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 is affected when the environment declines?
- What are your chances of being socially mobile?

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

NOTE: IT IS IMPORTANT THAT YOU PURCHASE THE SECOND EDITION, AS THIS NEW EDITION INCLUDES A FEW NEW CHAPTERS THAT ARE ASSIGNED AS ESSENTIAL READINGS.

Method of Evaluation

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Evaluation Component</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Midterm Exam</td>
<td>February 13, 2020</td>
<td>35%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Midterm Make-up Exam Date</td>
<td>February 28, 2020</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Final Exam</td>
<td>During April Exam Period</td>
<td>45%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tutorial Assignment</td>
<td>Due: March 12, 2020</td>
<td>10%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tutorial Participation</td>
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<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 all materials covered in the lectures and the readings, including the articles discussed in the tutorials.

The tutorial assignment is a small, take-home assignment. You will be given a choice of different articles written by Sociology professors at Western. You pick one of these articles and do a review of the article, based on a set of questions given to you. In the assignment, you are expected to follow closely the type of discussion and analysis you practiced in the tutorials. More information will be provided in the tutorials.

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

**How to Contact Me**

- By email: wlehmann@uwo.ca

**How to Contact Your Teaching Assistants**

- You will find out in your tutorial
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 Assistants will communicate important information through the tutorial OWL sites.

Important Policies

Policies for Missed Exams or Assignments:

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

1) **Self-Reported Absence (SRA):** you now have the option of submitting Self-Reported Absence (SRA) form a maximum of two times between September and April and one time between May and August. That means, you don’t have to go through academic counselling or provide documentation. The duration of the excused absence will be for a maximum of 48 hours. You must be in touch with your instructor (Dr. Lehmann) 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 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, and you are not your SRA, 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 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 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 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

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 1000 level, class means are expected to fall in the range of 68-72%.
Course Schedule and Readings

PART I: INTRODUCTION

Week 1: Introduction (January 9, 2020)
- The purpose of this class: common sense vs. sociological reasoning

Week 2: Sociological Reasoning about Inequality (January 16, 2020)
- Some examples of inequality: individual vs social explanations
- In sociological terms: functionalist versus conflict perspectives
- How do sociologists research these issues?

Readings: Chapter 1

PART II: SOCIAL GROUPS

Week 3: Social class, status and inequality (January 23, 2020)
- What is class and status
- The problem with social mobility
- Poverty

Readings: Chapter 4

Week 4: Race, ethnicity and inequality (January 30, 2020)
- Social construction of race; multiculturalism vs anti-racism
- Race in education and at work
- Immigration

Readings: Chapter 5

Week 5: Gender, sexuality and inequality (February 6, 2020)
- Social construction of gender and heteronormativity
- Gender and sexuality in education and at work

Readings: Chapter 6

Week 6: MIDTERM EXAM (February 13, 2020)

READING WEEK (February 20, 2020)
PART III: EFFECTS OF INEQUALITY IN LIFE EXPERIENCES

Week 7: Inequality in Education (February 27, 2020)
- Who does well in school and why?
- Role of school structures and curriculum

Readings: Chapter 9

Week 8: Inequality at work (March 5, 2020)
- How do different people experience work?
- Who gets ahead at work?

Readings: Chapter 10

Week 9: Inequality in Health Outcomes: (March 12, 2020); TUTORIAL ASSIGNMENTS DUE TODAY
- Social determinants of health
- Challenging the healthy lifestyle discourse

Readings: Chapter 11

PART IV: LOCAL AND GLOBAL EFFECTS AND RESPONSES

Week 10: Local to global inequalities (March 19, 2020)
- Global income distribution and poverty
- Environmental effects at home
- Global environmental effects

Readings: Chapter 12

Week 11: Change through government and social movements (March 26, 2020)
- Policy to address inequality
- Role of the welfare state
- Individualism vs. collectivism

Readings: Chapter 13

Week 12: Applying what we learned, summing up and reviewing (April 2, 2020)
- How is inequality a social phenomenon?
- What are the roles of the state?
- What are the roles of individuals?

Readings: None