



Sociology 1026G-001
Controversies in Sociology

Winter 2023

| Delivery Method | Date/Time | Location |
|------------------------|--|-----------------|
| In-person | Mondays 9:30 to 12:30 | AHB-1R40 |

| Course Instructor | Contact Information |
|--------------------------|---|
| Dr. Julie McMullin | mcmullin@uwo.ca Department of Sociology, Office SSC 5206 |

Office Hours: Mondays 1:30-3:30 or by appointment (in person or zoom).

1. Course Description

Conceptions of ourselves and society are often based on taken-for-granted meanings. This course critically analyzes these meanings in order to disclose what likely are their underlying economic, political, religious, educational and gender/sexual themes.

Antirequisite(s): [Sociology 1020](#), [Sociology 1020W/X](#), [Sociology 1021E](#).

Prerequisite(s): None

Course Weight: 0.50

2. Course Objectives and Learning Outcomes

Upon successful completion of this course, students will be able to:

- Begin to understand how to think like a sociologist
- Apply sociological explanations to different domains of social life
- Understand and explain foundational concepts in sociology
- Begin to understand different methodological approaches
- Understand and explain different theoretical approaches in sociology
- Begin to develop critical thinking, research, and writing skills.

3. Course Format

This is an **in-person course**.

Contingency plan for an in-person class pivoting to 100% online learning:

In the event of a COVID-19 resurgence during the course that necessitates the course delivery moving away from face-to-face interaction, affected course content will be delivered entirely online, either synchronously (i.e., at the times indicated in the timetable) or asynchronously (e.g., posted on OWL for students to view at their convenience). The grading scheme will **not** change. Any remaining assessments will also be conducted online as determined by the course instructor.

4. Textbook and other resources

Real-Life Sociology: A Canadian Approach, 2nd Edition. By Anabel Quan-Hass and Lorne Tepperman, Don Mills, Ontario: Oxford University Press.

Print and e-book versions of the text are available at the bookstore.

See: https://bookstore.uwo.ca/textbook-search?campus=UWO&term=W2022B&courses%5B0%5D=001_UW/SOC1026G

Additional course material (e.g. videos, readings) will be posted on the OWL site.

5. Communication

The best way to reach the teaching team is through email. My email and the Teaching Assistants emails will be posted to OWL.

Students are responsible for checking the course OWL site (<http://owl.uwo.ca>) on a regular basis for news and updates. This is the primary method by which information will be disseminated to all students in the class.

6. Course Content and Schedule

Students should check the course OWL site frequently to access the online lessons, course material, and for key deadlines. Students are responsible for checking the OWL site on the morning of each class to determine whether the class will need to be conducted online.

| Week | Dates 2023 | Topics/Readings | Activity/Deadlines |
|------|----------------------|---|---|
| 1 | Jan. 9 | <i>Introduction and Course Overview</i> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Read the syllabus • Complete the online lessons • Complete getting to know you survey |
| 2 | Jan. 16 | <i>Thinking Like a Sociologist</i> Real-Life Chapter 1 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Complete the readings • Complete the online lessons |
| 3 | Jan. 23 | <i>Research Methods</i> Real-Life Chapter 2 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Complete the readings • Complete the online lessons |
| 4 | Jan. 30 | <i>What is Culture and why do we care?</i> Real-Life Chapter 3 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Complete the readings • Complete the online lessons |
| 5 | Feb. 6 | <i>What is socialization?</i> Real-Life Chapter 4 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Complete the readings • Complete the online lessons |
| 6 | Feb. 13 | <i>Social Construction of Deviance</i> Real-Life Chapter 5 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Complete the readings • Complete the online lessons |
| 7 | Feb. 20 | READING WEEK | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rest and get caught up on readings and study for the mid-term |
| 8 | Feb. 27 | Mid-term Exam Multiple Choice Examination held during the first 1.5 hours of class. | |

| | | | |
|----|---------|--|--|
| 9 | Mar. 6 | <i>Social Class and Inequality</i> Real-Life Chapter 6 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Complete the readings • Complete the online lessons |
| 10 | Mar. 13 | <i>Gender</i> Real-Life Chapter 7 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Complete the readings • Complete the online lessons |
| 11 | Mar. 13 | <i>Race and Ethnicity</i> Real-Life Chapter 8 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Complete the readings • Complete the online lessons |
| 12 | Mar. 20 | <i>Education (TA led)</i> Real-Life Chapter 11 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Complete the readings • Complete the online lessons |
| 13 | Mar. 27 | <i>Families</i> Real-Life Chapter 10 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Complete the readings • Complete the online lessons |
| 14 | April 3 | <i>Work</i> Real-Life Chapter 12 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Complete the readings • Complete the online lessons |

7. Online lessons

This course requires students to complete online lessons.

Answering the questions in the online lessons is required and will be evaluated to assess the written, essay component of this course. Completing these lessons will also help you with your participation grade.

These lessons and other course material are available on OWL: <http://owl.uwo.ca>. Google Chrome or Mozilla Firefox are the preferred browsers to optimally use OWL. If you need assistance, support is available on the [OWL help page](#).

