The University of Western Ontario
SOCIOLOGY 1021E
Introduction to Sociology
Fall 2020 – Winter 2021
Section 001

Scheduled Class Time: Wed 10:30pm-12:30pm

Instructor: Lauren Barr
Office Hours: TBD & by appointment
Department of Sociology, Office: SSC 5432
Email: lbarr2@uwo.ca

“*What is sociology? It's the study of the way in which human beings are shaped by things that they don’t see.*”
Dr. Sam Richards

Professor Barr’s Basic Needs Statement
We learn as whole people and your safety and wellbeing are more important to me than anything else.

I am always available to listen. I promise to do my best to create and maintain an inclusive environment. If you ever want or need support, even if it is merely someone to listen without judgement, reach out and let me know. If I cannot provide the support you need, I will help you find the right resources in our community.

The Significance of Flexibility:
We are in a strange time right now. Everything is changing constantly, there are many unknowns. Together, we will practice open-minded flexibility and consistent communication in order to make this learning experience successful.

This course is designed to be highly flexible. If at any point we are told that we can be together face-to-face, we can pivot easily. I will keep you up to date as things change. Please know that no student will be at a disadvantage if you are at a distance, we will always make sure that options are available for students to be successful, no matter what happens this year.

Course Description:
Sociology is the study of human social relations. If you are a people watcher, who likes to question what people are doing and why then sociology will offer you unlimited opportunities to think about the world we live in. Throughout this course we will examine subjects such as crime, religion, family, social change, globalization and the human experiences shared through culture and socialization. We will look at existing social problems and use our ‘sociological imagination’ to begin to uncover solutions to some of the issues.

The goal of this course is not to make you an expert but rather to provide you with a sense of what sociologists do and how they think. You will be exposed to a variety of viewpoints, with an emphasis on those that challenge the “common sense” understandings of society that most students bring to class.
Sociology can change your life. It can help you see the world in a new way. It can force you to reflect on your own personal beliefs and choices. It can help you build skills that will prepare you to work in the labour force and be more successful in your interactions with people. Sociology is exciting and limitless in its interests.

I hope you enjoy the journey as we build a sociological community together!

**Learning objectives and outcomes:**

**Analytical skills.** Sociologists must be able to carefully analyze data and other information, often utilizing methodological processes to test theories.

**Communication skills.** Sociologists need strong communication skills when they conduct interviews, collaborate with colleagues, and present research results.

**Critical-thinking skills.** Sociologists must be able to think critically when doing research. They must design research projects and collect, process, and analyze information in order to draw logical conclusions about society and the groups it comprises.

**Problem-solving skills.** Sociologists’ research typically is focused on identifying, studying, and solving sociological problems.

**Writing skills.** Sociologists frequently write reports detailing their findings.

*these skill descriptions came from* [http://www.truity.com/career-profile/sociologist](http://www.truity.com/career-profile/sociologist)

**Antirequisite(s):**

Sociology 1020W/X, Sociology 1021E, Sociology 1025A/B, Sociology 1026F/G, Sociology 1027A/B

**Required Text(s):**


Additional Learning Material for class and tutorial will be posted online

Do not throw out the card when you purchase the text. Make sure you set up your MINDTAP account so that you can access these resources!

**Course Schedule and Learning Activities** will be posted on OWL at the beginning of class
Technical Requirements:

- Stable internet connection
- Laptop or computer
- Working microphone
- Working webcam (suggested)

The Course Design:  (SO HOW ARE WE GOING TO DO THIS??)

* be modified as student needs are assessed and resources are determined

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>MODE</th>
<th>DAYS</th>
<th>TIME</th>
<th>FREQUENCY</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Virtual synchronous</td>
<td>Scheduled Tutorial Date and Time</td>
<td></td>
<td>Bi-weekly</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Group Meet Ups (Tutorials)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(required)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Virtual synchronous –</td>
<td>Wed</td>
<td>10:30-12:30</td>
<td>Weekly</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>optional</td>
<td>Live Lecture – <em>will be recorded</em></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Virtual asynchronous</td>
<td>Lessons posted Monday @ 10am each week</td>
<td>Ongoing</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>with all learning material + activities</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

- Asynchronous pre-work should be reviewed prior to synchronous sessions
- This course has been designed with Universal Design for Learning principles in mind – *if there is anything missing from the design that you need for your learning success, please let me know*
  - You may also wish to contact Accessible Education 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)
- Ideally students will be online with cameras on so that we can have a conversation and get to know one another. However, it is understood that things may make this challenging. Everything is up for discussion and adjustment.

