



The University of Western Ontario

SOCIOLOGY 1027B-001

Life is Not Always Fair

Winter 2023

Tuesday, 12:30-3:30pm, HSB-40

In-Person

Instructor: Dr. Robert Nonomura

Office Hours: By Appointment: Monday, 12:45-2:15pm, or by Zoom appointment

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Course Description:

In this introductory sociology course, we will challenge commonly held assumptions about individual success, talent and merit. Students will be introduced to important sociological debates about the nature of inequality, and how different social institutions and processes are implicated in the creation and maintenance of this inequality.

Prerequisite(s): None.

Anti-requisite(s): Sociology 1020, Sociology 1020W/X, Sociology 1021E. Extra Information: 3 lecture hours

Course Objectives and Learning Outcomes:

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

- Apply a social scientific perspective in explaining and examining social inequalities across institutions such as education, health, employment.
- Recognize similarities and differences between sociological perspectives and the perspectives of other academic and non-academic ways of knowing.
- Evaluate sociological and individual explanations for patterns of inequality in society.
- Operate a university library database for general research purposes and to locate specific resources.

Course Material:

The required textbook for this course is:

Corrigall-Brown, Catherine. 2023. *Imagining Sociology: An Introduction with Readings*. **Third Edition**. Don Mills, ON: Oxford University Press.

Note: you can purchase either the physical book or the e-book.

Other reading assignments may consist of an assigned course text journal articles, book chapters, and knowledge mobilization resources. Links to PDFs, websites, and library resources will be provided via OWL. To ensure that all students have consistent access to limited library resources, please download and save digital copies of book chapters accessed using the library website.

Communication:

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.

Method of Evaluation:

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

Attendance/Participation — 5%

In-class attendance is vital to your success in the course. Lectures are designed to provide you with foundational tools for interpreting and mobilizing core social-theoretical concepts. The assigned readings serve as a common point of reference for developing those tools. You will need both in order to successfully pass the exam.

Lectures also build mental stamina to follow long-form oral arguments, and they provide social and cognitive stimuli that enhances retention.

To incentivize engagement in these vital aspects of this course, 0.5% of the course grade will be awarded on Weeks 2-5 and 7-12 upon your completion of a simple in-class task (e.g. clicker check-in or Exit Ticket). Attendance marks exceeding 5% will be honoured as “bonus” points in the final grade. If you experience an extended absence requiring medical or compassionate accommodations, you can make up the missed grade by attending Office Hours the following week for a discussion of the assigned readings and missed course materials. Otherwise, please consult Academic Counselling for official accommodation.

Midterm Exam — 35%

The Midterm Exam will be worth **35% of the final mark**. It will be administered **in class on Feb 14**. The test may consist of any of the following: multiple choice, concept identification, and short answer questions, and/or argument summaries. A specific breakdown of these components will be provided prior to the exam. Course material from Week 1-5 will be eligible for testing.

Use of electronic devices and other written aids (notes, outlines, etc.) will not be permitted during the examination, unless otherwise stated. Students with an approved absence from the Midterm will be required to write a makeup exam during the **departmental Midterm make-up midterm exam period, Friday March 10 12:00-3:00pm** (Location TBA). 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 test will not necessarily be in the same format, be of the same duration, or cover the same material as the original test.

Final Exam — 40%

The Final Exam will be worth **35% of the final mark**. It will be administered during the **Final Exam period**. The exam may consist of any of the following: multiple choice, concept identification, short answer questions, argument summaries, and/or short essays. A specific breakdown of these components will be provided prior to the exam.

As with the Midterm, use of electronic devices and other written aids (notes, outlines, etc.) will not be permitted during the examination unless otherwise stated. Students with an approved accommodations for the final exam will be required to write a makeup exam during the **departmental Final Exam make-up period, Monday May 1, 12:00-3:00pm** (Location TBA). 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 test will not necessarily be in the same format, be of the same duration, or cover the same material as the original test.

Note: 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. *This applies to quizzes, the midterm, and the final exam.*

Sociological Scavenger Hunt — 5%

This guided online quiz will consist of a very simple set of tasks relating to use of the library website and related scholarly search engines. These skills will serve you throughout your university career, particularly in seeking research literature to support written assignments. The quiz will be conducted in the form of a scavenger hunt, in which you will be asked to search for and identify a particular list of items/information in the academic literature.

Article Analysis Quiz — 15%

This Quiz evaluates students' abilities to correctly interpret an article-length academic manuscript. **Between March 6 and March 13**, you will use OWL to complete a quiz on key elements of one of the Week 9 renderings. Full details concerning the article and the quiz format will be provided in class.

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.

Key Sessional Dates, Fall 2022:

Monday January 9, 2023: Winter Term classes begin.

January 17, 2023: Last day to add a second-term half course.

February 18-26, 2023: Spring Reading Week. Family Day April 20.

March 7, 2023: Last day to drop a second-term half course without academic penalty.

Friday April 7, 2023: Good Friday. No classes.

April 10, 2023: Winter Term classes end.

April 13-30, 2023: Final examination period.

Student Absences:

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

Assessments worth less than 10% of the overall course grade: For work worth less than 10% of the total course grade, I have the capacity to grant academic considerations without referring you to academic counsellors. Come and speak to me and we can likely reach a fair and reasonable arrangement. I reserve the right to extend the deadline up to 5 days (with or without penalty and/or to re-weight the overall Article Responses assignment).

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.

Once the documentation is complete, we can discuss an appropriate extension on quizzes and written assignments or a rescheduling of your Discussion Facilitation to a later date.

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).

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.

Important Policies

Academic Consideration for Missed Work: Students must provide valid medical or supporting documentation in order to receive accommodation for missed work worth 10% or more of the final grade in the course. All required documentation for absences must be submitted to the Academic Counselling office of a student's Home Faculty. Individual instructors are not permitted to receive documentation directly from a student, whether in support of an application for consideration on medical grounds or for other reasons.

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.

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

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

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

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

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.