9. Method of Evaluation

The evaluation methods described in the course outline are essential requirements for the course.

Students are expected to attend all classes and to come to class prepared to critically discuss the readings and other course material.

Students will be required to upload all assignments to OWL.

| Evaluation Component | Brief Description | Due Date | Percentage of Grade |
|-----------------------------|--|--|----------------------------|
| Participation | Attend class; discuss answers to lesson questions in class; actively participate in group work Students are expected to attend a minimum of 8 classes. Attendance will be taken using Iclicker. | On-going | 20% |
| Critical Writing | Answer weekly on-line lesson questions found on OWL. Writing is a requirement of this course. Students must complete a minimum of 10 of the weekly lesson questions and write a minimum of 1500 words to pass this course. | On-going | 30% |
| Mid-term | Multiple Choice Examination held during the first 1.5 hours of class. | February 27 [Department Make-up Exam: Friday March 10 12:00-3:00pm Location TBA] | 20% |

| | | | |
|-------|--|--|-----|
| Final | Multiple Choice Examination (3 hour) Location TBA | April Exam Period [Department Make-up Exam: Monday, May 1 12:00-3:00pm Location TBA] | 30% |
|-------|--|--|-----|

Additional Examination Information

No electronic devices will be allowed during the examinations.

Students with an approved absence from an in-class exam will be required to write a makeup exam. The course professor or teaching assistant(s) may not be available to respond to questions during the makeup exam. Students should be aware that the make-up exam will not necessarily be in the same format, be of the same duration, or cover the same material as the original exam.

The exams will be computer-marked. Computer marked multiple-choice exams may be subject to submission for similarity review by software that will check for unusual coincidences in answer patterns that may indicate cheating.

10. Student Absences/Academic Consideration for Missed Work

If you are unable to meet a course requirement due to illness or other serious circumstances, please follow the procedures below.

Assessments worth 10% or more of the overall course grade:

For work totaling 10% or more of the final course grade, students must provide valid medical or supporting documentation to their Home Faculty Academic Counselling Office as soon as possible. Reasonable extensions will be negotiated in these cases.

Absences from Final Examinations:

Students must provide valid medical or supporting documentation to their Home Faculty Academic Counselling Office as soon as possible. Academic Counselling will determine eligibility to write a Special Examination (the name given by the University to a makeup Final Exam).

You may also be eligible to write the Special Exam if you are in a "Multiple Exam Situation" (e.g., more than 2 exams in 23-hour period, more than 3 exams in a 47-hour period).

Western's policy on Accommodation for Medical Illness can be found at https://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/accommodation_medical.pdf. The student medical certificate is available at https://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/medicalform.pdf.

Religious Accommodation: When a course requirement conflicts with a religious holiday that requires an absence from the University or prohibits certain activities, students should request accommodation for their absence in writing at least two weeks prior to the holiday to the course instructor and the Academic Counselling office of their Faculty of Registration. Please consult University's list of recognized religious holidays (updated annually) at <https://multiculturalcalendar.com/ecal/index.php?s=c-univwo>.

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.

Note: missed work can *only* be excused through one of the mechanisms above. Being asked not to attend an in-person course requirement due to potential COVID-19 symptoms is **not** sufficient on its own. Students should check the Western website to see what directives for Covid are to be followed. Western has been and will continue to follow directives established by the Middlesex-London Health Unit. That directive will state whether students should or should not come to campus/class and any other requirements (e.g., masks are mandatory). Please check on your own and do not email the instructor, the Department Undergraduate Advisor/Coordinator or the Faculty of Social Science Academic Counselling Office.

11. Accessibility Options:

Students with disabilities or accessibility challenges should work with Accessible Education (formerly SSD http://academicsupport.uwo.ca/accessible_education/index.html), which provides recommendations for accommodation based on medical documentation or psychological and cognitive testing. The accommodation policy can be found here: [Academic Accommodation for Students with Disabilities](#). Information regarding accommodation of exams is available on the Registrar's website: www.registrar.uwo.ca/academics/examinations/accommodated_exams.html

12. 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](#).

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.

Plagiarism Checking: All required papers and take-home exams may be subject to submission for textual similarity review to the commercial plagiarism detection software under license to the University for the 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>).

13. Mental Health

If you or someone you know is experiencing distress, there are several resources available at Western to help. Please visit Western's [Health and Wellness website](#) for more information on mental health resources.

14. Support Services

[Western's Support Services](#)
[Academic Support and Engagement Services](#)

15. Important Dates

Please refer to the [Western's academic calendar](#) for important dates.

Please visit the Social Science Academic Counselling webpage for information on adding/dropping courses, academic considerations for absences, appeals, exam conflicts, and many other academic related matters: [Academic Counselling - Western University \(uwo.ca\)](#).

Western is committed to reducing incidents of gender-based and sexual violence and providing compassionate support to anyone who has gone through these traumatic events. If you have experienced sexual or gender-based violence (either recently or in the past), you will find information about support services for survivors, including emergency contacts at https://www.uwo.ca/health/student_support/survivor_support/get-help.html. To connect with a case manager or set up an appointment, please contact support@uwo.ca.