How to Contact Me:

PRIMARY: OWL MESSAGES – The Teaching Team, will return a response within 48 business hours (Mon - Fri 9-5). Email: lbarr2@uwo.ca  Please use this email for emergency or private use only.

Facebook Messenger:  ProfLauren Barr  (can be used for virtual office hours as well) - same availability as above

Office:  SSC 5432  (hopefully we can meet here at some point, fingers crossed!!)
My Teaching Pedagogy:
I run my classes with a Progressive Democratic pedagogy. What does that mean? I believe that for students to maximize their learning and create a truly inclusive classroom everyone must have a voice. Empowerment is found through choice and ownership. This course will offer choices at several points and I will demand responsibility from each person in the community for our learning community to thrive. I will act as the guide and help mentor expectations, but the onus is on each student in the community to make this class amazing.

Methods of Assessment:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Assessment</th>
<th>Weight</th>
<th>Due Dates</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Written Assignments</td>
<td>35%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Assignment 1: Reading and Understanding Research</td>
<td>5 %</td>
<td>Oct 7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Assignment 2: Making an Academic Argument</td>
<td>5%</td>
<td>Dec 2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Assignment 3: Critical Essay</td>
<td>25%</td>
<td>March 24</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tests / Examinations</td>
<td>40%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Test 1</td>
<td>10%</td>
<td>Oct 28</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Test 2</td>
<td>10%</td>
<td>Jan 27</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Final Exam (cumulative)</td>
<td>20 %</td>
<td>April - TBD</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Engagement</td>
<td>25 %</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Forums</td>
<td>10 %</td>
<td>5% / term for each of these</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Group Meet Ups (tutorials)</td>
<td>10 %</td>
<td>5% / term for each of these</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Peer Evaluation</td>
<td>5 %</td>
<td>5% / term for each of these</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

General Statement on All Forms of Communication:
All forms of communication (audio, text, visual, both formal and informal) are evaluated based on level of critical analysis, succinct arguments, use of reputable academic material and overall organization of your thoughts. While grammar is not specifically marked, it will influence the delivery of your argument, so careful editing is expected, and academic focus is always required. The course material is a foundation and a motivator for critical reflection.
on deviance. I expect that you will move beyond the course material, expanding and offering new ways of thinking about deviance or new issues that relate to our course.

**Writing / Essay:**

In this class, the three written assignments combined make up your essay component. The average of the three must be 50% and each of them must demonstrate competence in thinking, research and communication.

*Senate regulations require that an essay course be structured so that passing the course is dependent upon passing the “essay component”. What this means for this course is that (1) you must turn in your essay and (2) your unweighted average grade for the essay must be 50% or higher. In other words, if you fail to turn in an essay before the end of the term, or if your average essay grade is less than 50%, you will not pass the course regardless of the grades you receive on the other components listed.*

This is an essay course. As noted above, this means that it is mandatory to complete a major writing assignment of significant length and depth. This is also a great opportunity to learn how to think and write academically. The writing assignments are ultimately worth 40% of your mark. These assignments are divided into smaller phases, giving you opportunity to learn, receive feedback, develop and change as you work to complete your final essay. You cannot (by nature of the course breakdown) leave this work to the last minute. You will spend 6 months analyzing and developing. A full outline for each assessment will be provided online and we will go through this process throughout the year.

**Tests & Examinations:**

All tests may include a combination of m/c, short answer or essay style questions. A detailed breakdown will be provided before each test. The tests will consist of questions drawn from lectures, tutorials and all assigned readings. The smaller tests are not cumulative. There will be no midterm during the Christmas exam period. The final exam will be held during the April examination period and the date and time will be set by the Registrar’s Office. You are responsible for all the material in the assigned chapters (in both the textbook and additional articles) even if this material is not discussed in lecture. The final exam in April will consist of 75 to 100 questions. **The final exam is cumulative.**

**REMEMBER:** You are expected to be present for every test and assignment due date. Regular Academic Standards apply to each due date in this course.

All tests will be offered online during class hours with a coordinated zoom link. This link is optional but allows you to log in and keep zoom open in the background in case you have any questions while you are writing.

If you are unable to attend the class time with an approved reason, an alternate test will be offered that you must sign up to complete. This test will be timed but can be taken asynchronously. It will be comparable, but different from the test offered during class time.

**Engagement:**

You are expected to put in time online. Every week there will be an online lesson page. It will include a brief blog from me, with links to all learning materials and activities. This may include lecture slides, videos, reading materials or podcasts, plus opportunities to reflect, sharing information and ideas, practice apply and create.
In OUR class, engagement is all-encompassing. It means being there, it means speaking up when you have something to contribute, it means working in groups / partners when asked and it means contributing online. You want to constantly challenge yourself and others to think about the material and the world around us.

