



Sociology 2228A-002
Social Inequality in Canada
Fall 2022

Delivery Method	Date/Time	Location
In-person	Wednesdays 9:30-12:30	SSC 3028

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

Office Hours: Mondays 1:00-3:00 or by appointment (in person or zoom).

1. 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 inequality within Canadian society and its institutions.

Antirequisite(s): [Sociology 2239](#).

Prerequisite(s): None

Course Weight: 0.50

2. Course Objectives and Learning Outcomes

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

- Identify and describe sources of social inequality and their interconnections.
- Understand and critically analyze sociological theories of social inequality.
- Evaluate contradictory explanations of social inequality.
- Understand how sources of social inequality influence daily life (e.g., in families, work, health, education and the state).
- Understand and be able to communicate why social inequality is pervasive and important.

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

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

Additional readings and course material will be posted on the OWL site.

Print and e-book versions of the text are available at the bookstore. See: https://bookstore.uwo.ca/textbook-search?campus=UWO&term=W2022A&courses%5B0%5D=002_UW/SOC2228A

5. Communication

The best way to reach me is through email (mcmullin@uwo.ca). I will endeavour to reply to messages within 24 hours between Monday and Friday and within 48 hours on Saturday and Sunday.

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-2022	Topics/Readings	Activity/Deadlines
1	Sept. 14	<i>Why study social inequality?</i> Mc&C, Preface, Part 1, & Chapter 1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Read the syllabus • Complete the readings • Complete the online lessons • Begin reading newspaper articles
2	Sept. 21	<i>Why is Social Class important?</i> Mc&C Chapter 2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Complete the readings • Complete the online lessons • Select newspaper article for assignment 1.
3	Sept. 28	<i>Why is Gender important?</i> Mc&C Chapter 3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Complete the readings • Complete the online lessons •
4	Oct. 5	<i>Why do Race & Ethnicity matter?</i> Mc&C Chapter 4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Complete the readings • Complete the online lessons • Work on your assignment

			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Newspaper article elevator pitch due-see OWL for details.
5	Oct. 12	<p><i>Why should we care about Age?</i> Mc&C Chapter 5</p> <p><i>What else should we care about?</i> Check OWL for additional readings</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Complete the readings Complete the online lessons
6	Oct. 19	<p><i>Is it really individual choice that leads to social inequality?</i> Mc&C, Chapters 6 and 7</p>	<p>Assignment 1 due-See OWL for details.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Complete the readings Complete the online lessons
7	Oct. 26	<p><i>Inequality in Families?</i> Mc&C Chapter 8</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Complete the readings Complete the online lessons
8	Nov. 2	READING WEEK	Rest and get caught up on readings and other course work.
9	Nov. 9	<p><i>How does inequality influence paid work?</i> Mc&C Chapter 9</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Complete the readings Complete the online lessons
10	Nov. 16	<p><i>Are our education systems fair?</i> Mc&C Chapter 10</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Complete the readings Complete the online lessons
11	Nov. 23	<p><i>Who is unhealthy and why?</i> Mc&C Chapter 11</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Complete the readings Complete the online lessons
12	Nov. 30	<p><i>How does the state influence inequality?</i> Mc&C Chapters 12 & 13</p>	<p>Take-home Examination uploaded to OWL on Nov. 28</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Complete the readings Complete the online lessons
13	Dec. 7	REVIEW CLASS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Work on take-home examination.

7. Online lessons

This course requires students to complete online lessons. Completion of these lessons will count toward your participation grades. These lessons and other course material are available on OWL: <http://owl.uwo.ca>.

8. 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	Answer weekly lesson questions; attend class; discuss answers to lesson questions in class	On-going	20%
Assignment #1	Newspaper Article Assessment. Written, 500 words.	October 19, 2022	30%
Final Take Home Examination	An assignment to demonstrate the skills and knowledge you have gained throughout the course. Written, 2000 words. You will have 2 weeks to complete this examination. Your answers will be submitted through OWL. It is	December 12, 2022 (the exam will be uploaded to OWL on November 28, 2022)	50%

	<p>expected that you will spend approximately 10 hours writing this examination. You will be expected to respond to the questions using the assigned course materials and your class notes. The exam will be comprised of 2-4 essay questions.</p>		
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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.

Extension for Final take-home examination:

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 give extensions.

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.

Western's policy on Accommodation for Medical Illness can be found at https://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/accommodation_m

[edical.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.

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.