



The University of Western Ontario

SOCIOLOGY 3321G-001

Identity & Society

Winter 2023

Thursday, 9:30-12:30pm, UCC-59

In-Person

Instructor: Dr. Robert Nonomura

Office Hours: By Appointment: Thursday, 12:30-1:30pm, or by Zoom appointment

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Course Description:

An in-depth analysis of social psychological theories of identity, with an emphasis on the social factors influencing the formation and maintenance of various forms of identity.

Prerequisite(s): Registration in third year or above.

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): The former Sociology 2237

Course Objectives and Learning Outcomes:

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

- Differentiate between multiple levels of social-psychological analysis taken by scholars of identity.
- Identify the historical roots, strengths, and limitations of contemporary “identity politics.”
- Adopt a self-directed learning approach to the formulation of exam and seminar questions that provoke scholarly dialogue about the “real world” applications of identity development theory.
- Apply conventions of scholarly criticism and argumentation in various contexts including online and classroom discussion, textual interpretation.
- Summarize and critically analyze a book-length work of social scientific research on identity.

Course Material:

Reading assignments will consist of articles, book chapters, and knowledge mobilization resources. The main reference text for this course is available via the Western Library:

Cote, J.E., & Levine, C. (2015). *Identity Formation, Youth, and Development: A Simplified Approach* (1st ed.). Psychology Press.

Links to PDFs, websites, and library resources will be provided via OWL. You will also be required to review one

of three books for the Course Paper assignment (see below).

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.

Course Paper: 30% of course mark

The course paper will consist of a book review and a critical analysis relating to identity. Students will write a 8-9 page essay that critically analyzes one of the following books:

Elite Capture: How the Powerful Took Over Identity Politics — Olúfẹ́ mi O. Táíwò

Angry White Men: American Masculinity at the End of an Era — Michael Kimmel

The Art of Loving — Erich Fromm

Full instructions and grading rubric for this assignment will be provided on OWL, but please note: the essay will require you to not simply summarize the book's content, but rather to accurately explain the authors arguments and then to discuss the sociological implications of their analyses. You are encouraged to begin reading early and to consult with me often about the material. You are also encouraged to use the course lectures and readings to augment your understanding of the theorist's work, and vice versa.

N.B. Papers *must* be supported with embedded citations and a complete References page, following either APA or ASA style guidelines. This assignment must be completed in order to pass the course.

Students seeking written feedback on their paper must submit a hard copy of their paper in class on April 3. Otherwise, the final due date for this assignment is **April 8, 2023**.

Final Exam — 35%

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 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.

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.***

Participation — 25% (5% Attendance/Exit Tickets, 20% Forum Participation)

Participation will be assessed cumulatively throughout the term. **5% of the course grade will be based on attendance consisting of weekly Exit Tickets**, each worth 0.5% of the course grade. Students who attend fewer than 55% of class meetings may be required to submit a written report demonstrating that they have obtained sufficient knowledge of the course materials to justify a passing grade.

Online forum participation comprises 20% of the course grade. Students will post written responses to discussion questions posed in the Forum Section of OWL in at least four (4) of the weekly topics in the course (two before Reading Week and two after). Responses that earn full marks will be approximately 500 words (3-4 paragraphs) in length and will directly engage both the question and the assigned materials for the week (including appropriate references). Instructions and an evaluation rubric for this component of the course grade will be provided on OWL.

Self-Directed Learning & Evaluation — 10%

Students will submit at least two (2) group discussion questions throughout the term for 5% of the course grade. Discussion questions will address key aspects of the materials that may generate learning within the classroom environment. Discussion questions will be submitted by Wednesday at 12pm

Students will submit at least two (2) proposed multiple choice questions throughout the term for 5% of the course grade. Multiple choice questions will test a user's knowledge of a relevant topic or concept covered in the course readings. The proposed question should include one absolutely correct/"best" option and 3-4 plausible but definitively *incorrect* alternatives. Accompanying the submission students will provide a brief justification of the question's relevance, as well as supporting arguments for the truth and falsity of each response choice.

Students must submit at least one (1) Discussion question and one (1) Multiple Choice question before Week 6. Further instructions and evaluation standards are available on OWL. *A bonus mark will be awarded if I use your discussion question or multiple choice question in class or on the exam!*

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.