**Forums:** Each student is expected to be online posting min 1-2 times each week. These posts should be authentic and deep reflections that connect directly to our material and generate conversation among your peers. They are short (50-100 words max). You are expected to post both unique posts as well as respond to others. This is what gets conversation flowing! *You will be placed into online tutorial groups in order to establish collaborative and ongoing relationships with your peers.*

**Meet Ups – Tutorials**

You were assigned to a tutorial as part of the registration process. Participation in the meet-up tutorials is mandatory and crucial for academic success. *There are no tutorials the first week of class; tutorials will begin the week of September 14th.* In the second term, tutorials will resume the first week of classes.

For tutorial you will be reviewing posted materials that will be found in OWL. You will be asked to read, listen to podcasts or watch videos in advance, have questions read and complete the occasional assignment either before or after tutorial. This will be explained in lecture and in tutorial for further understanding.

**Tutorial attendance is a required component of this course.** If a student is absent from more than three tutorials in a term or five across the entire course, *they may be barred from taking the final examination and will fail the course.*

**Professionalism and Participation:**

You expect me, your professor, to be professional. You expect that I will be there, be prepared and be ready to expand on the material and that I will communicate and get work back to you in a timely manner, with constructive feedback. If for some reason I am unable to do so, you would expect that I have a valid reason and that I let you know as soon as possible, with a plan on how the work will be completed.

As your instructor, I expect the same from you. I expect that you will be in class. You will be ready to engage and connect with your classmates. You will plan for the due dates and schedule trips and other personal business around our assignments and exams.

In any 'job', you are expected to be there, act professional, be respectful, to go 'beyond' to contribute to your team. *Post-secondary education is one part of your professional career, so I encourage you to treat it as such.*
**Professionalism in Our Learning Community:**

**You expect me, your professor, to be professional.** You expect that I will be there, be prepared and be ready to expand on the material and that I will communicate and get work back to you in a timely manner, with constructive feedback. If for some reason I am unable to do so, you would expect that I have a valid reason and that I let you know as soon as possible, with a plan on how the work will be completed.

**As your instructor, I expect the same from you.** I expect that you will be engaged. You will be ready to connect with your Teaching team and your classmates. You will plan for the due dates and schedule personal/business around our class work as much as possible.

With the exception of legitimate medical/personal excuses (advanced communication expected) students are expected to be “present” for at least 75% of the class work and meetings for this course. *A passing grade in the course may not be obtained without meeting this engagement requirement.*

In any 'job', you are expected to be there, act professional, be respectful, to go 'beyond' to contribute to your team. *Post-secondary education is one part of your professional career, so I encourage you to treat it as such.* *If you read this section on professionalism in the classroom, please send me a picture of your favorite animal through messenger on OWL and I will give you a bonus mark on your first test 😊*

**Academic Policies:**

**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)

- **Recording** lectures, tutorials or Virtual Meetings without the explicit consent of the Professor, TA and students involved is ground for serious academic discipline.
- **Course content created by a faculty member is considered the faculty member’s intellectual property;** it should not be distributed, shared in any public domain, or sold by a student or other third party without prior written consent of the faculty member.
- **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
Due Dates: Extensions, Conflicts and Penalties

If you know that you have a problem with a due date or an exam (conflict, sick, etc), let’s talk about it. If you talk to me ahead of time, we can determine together whether a formal accommodation request should be filed or whether we can work out another arrangement.

If you do not or are not able to let me know ahead of time, then you will be asked to go through the formal academic accommodation process. If you miss an exam due to illness or for any other unforeseen reason, please notify me **within 24 hours** of the missed exam. 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 at a later date.

If a student misses a test with legitimate reason, you will be assigned an accommodated test online. In cases where there is no approved justification for the absence, the student will receive a grade of zero on the exam.

If an assignment is late with no communication, there will be a 5% late penalty per day for up to 10 days past the due date. At that point, assignment will no longer be accepted. If a student anticipates an issue with an assignment, they are recommended to speak to their Professor and / or TA as early as possible to discuss options.

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)

FOR IN-CLASS LEARNING ONLY: In the event we can meet in person …

Policies on Face-to-Face Examinations:

No technology is permitted when writing examinations for this class unless it is part of approved student accommodations.

Policy on Course Content, Laptops and other Electronics/Phones in Class:

Laptops are permitted in class if used productively. If it is observed that students are distracting others, 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.