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UNIVERSITY · CANADA

The University of Western Ontario

SOCIOLOGY 2105a
Sociology of Youth
Fall 2021

Lecture: Monday 1:30 – 3:30

Lecture Classroom: Rm SSC-2020

Instructor: Lauren Barr

Office Hours: Monday 12:00 – 12:45 or by Appointment

Department of Sociology, Office: SSC 5432

Email: lbarr2@uwo.ca

Course Description:

Why study youth as sociologists? Prevention, promotion, restoration, hope ... it all starts with the experience of the youngest in our social community.

This course will offer students time to reflect on theories, methods and issues focused on studying children and youth from a multidisciplinary perspective. We will explore what is discussed about child and youth development in multiple disciplines, as well as reflect on the social construction of identity as related to social power. This process will allow us to acknowledge youth experience through the creation and production of social relations and social structures. Throughout we will consider social context, as well as recognize that childhood and youth are categories that are intersected by other identifications and inequalities, including class, race, ethnicity, religion, ability, gender, and sexuality. Finally, we will consider how to support and empower children and youth in their social experiences with social institutions, in public conversations, and through policies and processes that directly and indirectly affect children and youth.

Mode of Delivery: (subject to change depending on health and institutional guidelines)

2 lecture hours – Synchronous in-person lecture Monday @ 1:30 – 3:30 pm EST

The course will be organized and available on OWL throughout the course.

Prerequisite(s): None

Antirequisite(s): None

Learning Objectives:

- To recognize that childhood and youth can be understood from a variety of perspectives
- To understand and critically apply sociological concepts, theories and research in informed reflections of youth
- To recognize and deconstruct youth as diverse and complex identities and also examine the interactional relationship with structures and processes
- To engage meaningfully in a learning community, developing deeper self-awareness and contributing to collective learning

Required Text(s):

France, A., Coffey, J., Roberts, S., & Waite, C. (2020). *Youth Sociology*. Macmillan Education Ltd.

- ISBN: 978-1-137-49041-4 (paperback)

* All other material will be provided on OWL

Student Success in this Course:

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. If you want or need support, even if it is merely someone to listen without judgement, reach out and let me know. *This includes physical, mental, spiritual, social, and intellectual health.* There are many resources at Western and in our community. If I cannot provide the support you need, I will help you find the right resources that can.

Brave and Inclusive: We will have challenging, essential conversations about “hard topics” throughout this course. All academic perspectives will be honoured with space to be heard. However, we will maintain an inclusive space that celebrates diversity and protects every person’s need for inclusion and belonging. **If at any point something happens that makes you question this or feel unsafe**, please come speak to Prof Barr immediately.

Professional students: post-secondary education is the early part of your professional career. I encourage you to treat it as such. You are here to be successful. To do this you have to show up, be here fully, focus on growth and present yourself as a professional student (prepared, constructive, communicative, and accountable).

We are a Team & Communication is key!

All students are responsible for keeping up with communication for the course and reaching out to Prof Barr when situations arise that will influence your ability to participate properly. Please do this as early as possible when ‘life happens’. I cannot know or support you if you don’t communicate with me, so please make it a habit to reach out. *If you have read this statement, send a picture of the strangest animal you can think of to Lauren Barr through OWL for a bonus mark on your first test before Sept15.*

Method of Evaluation:

You will have choices throughout this course on how you want to participate in our learning. It is your responsibility to ensure that you understand the options, ask questions when you are not clear and complete all expected aspects of your choice. If you determine you want to do a group project, you are expected to participate fully. If you do not intend to do that, do not choose that path.

Evaluation Path 1

Assessment Form	Assessment Item	Weight	Due Date
Engagement	Initial Self-Assessment	15 %	Ongoing
	Mid Self-evaluation		Sept 20
	Final Self - Reflection		Oct 25
			Dec 6
Group Project	Group proposal	25 %	Sept 27
	Group check-in		Oct 25
	Final Project		Dec 6
Midterm Exam		30 %	October 18
Final Exam		30 %	December exam period

Evaluation Path 2

Assessment Form	Assessment Item	Weight	Due Date
Engagement	Initial Self-Assessment	20 %	Ongoing
	Mid Self-evaluation		Sept 20
	Final Self - Reflection		Oct 25
	Midterm Exam		Dec 6
		Oct 18	
Final Exam		40 %	December exam period

Evaluation Breakdown:

General Statement on All Interactions:

All forms of communication (verbal, written, visual) formal and informal, are evaluated based on level of critical analysis, succinct arguments, use of reputable academic material and overall organization of your thoughts. All course material is a foundation and a motivator for critical reflection. I expect that you will move beyond the course material, expanding and offering new ways of thinking about sociology that relate to our course.

