
• Describe and examine a range of key sociological concepts and theoretical approaches, and assess their merits for the explanation of social institutions, processes and behaviours.
• Demonstrate knowledge of major dimensions of social inequality and social structure in contemporary societies.
• Explain how different sociological research approaches are used to answer sociological questions.
• Demonstrate the skills necessary to engage in further sociological studies.

Required Text

Method of Evaluation

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Evaluation Component</th>
<th>Date/Period</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Midterm Exam:</td>
<td>October 21, 2019</td>
<td>30%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Final Exam:</td>
<td>During April Exam Period</td>
<td>40%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tutorial Assignment</td>
<td>Due: November 11, 2019</td>
<td>20%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tutorial participation</td>
<td>Ongoing</td>
<td>10%</td>
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Evaluation Breakdown

**Midterm and Final Exams:** Both exams will be made up of multiple-choice questions and are not cumulative. The exams will test materials covered in the readings, lectures, tutorials, films, and class/tutorial discussions.

The tutorial assignment is a small, take-home assignment. You will be given a research-like activity and be asked to answer a series of questions meant to reflect on the activity and its outcome. In your answers, you are asked to relate your reflections to the material, theories, and concepts covered in class. Specific instructions will be provided in your tutorials. More detailed information will be provided in your tutorials.

**Tutorial participation** will be a combination of tutorial attendance and active contribution to discussions during tutorials.

How to Contact Your Professor

• In person: during office hours or by appointment after class
• By email: dhameli@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. Your tutorial will have its own OWL site, make sure to check it regularly, as your Teaching Assistant will communicate important information through the tutorial OWL sites.
Important Policies

Policies for Missed Exams or Assignments:

There are two ways in which make up exams will be granted.

1) **Self-Reported Absence (SRA) Form:** You may submit this form a maximum of two times between September and April, and one time between May and August. You do not need to go through Academic Counselling or provide documentation. The duration of the excused absence will be for a maximum of 48 hours but you must be in touch with your professor no later than 24 hours after the end of the period covered by the SRA. Two important exceptions to this rule: SRAs will not be allowed for final examinations or assessments worth more than 30% of a given course.

2) **Approved Documentation:** Make-up exams will be granted with approved documentation. If you have a conflict with one of the exam dates, it is your responsibility to discuss the issue with Academic Counselling as soon as possible, but no later than one week before the regularly scheduled exam. You must also provide documentation of the conflict. If approved, you will be allowed to schedule a make-up exam.

If you miss an exam (or assignment due date) due to illness or for any other unforeseen reason, you must notify your professor within 24 hours and provide notification of 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 make-up date set by the Department for students needing to write a make-up exam (with approved accommodation from your academic counseling office). This make up 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.

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 etc., 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](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.

**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.
### SOC1027A-001: Tentative Course Schedule and Readings

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Week 1: Introduction</th>
<th>September 9, 2019</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>The purpose of this class: common sense vs. sociological reasoning</td>
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<tr>
<th>Week 2: Sociological Reasoning about Inequality</th>
<th>September 16, 2019</th>
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<tr>
<td>Some examples of inequality: individual vs social explanations</td>
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<tr>
<td>In sociological terms: functionalist versus conflict perspectives</td>
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<tr>
<td>How do sociologists research these issues?</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Readings:</strong> Chapter 1 (4-12; 20 – chapter end); Chapter 2 (38-45)</td>
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<tr>
<th>Week 3: Social Class, Status and Inequality</th>
<th>September 23, 2019</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>What is class and status</td>
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<td>The problem with social mobility</td>
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<td>Poverty</td>
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<td><strong>Readings:</strong> Chapter 3</td>
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<tr>
<th>Week 4: Race, Ethnicity and Inequality</th>
<th>September 30, 2019</th>
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<tr>
<td>Social construction of race</td>
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<td>Multiculturalism vs anti-racism</td>
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<td>White privilege</td>
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<td>Immigration and education and work</td>
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<td><strong>Readings:</strong> Chapter 5</td>
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<tr>
<th>Week 5: Gender, Sexuality and Inequality</th>
<th>October 7, 2019</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Gender hierarchies and family, work and life</td>
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<td>The class ceiling at work</td>
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<td>Sexual violence as power</td>
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<td>Heteronormativity</td>
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<td><strong>Readings:</strong> Chapter 6</td>
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<tr>
<th>Week 6: THANKSGIVING HOLIDAY (NO CLASS)</th>
<th>October 14, 2019</th>
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<tr>
<th>Week 7: MIDTERM EXAM</th>
<th>October 21, 2019</th>
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Week 8: Inequality in Education  
- Who does well in school and why?  
- Social class, gender and race in education  
*Readings: Chapter 9*

Week 9: FALL READING WEEK (No Classes)

Week 10: Inequality at Work  
*TUTORIAL ASSIGNMENT DUE*  
- Who gets the good and bad jobs?  
- How do different people experience work?  
- Who gets ahead at work?  
*Readings: Chapter 10*

Week 10: Local to Global Inequalities  
- Global income distribution and poverty  
- Environmental effects at home  
- Global environmental effects  
*Readings: Chapter 4*

Week 11: Change Through Government and Social Movements  
- Policy to address inequality  
- Role of the welfare state  
- Individualism vs. collectivism  
- Role of social movements  
*Readings: Chapter 12; Chapter 13 (pp. 364-367; 373-374)*

Week 12: Applying What We Have Learned  
- How is inequality a social phenomenon?  
- What are the roles of the state?  
- What are the roles of individuals?  
*Readings: None*

**FINAL EXAM**  
**DATE TO BE DETERMINED BY THE REGISTRAR’S OFFICE**