



The University of Western Ontario
SOCIOLOGY 1027B-002
Life is Not Always Fair
Winter 2024
Wednesday, 9:30am-12:20pm, [REDACTED]
In-Person

Instructor: Dr. Robert Nonomura
Office Hours: By Appointment, Wednesday 1:00-2:00pm
Department of Sociology, [REDACTED]
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Course Description: This introductory course challenges commonly held assumptions about individual success, talent and merit. Students will be introduced to underlying patterns and important debates about the nature of power and inequality, and how they shape issues such as work, family, education, the economy, and the pursuit of justice.

Prerequisite(s): None

Anti-requisite(s): Sociology 1020, Sociology 1020W/X, Sociology 1021E. Extra Information: 3 lecture hours

Course Objectives and Learning Outcomes:

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

- Apply a social scientific perspective in explaining and examining social inequalities across institutions such as education, health, employment.
- Recognize similarities and differences between sociological perspectives and the perspectives of other academic and non-academic ways of knowing.
- Evaluate sociological and individual explanations for patterns of inequality in society.

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

Course Material:

The required textbook for this course is:

Corrigall-Brown, Catherine. 2023. *Imagining Sociology: An Introduction with Readings*. **Third Edition**. Don Mills, ON: Oxford University Press.

Note: you can purchase either the physical book or the e-book.

Other reading assignments may consist of an assigned course text 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.

Communications with me should take place using the Messages tool on OWL.

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. The assigned readings serve as a common point of reference for establishing your knowledge and understanding; lectures are designed to provide you with tools and explanations for solidifying your grasp of the material. 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). It is your responsibility to complete your attendance and follow up immediately if you encounter technical difficulties. 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 — 35%

The Midterm Exam will be worth **35% of the final mark**. It will be administered **in class on Feb 14**. The test will consist of multiple choice questions. All 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** (time and 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 will consist of multiple choice questions. 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** (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. **This assignment will be due Jan. 29 by 11:59pm.**

Article Analysis Quiz — 15%

This Quiz evaluates students’ abilities to correctly interpret an article-length academic manuscript. **Between March 5 and March 17**, you will use OWL to complete a quiz on key elements of one of the course readings. Full details concerning the article and the quiz format will be provided in class.

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 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.

Students with an approved absence from an in-class test or exam will be required to write a makeup exam. 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.

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).

Academic Policies:

Please review the Department of Sociology “[Important Academic Policies](https://sociology.uwo.ca/undergraduate/courses/Academic_Policies.pdf)” document https://sociology.uwo.ca/undergraduate/courses/Academic_Policies.pdf for additional information regarding:

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

2023-2024