



The University of Western Ontario  
**SOCIOLOGY 1021E-650**  
**Introduction to Sociology**  
**Online**

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Department of Sociology  
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**Course Description:**

This course will provide a general introduction to the study of human society. It is designed to familiarize the student with the basic concepts and explanations commonly utilized within the major areas of sociological investigation.

**Antirequisite(s):** Sociology 1020, Sociology 1020W/X, Sociology 1025A/B, Sociology 1026F/G, Sociology 1027A/B.

**Learning Outcomes**

- Demonstrate knowledge of the core areas of Sociological investigation.
- Apply theory and sociological research to interpret current events and case studies.
- Identify and analyze theoretical perspectives in Sociology and assess the conceptual differences among them.
- Write theoretically-informed papers that make a sustained, evidence-based, sociological argument, and present ideas and sociological concepts clearly.

**Course Portal:**

The on-line version of Introduction to Sociology makes use of OWL powered by SAKAI, a course management system found on the University's server– <https://owl.uwo.ca>. Once you have entered the above URL, you will be prompted for your username and password. Information about getting started with on-line courses can be found by accessing the Distance Studies Office.

**Required Texts**



- 1) Brym, R. J. (ed). 2021. *New Society* (9<sup>th</sup> edition). Toronto: Nelson. \*N.B.
- 2) Online Readings

\*N.B. The textbook is available as an ebook through the bookstore.

## **Evaluation**

<b>Assessment</b>	<b>Value of Course Grade</b>	<b>Due Date</b>
<b>Library Module Quiz</b>	5%	May 16, 2021
<b>Quiz</b>	10%	May 30, 2021
<b>Essay #1</b>	20%	June 20, 2021
<b>Essay #2</b>	20%	July 11, 2021
<b>Participation</b>	10%	Continuous– sections close Sunday after a topic is covered. Cut off dates noted in forums.
<b>Final Exam</b>	35%	During Distance Studies Final Exam Period- July 26-29

## **Lecture Notes:**

Lecture notes are available through the side menu on the left-hand side of your screen. Each week's lecture(s) are labelled according to week and topic. Lecture notes are automatically released to students the Monday of the week we cover the topic at 12:00am. Students are responsible for all of the specified readings, even if they are not covered extensively in lecture notes or discussions. Exams will be based on a combination of readings and lectures.

## **Exam:**

The final exam will be a cumulative exam during the Distance Studies final exam period. The exam is worth 35% of your final grade and will be delivered online for this session.

## **Library Module:**

The library module will count for 5% of your final grade. This module is designed to give students knowledge of how to use the online university library system and has been a great resource for students. Students will work through the module and complete a quiz after. Additional details will be posted within the course site in the library module (posted on the menu on the left-hand side of the screen).

## **Quiz:**

The quiz is a self-administered assessment through OWL. The quiz will cover the material from first 3 weeks (Introduction to Sociology, Theory, Methods, Culture, Gender, Socialization). It is multiple choice, true or false and short answer quiz.

### **Essays:**

Sociology 1021E is a designated essay course and as such, each “student is required to demonstrate competence in essay writing to pass the course.”

[www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic\\_policies/registration\\_progression\\_grad/coursenumbering.pdf](http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/registration_progression_grad/coursenumbering.pdf).

Furthermore, as stated in the academic calendar, “[t]he structure of the essay course must be such that in order to pass the course, the student must exhibit some minimal level of competence in essay writing and the appropriate level of knowledge of the content of the course.”

[www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic\\_policies/registration\\_progression\\_grad/coursenumbering.pdf](http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/registration_progression_grad/coursenumbering.pdf). It is imperative that you submit an essay in order to pass. You must receive **50% or above** on your essays in order to pass the course.

### *Essay Guidelines:*

Complete essay guidelines concerning topic, essay format, expectations, etc. are posted on the course site in the evaluations (assignment) section. There are two essays for this course. You will be graded on both form and content. You will be using the assignment submission feature of OWL to submit your essay. Your essays must be submitted no later than 23:59 (Eastern Time Zone) on the due date. Assignments submitted to OWL are date and time stamped. Turnitin.com is integrated into the new OWL software and your essay will be scanned upon submission.

