



The University of Western Ontario
SOCIOLOGY 1025A-002

Society & You
Fall 2023

Delivery Method - in-person

Instructor: Lauren Barr

Office Hours: TBD, or by appointment

Email: lbarr2@uwo.ca & OWL messages

This is a DRAFT only. Please see the course site for the final version.

Course Description:

The sociological imagination helps us see how society shapes our lives and how we, as individuals, can change society. It also helps us understand the relationship between problems we face as individuals and issues in society. Throughout the term we will focus on three core themes: inequality, institutions, and social change.

In modern Canadian society, most people believe that individuals shape their own destiny. And, to a certain extent that is true – we, as individuals, make decisions every day that shape the kind of life we lead. You made decisions about if you would attend university, how hard to work in your classes, where to live when attending school, and the type of summer job that you want. But, of course, you do not get to make those decisions just as you choose. Together, we will learn about how individual choices (sometimes called agency) are structured in society.

Finally, we will also always seek to consider how we can use what we know to be social innovators and make an impact on the world around us.

Prerequisite(s) none

Anti-requisite(s): Sociology 1020, Sociology 1020W/X, Sociology 1021E

Course Objectives and Learning Outcomes:

At the end of this course, the student will be able to

- Use their sociological imagination and demonstrate an understanding of the relationship between individual experience and societal context.
- Apply (extend) the terms, discourse and ideas discussed in class.
- Begin to develop the theoretical, methodological, and cognitive skills to use sociology for social change.
- Communicate with clear critical reading, thinking and analytical skills.

Course Design and Material:

Our Flipped Classroom:

Our classroom is ‘flipped’. What does that mean?

It is expected that you will use the LMS (OWL) to prepare for each lecture before you arrive and that you will attend class consistently.

Using our online OWL Classroom:

Course Content	will include this course syllabus, the weekly schedule, and any assessment outlines with expectations plus each week will display here with a page with specific information for that week.
Messages	use this as email to communicate with members of our class.
Announcements	all communication about the course including any updates and changes
Assignments	assignments are submitted here (pdf format only)
Forums	Online discussions (forum/discussion posts)
Calendar	Upcoming due dates

In Lecture: our in-person time together

While we will review some of the assigned material, I will not teach to the textbook, so if you have specific questions or information that you are unsure of, you are encouraged to ask before, during or after class, or find any of our teaching team to discuss content.

We will use our time together to “play” with ideas and figure out how to think and act like sociologists. We will be applying, analyzing, and creating with the information covered in the assigned material.

Required Resources:

- Symbaluk & Bereska. (2022). *Sociology in Action: A Canadian Perspective*. 4th ed. TopHat.
 - This is a primarily digital textbook and has access to the Top Hat platform. Selling price \$83 (for life). There are options for physical copies for those who prefer to read that way.
 - You can purchase access through the Western Bookstore or directly from TopHat
 - <https://tophat.com/catalog/social-science/sociology/full-course/sociology-in-action-4th-edition/4811/>
 - Join code: 076017
 - Please use your Western email and registered student name so that your work in the system can be connected to your student information in OWL
- Additional resources (articles, podcasts, videos) required will be posted on OWL

Technology Needed for Learning:

- **Students will need regular access to OWL and the digital TopHat platform.** This means you will need access to a device (smart phone, tablet, computer) with internet capability. This can be done on campus, or through your own personal device.
- **We will use some digital tools in class to encourage learning engagement.** A smartphone, tablet, or laptop with wi-fi connection will work perfectly. If you do not have a portable device, that is okay, come speak with me (Prof Barr) and we will work out an alternative solution.

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.

To Communicate with the Teaching Team:

*How to reach your assigned TA and Prof Barr will be found on the course OWL homepage

- Prof Barr: Email: please contact me through **OWL Messages** - *do not copy to email*.
- *TAs – to come.*

Method of Evaluation:

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

Assessment	Mark Value	Date
Learning Engagement	10%	Ongoing throughout the course
Sociology in Action Assignment	15%	November 28 – beginning of class
Midterm	35 %	October 17
Final Exam	40 %	Dec exam period

Learning Engagement: 10%

You are expected to be an active learner both in person and online throughout the semester.

