



The University of Western Ontario

SOCIOLOGY 2263B-001

Thinking Sociologically

Winter 2023

Monday, 9:30-12:30pm, SH-3345

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:

An in-depth examination of many of the core ideas that sociologists use in their analyses, including the social, society, subjectivity, institutions, and others. Involves questions regarding how we approach these theoretically, in terms of empirical observations, and in terms of evaluating their impact on our current social order.

Prerequisite(s): 0.5 Sociology course at the 1000 level.

Unless you have either the prerequisites for this course or written special permission from your Dean to enroll in it, you may be removed from this course and it will be deleted from your record. The decision may not be appealed. You will receive no adjustment to your fees in the event that you are dropped from a course for failing to have the necessary prerequisites.

Anti-requisite(s): Sociology 2240E, Sociology 2270A/B, Sociology 2271A/B

Course Objectives and Learning Outcomes:

This course is designed to provide you with a foundational understanding of the ideas, perspectives, problems, and people that have shaped, and continue to shape, the discipline of sociology. This involves not only surveying the “theories” of influential classical and contemporary social researchers but also considering how their ideas developed in the context of particular political, scientific, and philosophical movements. It is these theorists’ intellectual *responsiveness* to these various social phenomena—that is, the *sociologically imaginative* quality of their mode of inquiry—that makes their work especially relevant to present-day social research, and that will constitute the focus of our course. In addition to reading the works of some key “classical” and “contemporary” social theorists, our task will be to investigate what these works can teach us about today’s society and how they might be used to gain deeper scientific and moral insight into our own beliefs, ideas, relationships, and interests.

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

- Identify the historical and philosophical roots of sociological thought.
- Locate the role of theory and method in the process of social scientific inquiry.
- Critically analyze selections of primary texts written by influential 19th, 20th, and 21st century sociological theorists.
- Compare the relative strengths and limitations of “epistemic strategies” undertaken by various sociological researchers.
- Connect core sociological concepts to “real-world” examples in contemporary society.

- Operate a university library database for general research purposes and to locate specific resources.

Course Material:

You do not need to buy a textbook for this course. Reading assignments will consist of 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 — 30%

The Midterm Exam will be worth **30% of the final mark**. It will be administered **in class on Feb 13**. 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 **40% 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.

Critical Analysis Assignment — 20%

This assignment provides students an opportunity to develop their skills in social-theoretical reading, conceptualization, analysis, and writing. Students will draw upon their understanding of the course materials (readings and lectures) to write a concise (1,000–1,300 word) response to discussion questions about one of the theorists addressed in the course. **This assignment is to be submitted through OWL by Wednesday March 15, 11:59pm ET.** Late submissions will receive deductions of 4% per day. Assignments submitted later than 10 days past the deadline will receive a mark of zero.

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.