



The University of Western Ontario

**SOCIOLOGY 4425G Section 001**  
**Advanced Sociology of Youth**  
**Winter 2022**

**Scheduled Class time:** Tuesday 1:30-4:30pm    **Classroom:** WAL5-66 or Zoom

**Instructor:** Lauren Barr

**Office Hours:** Tuesday 11:30 – 12:30 pm or by appointment

**Virtual:** Office Link on OWL    **When in person:** SSC 5432

Email: [lbarr2@uwo.ca](mailto:lbarr2@uwo.ca) (please use OWL messages to email about the course – do not copy to email)

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**Course Description:**

This course focuses on the debates in this new field, including disputes among theoretical and methodological approaches, and disagreements about how to conceptualize "youth," youth culture, and the lack of youth involvement in adult institutions. We will examine the relationship between identity and social experience. The role of public policy and institutional cultures will be examined in addressing the political economy of youth.

This course will be approached through a critical, applied sociological lens. Our goal will be to connect learning to the lived experiences of youth in Canada and around the world and seek informed, evidence-based practices to problems of our interest. We will be working actively together to create this course as we go. It will be student-led, with a lot of opportunity for students to use empowered learning strategies to develop your own knowledge and skills, but also give back to the community around us.

**Mode of Delivery:** 3 lecture hours / week

*Delivery Plan as of January 03, 2022* (subject to change):

- While originally planned to be in person, this course will begin online for the month of January.
- We will NOT be hosting 3-hour virtual synchronous meetings. We will have shorter synchronous meetings for the first month to establish a community and begin our learning activities.
- Students will review some material on your own asynchronously
- Announcements will be sent as early as possible before changes to mode of delivery occur

**Prerequisite(s):**

Enrolment in fourth year of one of the Honours Specializations or Honours Double Majors in Sociology or Criminology.

## Learning Objectives:

By the end of this course, students will:

- Actively and consistently demonstrate the synthesis of deep, broad understanding of current research and discourse in the sociology of youth
- Engage in advanced academic sociological discussion, with open-minded, critical and insightful interactions with peers. This communication and thinking will happen each week, in written, visual and audio forms.
- Design a capstone or CEL project that reveals the complete synthesis of your knowledge and skill development not only of this course, but of the culmination of your degree.

## Required Text(s):

- There is no required textbook. All material will be provided on OWL as the course evolves.
  - If you have a topic or source that you want to review in depth, please reach out to discuss it with Prof Barr.

## 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.

## Method of Evaluation: (SO HOW ARE WE GOING TO DO THIS??)

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.

| Assessment Form                                  | Weight (%) | Due Date                  |
|--|------------|---------------------------|
| Engagement                                       | 20         | Ongoing                   |
| Facilitating Conversation                        | 10         | Sign up – 1 / week        |
| Weekly Minute Reflections                        | 10         | Due each week after class |
| <b>Culminating Project<br/>(Capstone or CEL)</b> | <b>60</b>  | <b>Phased</b>             |
| <b>1. Proposal &amp; Contract</b>                | 1. 5       | 1. Jan 27                 |
| <b>2. Process &amp; Reflection</b>               | 2. 15      | 2. Ongoing                |
| <b>3. Project</b>                                | 3. 20      | 3. March 31               |
| <b>4. Presentation</b>                           | 4. 20      | 4. March 31               |

## 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. You are senior level students, remember that every interaction is an opportunity to demonstrate professional academic engagement. You can do this AND be yourself, because YOU are an academic.

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

|    |          |   |
|----|----------|---|
| 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](#)

## **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 course in a variety of ways (in class & online). An outline will be available on OWL with suggestions of the many ways you can engage throughout the course.

- As part of this process, you will be involved in a 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.

## **Facilitating Conversations:**

Each week students will break into groups to discuss the assigned material before we have a wider class discussion. One student from each group will be responsible for facilitating an engaged academic conversation. For this part of your mark, you will:

- Create a 1–2-page critical review of the assigned material
  - This will be submitted for evaluation, but also shared with peers
  - Include 2-3 deep, reflective questions to discuss
- Facilitate the small-group discussion in class
- Take active notes during the wider-class conversation to upload to a shared file for all students to access

This assignment is meant to be a non-threatening opportunity to talk with classmates about current academic discourse and research.

## **Weekly Minute Reflections:**

- Due at midnight each Thursday. Write down, video record, audio record ... what’s on your mind after class? This is not meant to be time consuming. Focus on what we have reviewed, discussed, done, and what you are thinking about.
- Make this short. 250-500 words. 5 minutes or less.

## **Culminating Project**

I am really excited about these projects! I hope that you will join me in this enthusiasm. These projects are designed to be empowering, active and applied. You have choices and we will spend the course not only discussing our material, but actively developing essential life skills while we create these amazing projects. These projects will encourage you to think critically, apply interdisciplinary knowledge and integrate outside-school learning experiences and connections into your final semester this year.

**There will be two main project options.**

1. **Community Engaged Learning** – we have a few community partners who are seeking help with issues that relate to the experience of youth. If you select this option, you will spend the course supporting the organization with their issue. You will actively use your collective sociological/criminological knowledge and the many skills and resources you have.
2. **Capstone Projects** – These will be individual or small group projects that are student-led. You will propose a project that is meaningful to you, based on our learning. It will be complex, involve research, accomplish proposed objectives, and truly allow you to create something personally unique.

**Each of these projects will have an outline and extensive support as we move through the course. Start thinking about “if I could do anything ...”**

## **How to Contact Me: Lauren Barr**

**OWL Messages** – 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](mailto: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 Jan 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

### Prof Barr's 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 appropriate academic accommodation process. (see policy below)**

- **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.
- **If an SRA is used**, students are expected to submit the assignment within 48 hours of the original due date.
- **If formal accommodations are required, students will communicate with Prof Barr to establish a plan**

### ***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.

## **Institution-Wide Policies:**

### ***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).

### ***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](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](http://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](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](http://www.uwo.ca/health/mental_wellbeing/index.html)) for a complete list of options how to obtain help.