



The University of Western Ontario
SOCIOLOGY 3317B-001
Problems of Higher Mass Education
Winter 2022
Monday 4:30 pm - 6:30 pm

One hour: Online
SSC-3006

Instructor: Dr. Amanda Zavitz
Office Hours: Monday
Department of Sociology, Office: SSC 5209
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Course Description:

This course examines the problems that emerge when post-secondary education is provided on a mass scale. These problems include missions driven by corporate and consumer models, and the competing interests of stakeholders that produce dysfunctional systems normalizing academic disengagement and grade inflation, both of which put undue stress on students and professors. Alternatives to these degraded mass systems are examined and solutions to problems facing Canada's university system are discussed. This course analyses the ways that structures of higher education reproduce social inequalities associated with class, race, sex, and gender and offers an alternative vision of education.

Prerequisite(s): Third or fourth year standing in any module in the Department of Sociology.

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.

Antirequisite(s): n/a

Learning Outcomes:

- distinguish between forms of education that constitute liberal arts as opposed to pseudo-vocational substitutes for a liberal education
- understand the history of higher education and the mission drifts that are taking place toward pseudo vocationalism
- identify the interests and conflicts among the various stakeholders pulling and pushing the mass-educational system
- appreciate the differences among elite, mass, and universal educational systems

- have an in-depth comprehension of the origins and consequences of academic disengagement, at the individual and institutional levels
- identify the stresses experienced by students and faculty and how these are related to the mission drifts and pressures on the system by various stakeholders
- understand and analyze the ways that mass education reproduces class, gender, sex, and race inequalities
- understand the history of Indigenous education in Canada
- generate potential solutions to the problems faced by mass systems in various societies, especially those governed by neoliberal ideologies

Required Text(s):

Côté, J. E. & Allahar, A. Lowering Higher Education: The Rise of Corporate Universities and the Fall of Liberal Education. Toronto: University of Toronto Press, 2011.

Lehmann, Wolfgang. Education and Society; Canadian Perspectives. Toronto: Oxford University Press, 2016.

Method of Evaluation:

Assignments: 30% - “pop” assignments given through the term

Midterm: 25% - Monday February 14, 2022

Final: 25% - TBA (final exam period)

Essay: 20% - March 21, 2022

Evaluation Breakdown:

Tests: Each test will consist of multiple choice, definitions, fill in the blank and essay questions. The tests are not cumulative in nature.

Essay- This is an essay course. Thus, you are required to write a formal academic essay in this course. Your essay is **DUE Tuesday November 23, 2021**. Late papers will be penalized at 10% per day.

Class assignments- there will be numerous class assignments assigned throughout the term. Some of the assignments will be completed in class, others will be given to take home and complete. These class assignments are “pop” assignments that are meant to encourage class attendance and participation.

How to Contact Me: azavitzg@uwo.ca

Please email me to set up an appointment time.

How to get important information:

Important course information will be delivered in class. It is your responsibility to get to class. Please come to class.

Important Policies

Policies for Assignment Deadlines:

There are no make-up class assignments. You must be in class to receive the assignment and in class to submit the assignment. These “pop” assignments are meant to encourage active participation and regular attendance. Your essay must be submitted at the beginning of class the day that it is due. All late papers will be penalized ten percent per day and no papers will be accepted a week after the due date.

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).

Policies on Examinations

There are no electronics allowed during examinations. Considerations for make-up examinations will only be made with academic counselling.

“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.”

Found on page 2 of the academic handbook under outlines

https://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/exam/courseoutlines.pdf

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 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.

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

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:

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/) for a complete list of options how to obtain help.

Course Schedule and Readings:

Date	Topic	Readings/Assignments
Week 1 Jan 3, 2022	Sociological Analysis of Education What is a Schooled Society?	Lehmann, Chapter 1
Week 2 Jan 10, 2022	Mass Education and Sociological Theory	Lehmann, Chapter 1, Chapter 2 (The Schooled Society, chapter 1 online)
Week 3 Jan 17, 2022	History of Mass Education	Online readings
Week 4 Jan 24, 2022	Higher Unlearning	Cote and Allahar, Higher Unlearning
Week 5 Jan 31, 2022	Higher Unlearning	Cote and Allahar, Higher Unlearning
Week 6 Feb 7, 2022	Socialization and the Role of Parents	Lehmann, Chapter 6
Week 7 Feb 14, 2022	Midterm exam	Midterm exam *Covers all materials up to this point
Week 8 Feb 21, 2022	Reading Week	Reading Week
Week 9 Feb 28, 2022	Education and Class Reproduction	Readings online

Week 10 Mar 7, 2022	Education and Gender Inequality Education and Sexual Assault	Lehmann, Chapter 9 & 10
Week 11 Mar 14, 2022	Education and the Reproduction of Racism	Lehmann, Chapters 4 & 7
Week 12 Mar 21, 2022	Education and Indigenous People	Lehmann, Chapters 8 & 12 Essay DUE- March 21, 2022 Submit: IN CLASS
Week 13 Mar 28, 2022	Future Directions of Education	Lehmann, Chapters 13 & 14
April 1, 2022	Winter term ends	Study days
Final exam period: April 3-30, 2022	Final examination	Final Exam- TBA