All activities that are graded are guided by Western's Undergraduate Grading Guidelines:

University-wide grade descriptors:

Letter grade	Percentage	Work level
A+	90-100	One could scarcely expect better from a student at this level
A	80-89	Superior work which is clearly above average
B	70-79	Good work, meeting all requirements, and eminently satisfactory
C	60-69	Competent work, meeting requirements
D	50-59	Fair work, minimally acceptable
F	below 50	Fail

For more information about the university grading standards, see [the Registrar's Handbook: Grading Standards](#)

Examinations:

The plan is to have all examinations synchronous and in-person. This is subject to change depending on Public Health orders and decision making required for the pandemic. All changes will be announced via OWL in advance.

All tests may include a combination of m/c, short answer or essay style questions. A breakdown will be provided before each test. The tests will consist of questions drawn from lectures, and all assigned material. The final exam will be held during the December examination period and the date and time will be set by the Registrar's Office. If you are unsure of material, you will be given many opportunities to ask for clarity. It is up to you to take advantage of them.

Group Project: Community Action Plan

This project will be designed by the group as a proposal for better supporting youth in London, Ontario and surrounding area. As a group, you will be required to research and determine some of the biggest challenges experienced by youth, examine the existing programs and strategies for working with them and best-practices and offer insights on potential growth for the future. A more detailed outline will be provided on OWL to guide your thinking and decision.

This group project is optional; therefore, the expectation is that if you choose to participate in a group project as part of your mark, you will do your share and participate fully. Failure to do so will result in a failing mark on this assessment, regardless of what your group creates.

Engagement:

Learning is better when you are an active participant. Listening to someone ‘lecture at you’ is not enjoyable for anyone, so be prepared to be an active member of our community. Opportunities for engagement will be offered each week throughout the year in a variety of ways. You will also be involved in a detailed self-evaluation process. This will be taken into consideration when feedback and grades are provided. The goal is to create a community that is comfortable, supportive and connected. If you have questions, I am here to support you.

For lecture, we may use i-clicker for active participation, as well as group work and class discussion. *More information will follow on how to set this up.*

How to Contact Me: Lauren Barr

OWL – Use this as the primary way to reach me regarding our course. You will find a place to message on the left navigation bar on our course website

Email: lbarr2@uwo.ca – for urgent communication only (Add course name / number in title + brief description of issue in subject)

Facebook Messenger– optional, but students find this to be a quick way to reach me. ProfLauren Barr

Important Information: Course Communication

Communication Guidelines & Expectations:

- Messages and email will be returned within 48 business hours (unless announced otherwise).
 - That means you may not receive a response during the evening or on the weekend.

- Be patient, avoid emailing multiple times.
- Email both your TA and Instructor together for quicker response and more open communication (do not feel you ever have to share personal details, stick to general info)
- Make sure your tone and correspondence in all communication is professional

Where do you Find Course Information? OWL !!

- Our **OWL Course site** will be set up to allow you to navigate week to week in a consistent way. It will be available Sept to April. A welcome announcement will be sent out when it is live.
- **Homepage** will have key instructions on where to find information.
- **Course Content** will have all information about assessments, plus weekly content (lectures, material, etc)
- **Announcements** will be Used for Regular Communication or Urgent Messages

OWL will be used regularly to let you know what is happening, check it several times each week.

Course Schedule and Readings:

- A weekly schedule and all content will be found in COURSE CONTENT on OWL.

Important Policies

Class Policies for Deadlines and Missed Assessments

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

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. (see policy below)

If a student misses an in class exam with legitimate reason and has submitted the appropriate documentation to Academic Counselling, you will be assigned a makeup due date approximately one week after the original exam date.

If an assignment is late with no communication, there will be a **5% late penalty per day for up to 5 days past the due date**. At that point, assignment will no longer be accepted without formal academic accommodation.

A Note on Academic Misconduct (cheating, plagiarism, theft of intellectual property, privacy):

Students must do their own work following the instructions of each individual assessment. All assessments submitted will be evaluated with the assumption that students have been informed of the expectations and have followed them responsibly.

Plagiarism: Many opportunities to practice and understand the rules and processes around Academic writing will be provided in class. Academic misconduct, including plagiarism, are major scholastic offences and will be addressed directly with the appropriate institutional process (TA, Professor, Department Chair, Dean) (the Scholastic Offence Policy can be viewed below).

Plagiarism Checking:

All required writing may be subject to submission for textual similarity review to the commercial plagiarism detection software under license to the University for detection of plagiarism (Turnitin). 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/>).

Recording and Sharing Course Information:

- **Recording** (video, audio, images) of lectures, tutorials or virtual Meetings or online course content without the explicit consent of the Professor, TA and students involved is ground for serious academic and or legal discipline.
- All 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

Policy on Electronics/Phones for This Class:

Students are permitted to use devices in class for their own academic process. However, devices should be used respectfully and responsibility. No student will disrupt another student in any way. If a student is asked to change their use of their device by the Teaching Team or any Guests to our classroom, it is expected that students will comply. Failure to do so will result in the student being asked to leave the classroom and schedule a meeting with the Course Instructor before they are permitted to return.

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/academic_consideration.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 a self-reported absence, 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.

https://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/accommodation_illness.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.