



# The University of Western Ontario

## Sociology 2228A: Social Inequality in Canada

**Section 650**

**Fall 2021**

**Prof. Tess Hooks**  
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**Class Session:**  
online

**Office Hours:**  
Thursdays 1:00 to 2:00 p.m. or  
by appointment

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### **Course Description:**

Social inequality is the study of the causes and consequences of the unequal distribution of prestige, power and wealth and of the ideologies used to defend and criticize inequality. This course focuses on social inequality within Canadian society and its institutions.

**Prerequisite(s):** 1.0 from Sociology 1020, 1021E, 1025A/B, 1026F/G, 1027A/B.

**Antirequisite(s):** Sociology 2239.

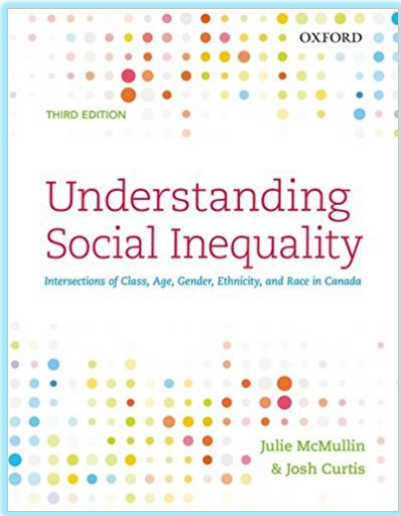
Unless you have either the requisites for this course or written special permission from your Dean to enroll in it, you may be removed from this course and it will be deleted from your record. The decision may not be appealed. You will receive no adjustment to your fees in the event that you are dropped from a course for failing to have the necessary prerequisites.

### **Learning Outcomes:**

**When students have successfully completed this course, they should be able to:**

- ✓ **To develop an appreciation why inequality matters**
- ✓ **To identify and discuss the main bases of inequality within society: race, ethnicity, class, gender, sexuality, disability, age, etc.**
- ✓ **To develop an understanding of sociological theories of inequality and to be able to describe and apply them to instances of inequality within society.**
- ✓ **To develop an understanding of the interconnections of the different bases of inequality and their overlapping roles in social inequality**
- ✓ **To explore the various outcomes of inequality within particular institutional settings, for example, within families, work and the economy, health, education, the state, etc. in Canada.**

## Required Text(s):



*Understanding Social Inequality: Intersections of Class, Age, Gender, Ethnicity, and Race in Canada, 3<sup>rd</sup> Edition* by Julie McMullin and Josh Curtis, Don Mills, Ontario: Oxford University Press.

**Additional readings will be posted on the OWL site.**

## Evaluation:

<i>Discussions (Primary Posts)</i>	<i>32% (best 4 of 8 discussion responses, worth 8% each)</i>
<i>Midterm Exam</i>	<i>34% (due October 25)</i>
<i>Final Exam</i>	<i>34% per UWO exam schedule</i>

## Online Discussions:

Students are required to respond to 1 out of 2 discussion questions four (4) times during the course for a total of 4 out of 8 discussions. Each discussion is graded and is worth 8 (eight) points. See the *All About Forums* document on the OWL course site for more details.

## Exams:

### Mid-term Exam (34%)

A mid-term exam, based on approximately the first half of the course material, is scheduled to be completed before Reading Week. The due date is October 25.

### Final Exam (34%)

The final exam will be scheduled during the examination period. The final exam is NOT CUMULATIVE focusing primarily on the material covered in the second half of the course; however, some questions may relate to earlier material (i.e. concepts that are re-examined in the second half of the course).

Both the Mid-Term and the Final Exam are essay exams. You will be given access to the essay questions five days before the due date for submission. They are not timed exams.

## How to Contact Me:

The best way to contact me is via email. You can also leave a voice mail message on my office phone.

## How to get important information:

Please check the announcements for the course and check the OWL site for the course regularly.

## Important Policies

### *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 ([www.turnitin.com](http://www.turnitin.com)).

### *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: [https://counselling.ssc.uwo.ca/procedures/academic\\_consideration.html](https://counselling.ssc.uwo.ca/procedures/academic_consideration.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.

**READINGS FOR SOCIAL INEQUALITY IN CANADA**  
**SOCIOLOGY 2228A/Section 650**

<b>Week</b>	<b>Topics/Readings</b>	<b>Pages</b>
September 8	Introduction & Getting Started	McMullin, Ch. 1:3-20
September 13	Class and Inequality	McMullin, Ch. 2:21-46
September 20	Gender and Inequality	McMullin, Ch. 3:47-67
September 27	Race, Ethnicity and Inequality	McMullin, Ch. 4:68-93
October 4	Age and Inequality	McMullin, Ch. 5:94-118
October 12	Actors, Agency and Social Structure	McMullin, Chs. 6 and 7:119-156
<b>Midterm Exam Worth 34%</b> (due October 25 at 11:59 pm)		
October 18	Inequality and Families	McMullin, Ch. 8:158-187
October 25	Inequality and Paid Work	McMullin, Ch. 9:188-216
November 8	Reading Week	No Assigned Reading
November 15	Inequality and Education	McMullin, Ch. 10:217-252
November 22	Inequality and Health	McMullin, Ch. 11:253-291
November 29	Inequality and the State	McMullin, Ch. 12:292-321
December 6	Summation and Review	McMullin, Ch. 13:322-331
<b>Final Exam Worth 34%</b> (as per UWO schedule)		