



Western University

SOCIOLOGY 3308F-200

***WORK AND HEALTH ACROSS
THE LIFE COURSE***
Fall 2021

Tuesdays 9:30AM-12:30PM, Online

Instructor: Vesna Pajović

PhD Candidate, Department of Sociology

Online office hours: Tuesdays 12:30-1:30PM; Mondays 12:30-1:30PM; or by appointment
Online class + office link (Zoom): <https://westernuniversity.zoom.us/my/f3308pajovic>
Zoom password: *To be distributed by email prior to the first lecture*
Email: vpajovic@uwo.ca

Course Description:

Work, whether paid employment or unpaid domestic labor, impacts all facets of life, including socioeconomic status, family, and well-being. This course examines the relationship between social structures related to work and physical and mental health across the life course from a sociological perspective. Connections between work and health may differ from young to old age, and experiences at younger ages may set us on trajectories of advantage or disadvantage. Throughout the course we will pay particular attention to the ways social inequalities related to work (by class, race/ethnicity, and gender) produce differences in health outcomes.

Course Structure:

This course includes weekly synchronous **lectures held online** over Zoom (using the Zoom link above), course readings, two **exams held in-person** (mid-term and final), and a final paper (submitted by email).

Prerequisite(s):

Third or fourth year standing in a module in the Department of Sociology, BMOS. BMOS students must have completed 1.0 from: [Sociology 1020](#), [Sociology 1021E](#), [Sociology 1025A/B](#), [Sociology 1026F/G](#), [Sociology 1027A/B](#). 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:

By the end of this course the successful student will be able to:

- Identify and explain the relationship between work and health across the life course from a sociological perspective.
- Demonstrate an understanding of the ways in which social change affects work and health inequality.
- Utilize class concepts to make an evidence-based, sociological argument regarding the intersection of work and health as well as variations by occupational and social location.

Expectations:

- 1) Students are expected to attend all online lectures and are responsible for all material presented in lectures and from course readings. Zoom class sessions include lectures, discussion, and exercises designed to help you understand assigned readings. Lectures may cover material not discussed in the course readings, but for which you are responsible. You also are responsible for the material covered in the readings, even if the material is not reviewed in class.
- 2) You are encouraged to participate in class discussions and raise questions throughout class.
- 3) You should do the assigned readings in preparation for class on the date indicated on the course outline.

Required Text(s):

No textbook will be used. Articles are assigned weekly. A list of readings and options for accessing them will be discussed in class.

Method of Evaluation:

Assessment	Date	Weight
Midterm test (in-person) → held in SSC-3024, 9:30AM	Due: Oct. 26	30%
Essay (submit by email)	Due: Dec. 7	40%
Final exam (in-person) → location TBA	Dec. exam period, TBA	30%

Evaluation Breakdown: (detailed information provided in class)

Exams

Exams will consist of multiple-choice and short essay questions covering the lectures and reading assignments. You are responsible for all the material in the assigned readings even if this material is not covered in class. The final exam covers the material covered after the midterm and is **not cumulative**. You will not be allowed to use any electronic devices during the test. Please write legibly. Answers that the instructor cannot read cannot be graded. Unlike the lectures, **exams will be held in-person** (pending public health guidelines).

Essay Assignment

This assignment involves applying the sociological tools and knowledge that you gain in this course to understand the intersection of work and health in an individual's life. Papers must be minimum 12 pages in length excluding references. Please submit the assignment by email, at vpajovic@uwo.ca, as a Microsoft Word or PDF document. The assignment is **due any time on Dec. 7th**. I will provide more detailed instructions in class. Unexcused late papers will be penalized 5% per day.

Note: All written work (including exams) is expected to meet the standards of university work. Grades will be based on mechanics, style, clarity, and diction, in addition to ideas.

How to Contact Me:

Email is the best way to contact me. During weekdays, allow for 24 hours until response. During weekends, allow for 48 hours until response.

How to get important information:

Make sure to check the course OWL site regularly for course updates, cancellations, and other course-related postings.

Important Policies

Policy on Missed Exams:

Make-up exams will be granted with approved documentation only. If you have a conflict with an exam date, 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, please notify me by email **within 24 hours** of the missed exam because I need to know that you missed the 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. 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. Make-up exams and extensions for assignment deadlines will be granted with approved documentation only. 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.

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 2 self-reported absences, 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.