*Late Essays: There is a 3% deduction, per day (including weekends), for essays submitted past the deadline (for example, if you received 76% on your essay, but it was 2 days late, you would receive a 70%). After 14 days, no essay will be accepted and will automatically receive a 0.*

### **Participation Grade:**

As the course discussions section allows everyone to read all of the posted messages, we will also use this forum for class participation. Your grade for class participation will be based on your submissions (with the exception of your introductory message and the formal posted discussion questions) to the participation section of the discussions areas. You will be assessed for both the frequency, the quality of and the use of course material in your participation. You can earn up to 10% of your grade by submitting messages spaced throughout the course related to the course content. For example, these messages can be in response to one of the questions asked in the course notes, or you may wish to share your thoughts or ideas on the readings. You can also apply aspects of the course material to current events. To receive full marks for this section, it is not enough to merely say that you liked or disliked a reading, topic, point in the lecture notes, etc. – you must explain your position explicitly using the course content to support your position. *You must provide the sources you use for your responses, including the page numbers for the course texts.* It is recommended that you participate at least once per topic to receive full marks for this course component (one posting does not equal one mark). Lastly, since active participation is most beneficial, the participation areas will close on Sundays at 11:59pm of the week after we cover a section in the course. The participation will help keep you on track with the readings

and foster a sense of community. Although not for credit, you can also use the discussion area of OWL to ask questions about assignments, exams, etc. I urge you to ask any questions about course requirements, readings, lectures, etc. in the discussions area, instead of by email, as your questions may also be beneficial to your classmates as they may have the same questions or may find your questions useful for their own work. Please note that questions regarding your grades should not be posted on the discussion board– any questions regarding grades should be directed to me via email.

*Vigorous academic debate is encouraged. However, students are reminded that in any classroom, courtesy and mutual respect are vital elements of a collegial atmosphere. Hateful remarks, unscholarly examples, or personal attacks are unacceptable and will not be tolerated.*

### **Important Policies**

#### **Departmental Marking Policy:**

The Department of Sociology at the University of Western Ontario has adopted grade distribution guidelines which all instructors are required to follow.

For *Sociology 1021*

- Means in the range of 68-72%

#### **Missed Exam and Late Work:**

Requests for academic accommodation will only be granted once appropriate documentations is submitted to the student's academic counsellor and approved by both the counsellor and professor. Submitting documentation does not mean that a request will be granted automatically. If, due to medical illness, you cannot write a test or exam, or submit an assignment by the due date, it is your responsibility to follow the University's "Policy on Accommodation for Medical Illness". This policy can be accessed 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: [http://counselling.ssc.uwo.ca/procedures/medical\\_accommodation.html](http://counselling.ssc.uwo.ca/procedures/medical_accommodation.html).

*Compassionate Grounds:* a) Serious Illness of a Family Member: Inform your instructor as soon as possible and submit a medical certificate from the family member's physician to your home faculty's Academic Counselling office. b) In Case of a Death: Inform your instructor as soon as possible and submit a copy of the newspaper notice, death certificate or documentation provided by the funeral director to your home faculty's Academic Counselling office.

#### **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 (Fall/winter term) or 1 self-reported absence (Summer term), 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](http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/accommodation_illness.pdf)

### **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).

### **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)).

### **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).

### **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

### **Technical Problems When Submitting Assignments:**

If you encounter technical problems when submitting any assignment, email your assignment before the due date/time to avoid late penalties. After you have submitted your assignment via email, contact ITS to resolve the problem. *Technical problems are not considered a valid reason for late assignments.*

## Reading Schedule

Week	Topic(s)	Readings
<b>Week 1: May 3</b>	What is Sociology?	Brym text.: Chapter 1 Lectures: What is Sociology
	Theory	Online Reading: Mills
<b>Week 2: May 10</b>	Theory and Methods	Brym text.: Chapter 2 Lecture: Theory and Methods
<b>Week 3: May 17</b>	Culture	Brym text.: Chapter 3 Lecture: Culture
	Socialization	Brym text.: Chapter 4 Lecture: Socialization
<b>Week 4: May 24</b>	Constructing Gender	Brym text.: Chapter 5 Lecture: Gender
<b>Week 5: May 31</b>	Inventing the Family	Brym text.: Chapter 10 Lecture: Family
<b>June 7</b>	<i>Last day to drop a full course or full-year half course in Summer Evening and Spring/Summer Distance Studies course without academic penalty.</i>	
<b>Week 6: June 7</b>	Media	Brym text.: Chapter 6 Lecture: Media
	Education	Brym text.: Chapter 11 Lecture: Education
<b>Week 7: June 14</b>	Deviance and Crime	Brym Text: Chapter 13 Online Reading: Milgram Lecture: Deviance
<b>Week 8: June 21</b>	Social Stratification	Brym text.: Chapter 7 Lecture: Social Stratification
	Race & Ethnic Relations	Brym text.: Chapter 8 Lecture: Race and Ethnicity
<b>Week 9: June 28</b>	Religion	Brym text.: Chapter 12 Lecture: Religion
<b>Week 10: July 5</b>	Health and Aging	Brym text.: Chapter 14 Lecture: Health and Aging
<b>Week 11: July 12</b>	Development & Underdevelopment	Brym text: Chapter 9 Lecture: Development
<b>Week 12: July 19</b>	Politics & Social Movements	Brym text.: Chapter 15 Lecture: Social Movements
<b>Final Exam Period: July 26-29</b>	Final Exam	