Every week there will be an online lesson page. It will include a brief blog from me, with links to all learning materials and activities. This may include lecture slides, videos, reading materials or podcasts, plus opportunities to reflect, share information and ideas, practice apply and create.

In OUR class, engagement is all-encompassing and learning behaviour is important.

It means:

- being there (physically and mentally)
- making eye contact, using your body language to show that you are there?
- preparing before you arrive
- speaking up when you have something to contribute (in person or online)
- working in groups / partners when asked
- coming to ask the Teaching Team questions or chat with us when you have something on your mind.

You want to constantly challenge yourself and others to think about the material and the world around us. Your learning will be so much deeper, and you will enjoy the experience so much more.

Professionalism in the Classroom:

You expect me, your professor, to be professional. You expect that I will be there, be prepared and be ready to expand on the material and that I will communicate and get work back to you in a timely manner, with constructive feedback. If for some reason we (the Teaching Team) are unable to do so, you would expect that we have a valid reason and that we let you know as soon as possible, with a plan on how the work will be completed.

As your instructor, I expect the same from you.

- I expect that you will be in class. You will arrive on time and stay for the duration of our class.
- You will be ready to engage and connect with your classmates.
- You will plan for the due dates and schedule trips and other personal business around our assignments and exams (not during them).
- If something is going sideways, I would ask that you come and talk with me as soon as possible. Be honest, be open and we will figure out solutions together.

In any job, you are expected to be there, act professional, be respectful, to go 'beyond' to contribute to your team. Post-secondary education is part of your professional career, so I encourage you to treat it as such.

The **Sociology in Action** assignment will be a culminating activity of the course (15%).

Students will be tasked with identifying a key issue in society and using sociological thinking and resources to propose a plan for action. This will be short (1000 words), and focused. An assignment outline will be provided.

- There will be a late mark of 10% / day for the first five days. Assignments will not be accepted after the fifth day.
- If students are unable to submit this assignment, with support through formal accommodation the mark for this assignment will be re-weighted to the final exam (making it worth 60% of the course grade)

Midterm (35%) October 17: in class - 1:30pm – 3:30pm

Final Examination (40%) Dec Exam period – date and location TBD

- Both examinations will be written in person, closed book and will be two hours.
- They will include multiple choice questions. (Between 60-80 questions)
- These exams are not cumulative. However, you are expected to be able to bring major concepts throughout the course.
- Both exams will be created using any/all resources and learning opportunities included as part of the course. *This includes lectures, guest speakers, any required material on OWL and the textbook.*

- No devices or learning aids will be permitted in the exams.
 - *with the exception of students with approved accommodations that have spoken with the instructor and pre-made arrangements with SSD*
- Computer-marked multiple-choice tests and/or exams will be subject to submission for similarity review by software that will check for unusual coincidences in answer patterns that may indicate cheating.

Student Absences and Late Policies:

Students are expected to attend at least 80% of lectures (fully). Issues with attendance will impact your ability to be successful in the course.

- *If you have challenges attending class for personal reasons, please see Prof Barr as early as possible.*

Absences from Midterm and 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 Exam).

Students with a formally approved absence (through Academic Counselling) will be required to write a makeup exam on the date provided by the instructor following the original exam.

- Students provided with a make-up exam date must attend.
- If they are unable for valid institution approved reasons, they must go through the same appeal process as above for this make up exam.
- Not attending will result in a 0 for that examination.
- Students should also 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.

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.

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 the engagement work in this course, every student will have flexibility in how you engage actively throughout the course. Any activities will be open for extended periods of time and reminders will be provided regularly in class and online. So, if you miss one, it will not negatively impact your mark, no explanation required. Please reach out to your assigned TA if you have concerns about missed work or your progress in engagement.

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.

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.

Academic Policies:

Please review the Department of Sociology "[Important Academic Policies](#)" document

https://sociology.uwo.ca/undergraduate/courses/Academic_Policies.pdf for additional information regarding:

- Scholastic Offences
- Plagiarism
- Copyright
- Academic Accommodation
- Accessibility Options
- Mental Health

Welcome to this course!