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

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: counselling.ssc.uwo.ca/procedures/academic_consideration.html.

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 (<http://www.turnitin.com>).

Policies on Examinations:

You may not use any electronic devices during examinations. 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.

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:

http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/scholastic_discipline_undergrad.pdf

Copyright

Instructor generated course materials (e.g., lecture videos, handouts, notes, summaries, exam questions, etc.) are protected by law and may not be copied or distributed in any form or in any medium without explicit permission of the instructor. You may take notes and make copies of course materials for your own educational use. You may not record lectures, share, reproduce (or allow others to reproduce), post or distribute lecture notes, and other course materials publicly and/or for commercial purposes without my written consent.

Mental Health

Students who are in **emotional/mental distress** should refer to Mental Health@Western (www.uwo.ca/health/mental_wellbeing/) for a complete list of options how to obtain help.

Western Campus Resources

Psychological Services
WSSB Room 4100
519-661-3031

Wellness Education Centre
UCC Room 76
519-661-2111 x.87127

Peer Support Centre
UCC Room 256

Student Health Services
(SHS)
UCC Room 11

Course Schedule (all lectures held over Zoom):

Details on the readings are provided in OWL. The following outline is subject to change.

WEEK 1: Sept. 14

INTRODUCTION to the course: content, assignments, expectations

WEEK 2: Sept. 21

INTRODUCTION TO THE KEY CONCEPTS: WHAT DO WE MEAN BY *LIFE COURSE*, *WORK*, AND *HEALTH*?

- Reading 1. Raphael, Dennis. 2004. "Introduction to the Social Determinants of Health." Pp. 1-17 in *Social Determinants of Health: Canadian Perspectives*, edited by D. Raphael. Toronto: Canadian Scholars' Press, Inc.
(posted on OWL)
- Reading 2. Jackson, Andrew. 2005. "Why Jobs Are Important." Pp. 5-16 in A. Jackson, *Work and Labour in Canada: Critical Issues*. Toronto: Canadian Scholar's Press, Inc.
(posted on OWL)

WEEK 3: Sept. 28

INEQUALITY IN HEALTH OUTCOMES OVER THE LIFE COURSE

- Reading 1. Link, Bruce G. Jo Phelan, and P. Tehranifar. 2010. "Social Conditions as Fundamental Causes of Health Inequalities" *Journal of Health and Social Behavior* 51:-94.
(available online through Western library) http://hsb.sagepub.com/content/51/1_suppl/S28
- Reading 2. Ferraro and Shippee. 2009. "Aging and Cumulative Inequality: How does inequality get under the skin?" *The Gerontologist* 49:333-43.
(available online through Western library)
<http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC2721665/pdf/gnp034.pdf>

WEEK 4: Oct. 5

PAID WORK AND HEALTH part 1: The structure of work, job stress

- Reading 1. Tausig, Mark, Janet Michello, and Sree Subedi. 2004. "Social Roles: Worker." Pp. 80-96 in Tausig, Michello, and Subedi, *A Sociology of Mental Illness, 2nd Edition*. New Jersey: Pearson.
(posted on OWL)
- Reading 2. Dobson and Schnall. 2009. "From Stress to Distress: The impact of work on mental health." Pp. 113-132 in *Unhealthy Work: Causes, Consequences, Cures*. New York: Baywood.
(posted on OWL)

WEEK 5: Oct. 12

PAID WORK AND HEALTH part 2: Emotional labour, work intensification

- Reading 1. Smith, 2009. "Emotional Labor and the Pursuit of Happiness." Pp. 299-312 in *Unhealthy Work: Causes, Consequences, Cures*. New York: Baywood.
(posted on OWL)
- Reading 2. Boyd. 2002. "Customer violence and employee health and safety." *Work, Employment and Society* 16:151-69.
(available online through Western library) <https://doi.org/10.1177/09500170222119290>
- Reading 3. Shuey and Spiegel. 2010. "The structure of IT work and its effect on worker health: job stress and burnout across the life course." Pp. 163-194 in McMullin and Marshall (eds.) *Aging and Working in the New Economy*. Northampton, MA: Edward Elgar.
(posted on OWL)

