



# The University of Western Ontario

## Sociology 2228A - 001 Social Inequality in Canada

**In-Person  
Fall 2022**

**Prof. Tess Hooks**  
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**Class Session:**  
Thursdays, 9:30 am to 12:20 pm SSC 2020

**Office Hours:**  
Thursdays 1:00 to 2:00 p.m. or  
by appointment

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### **Course Description:**

Social inequality is the study of the causes and consequences of the unequal distribution of prestige, power and wealth and of the ideologies used to defend and criticize inequality. This course focuses on social inequality within Canadian society and its institutions.

**Prerequisite(s):** None

**Anti-requisite(s):** Sociology 2239.

### **Learning Outcomes:**

**When students have successfully completed this course, they should be able to:**

- ✓ **To develop an appreciation why inequality matters**
- ✓ **To identify and discuss the main bases of inequality within society: race, ethnicity, class, gender, sexuality, disability, age, etc.**
- ✓ **To develop an understanding of sociological theories of inequality and to be able to describe and apply them to instances of inequality within society.**
- ✓ **To develop an understanding of the interconnections of the different bases of inequality and their overlapping roles in social inequality**
- ✓ **To explore the various outcomes of inequality within particular institutional settings, for example, within families, work and the economy, health, education, the state, etc. in Canada.**

## **Required Text(s):**

*Understanding Social Inequality: Intersections of Class, Age, Gender, Ethnicity, and Race in Canada, 3<sup>rd</sup> Edition* by Julie McMullin and Josh Curtis, Don Mills, Ontario: Oxford University Press.

**Additional readings will be posted on the OWL site.**

## **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.

Please feel free to speak to me after class or during class breaks. If you are not in class, the best way to contact me is to stop by during my office hours. Otherwise, I can be reached by email or by leaving a voice mail message.

## **Evaluation:**

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

<i>Assignment</i>	<i>26% (see the OWL course site for details)</i>
<i>Midterm Exam</i>	<i>37% (October 27th)</i>
<i>Final Exam</i>	<i>37% per UWO exam schedule</i>

## **Assignment:**

The details for the Assignment will be posted on the OWL site for the course. There is some flexibility regarding due dates. You will be asked to choose your own due date—by midnight (11:59 pm) on the Thursday of your choosing starting November 10 through December 8).

## **Exams:**

The exams for this class will be a combination of multiple choice (70% of the exam grade) and essay (30% of the exam grade). 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. No electronic devices will be allowed during exams.

The final exam will be scheduled during the examination period. The final exam is NOT CUMULATIVE and focuses primarily on the material covered in the second half of the course; however, some questions may relate to earlier material (i.e. concepts that are re-examined in the second half of the course).

## **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 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.

Students with an approved absence from an in-class test or exam will be required to write a makeup exam. 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.

**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.

**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.

## 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](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](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](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](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)

**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](http://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 \(uwo.ca\)](http://www.uwo.ca/academic_counselling/).

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](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](mailto:support@uwo.ca).

**READINGS FOR SOCIAL INEQUALITY IN CANADA  
SOCIOLOGY 2228A/Section 001**

<b>Week</b>	<b>Topics/Readings</b>	<b>Pages</b>
September 8	Introduction & Getting Started	No Assigned Readings
September 15	Class and Inequality	Mc&C, Chs. 1 and 2:3-46
September 22	Gender and Inequality	Mc&C, Ch. 3:47-67
September 29	Race, Ethnicity, and Inequality	Mc&C, Ch. 4:68-93
October 6	Age and Inequality	Mc&C, Ch. 5:94-118
October 13	Actors, Agency, and Social Structure	Mc&C, Chs. 6 and 7:119-156
October 20	Inequality and Families	Mc&C, Ch. 8:158-187
<b>Midterm Exam Worth 37%</b> (in class on October 27)		
<b>November 3</b>	<b>Reading Week</b>	<b>No Assigned Reading</b>
November 10	Inequality and Paid Work	Mc&C, Ch. 9:188-216
November 17	Inequality and Education	Mc&C, Ch. 10:217-252
November 24	Inequality and Health	Mc&C, Ch. 11:253-291
December 1	Inequality and the State	Mc&C, Chs. 12 and 13:292-331
December 8	Summary and Review	No Assigned Reading
<b>Final Exam Worth 37%</b> (as per UWO schedule between December 10 and December 22)		