



The University of Western Ontario  
**SOCIOLOGY 4425G: 001**  
**Advanced Sociology of Youth**  
**Winter 2023**

**Tuesday, 1:30-4:30, Room SSC 5230**  
**Delivery Method – 3 hours in-person**

**Instructor:** Lauren Barr

**Office Hours:** TBD

**Department of Sociology, Office:** SSC 5432

**Email:** lbarr2@uwo.ca

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**Course Description:** This course focuses on the debates in this new field, including disputes among theoretical and methodological approaches, and disagreements about how to conceptualize "youth," youth culture, and the lack of youth involvement in adult institutions. The role of public policy is examined in addressing the political economy of youth.

***Prerequisite(s):*** registration in third year or above in any Department module, or fourth in any module

***Anti-requisite(s):*** none

**Course Objectives and Learning Outcomes:**

**Course Material:** All material required for this course will be provided by the Instructor on OWL in the Course Content.

**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.

Engagement	20	Ongoing throughout
Facilitating Critical Conversations	20	Students will sign up for dates
Community Engaged Learning Project	60	
Proposal and Contract	10	Jan 31
Process and Reflection	15	Ongoing – final due Apr 4
Presentation	15	Mar 28
Project	20	Apr (TBD)

***General Statement on All Learning Interactions:***

All forms of communication (verbal, written, visual) formal and informal, are evaluated based on level of critical analysis, succinct arguments, use of reputable academic material and overall organization of your thoughts. All course material is a foundation and a motivator for critical reflection. I expect that you will move beyond the course material, expanding and offering new ways of thinking about sociology that relate to our course.

**All activities that are graded are guided by Western’s Undergraduate Grading Guidelines:**

University-wide grade descriptors:

A+	90-100	One could scarcely expect better from a student at this level
A	80-89	Superior work which is clearly above average
B	70-79	Good work, meeting all requirements, and eminently satisfactory
C	60-69	Competent work, meeting requirements
D	50-59	Fair work, minimally acceptable
F	below 50	Not demonstrating competence required to pass

**Engagement (20%):**

**Learning is deeper and more meaningful when you are an active participant.** Listening to someone ‘lecture at you’ is not enjoyable for anyone, so be prepared to be an active member of our community.

Opportunities for engagement will be offered each week in a variety of ways. You will also be involved in a detailed self-evaluation process. This will be taken into consideration when feedback and grades are provided.

The goal is to create a community that is comfortable, supportive, and connected. If you have questions, I am here to support you.

It is expected in a fourth-year course that students will attend regularly and engage in class consistently. Any absences or issues should be communicated to the instructor as soon as possible.

### **Facilitating Conversations (20%):**

Each week students will break into groups to discuss the assigned material before we have a wider class discussion. One student from each group will be responsible for facilitating an engaged academic conversation. For this part of your mark, you will:

- Create a 2–3-page critical review of the assigned material
  - Bring enough paper copies of your review to class that you can share it with each member of your group and submit one copy for evaluation.
  - Include 3 deep, reflective questions to discuss with your group
- Facilitate the small-group discussion with your group (be prepared for 15-20 minutes)
- Students are expected to be in class the day of their discussion. Without you there, your group will not have anyone leading their conversation. If there are extenuating circumstances, students are required to seek formal academic accommodation. With approval, we will negotiate an alternative date.

### **Community Engaged Learning Projects (60 %)**

I am really excited about these projects! I hope that you will join me in this enthusiasm. These projects are designed to be empowering, active and applied. You have choices and we will spend the course not only discussing our material, but actively developing essential life skills while we create these amazing projects. These projects will encourage you to think critically, apply interdisciplinary knowledge and integrate outside-school learning experiences and connections into your final semester this year.

We are fortunate to have a community partner who are seeking help with issues that relate to the experience of youth. In groups you will spend the course supporting the organization with their needs. You will actively use your collective sociological/criminological knowledge and the many skills and resources you have to contribute to the community, supporting the very groups we study everyday in our courses!

There will be a detailed outline and extensive support for this work.

### **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.

## **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 assignments that are worth 10% and more, documentation (medical or otherwise) is required, it can *only* be collected by the student's Dean's Office Academic Counselling unit.

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.

**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).

## **Course Schedule and Readings:**

Will be found on OWL in the Course Content section of our online learning environment.

**Teaching the "Whole Student"** I am **always** available to discuss life with you. I do my best to create and maintain an inclusive and supportive learning environment. If you ever want to see me, drop into my office hours, find me after class or schedule an appointment and let me know if there are external factors that are influencing your success in our course or just things on your mind that you would like to talk about.

## **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 \(uwo.ca\)](#).

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).

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