WEEK 6: Oct. 19

PAID WORK AND HEALTH part 3: Gender and work

- Reading 1. Gerstel, Naomi and Dan Clawson. 2015. "Inequality in Work Time: Gender and Class Stratify Hours and Schedules, Flexibility and Unpredictability in Jobs and Families." *Sociology Compass* 9(12):1094-1105. (available online through Western library)
<http://onlinelibrary.wiley.com.proxy1.lib.uwo.ca/doi/10.1111/soc4.12332/epdf>
- Reading 2. Powell, Abigale, Barbara Bagilhole, and Andrew Dainty. 2009. "How Women Engineers Do and Undo Gender: Consequences for Gender Equality." *Gender, Work and Organization* 16 (4): 411-428. (available online through Western library)
- Reading 3. Pudrovskaya, Tetyana, and Amelia Karraker. 2014. "Gender, Job Authority, and Depression." *Journal of Health and Social Behavior* 55(4):424-41.
(available online through Western library)
<http://hsb.sagepub.com/content/55/4/424.full.pdf+html>

WEEK 7: Oct. 26

****MIDTERM EXAM****

WEEK 8: Nov. 2

****Reading Week, No Class****

WEEK 9: Nov. 9

SOCIAL POLICY AND WORKPLACE POLICY

- Reading 1. Levenstein, Charles, and Gregory F. DeLaurier, with Mary Lee Dunn. "By Any Other Name: Brown Lung and the Social Recognition of Disease." Pp. 1-13 in *The Cotton Dust Papers*. Amityville, NY: Baywood Publishing Co. Inc.
(posted on OWL)
- Reading 2. Allender, Steven, Derek Colquhoun and Peter Kelley. 2006. "Competing Discourses of Workplace Health." *Health: An Interdisciplinary Journal for the Study of Health, Illness and Medicine*, 10(1) 75-93.
(available online through Western library) <https://doi.org/10.1177/1363459306058989>
- Reading 3. Anna Jacobs and Irene Padavic. 2015. "Hours, Scheduling and Flexibility for Women in the US Low-Wage Labour Force." *Gender, Work and Organization* 22 (1): 67-86.
(available online through Western library)

WEEK 10: Nov. 16

RETIREMENT AND HEALTH

- Reading 1. Marshall and Taylor. 2005. "Restructuring the Life Course: Work and retirement." Pp. 572-579 in Johnson (ed) *The Cambridge Handbook of Age and Ageing*. New York: Cambridge Univ. Press.
(posted on OWL)
- Reading 2. McDonald, Lynn and Peter Donahue. 2000. "Poor Health and Retirement Income: The Canadian Case." *Ageing and Society* 20:493-522. (available online through Western library)
http://journals.cambridge.org/abstract_S0144686X99007904
- Reading 3. <https://www.npr.org/2018/09/03/640257956/opinion-a-high-school-reunion-reveals-when-steel-mills-fell-silent>

WEEK 11: Nov. 23

INTERNATIONAL AND MIGRANT WORKERS

- Reading 1. Ahonen et al. 2007. "Immigrant populations, work and health – a systematic literature review." *Scandinavian Journal of Work and Environmental Health*. 33:96-104.
(posted on OWL)
- Reading 2. Hansen and Donohue. 2001. "Health Issues of Migrant and Seasonal Farmworkers." *Journal of Health Care for the Poor and Underserved* 14:153-64.
(posted on OWL)
- Reading 3. Creese, Gillian and Brandy Wiebe. 2012. "Survival employment: Gender and deskilling among African Immigrants in Canada." *International Migration* 50 (5): 56-76.
(available online through Western library)

WEEK 12: Nov. 30

UNPAID WORK AND THE INTERSECTION OF WORK AND FAMILY

- Reading 1. DePasquale et al. 2017. "The Psychosocial Implications of Managing Work and Family Caregiving Roles: Gender Differences among Information Technology Professionals." *Journal of Family Issues* 38(11): 1495-1519
(available online through Western library)
- Reading 2. Gerson, Kathleen, and Jerry A. Jacobs. 2004. "The Work-Home Crunch." *Contexts*, 3(4):29-37.
(available online through Western library) <http://ctx.sagepub.com/content/3/4/29>
- Reading 3. Presser. 2004. "Employment in a 24/7 economy: Challenges for the Family." Pp. 46-76 in Fuchs Epstein and Kalleberg (eds) *Fighting for Time*. New York: Russell Sage.
(posted on OWL)

WEEK 13: Dec. 7

****ESSAY DUE****

EXAM PERIOD: Dec. 10-15