



The University of Western Ontario  
**SOCIOLOGY 2166A 001**  
**The Organization and Experience of Work**  
**Fall 2023**  
**In-Person**

**Instructor: Professor T. Adams**  
**Office Hours: TBA**  
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*This is a DRAFT only. Please see the course site for the final version.*

**Official Course Description:** This course reviews trends in the organization of work in capitalist societies, and workers' experiences of working, with a focus on Canadian society. Emphasis is placed on the changing organization of work, and organizational impacts on workers' health, skills, and well-being. The links between work and social inequality are also explored.

**More Detailed Course Description:** This course will survey topics pertaining to the sociology of work. We will examine modern day work in Canada, while putting it in its historical and cross-national context. Our focus will be on a range of characteristics, debates, and social issues associated with the organization and experience of work. The first part of the course reviews the organization of work, and the impact of various organizational forms on workers' experiences and well-being. The second part of the course focuses on the potential of work to reproduce and challenge prevailing social inequalities. Finally we look at the future of work and the impact of technology.

**Prerequisite(s): None**

**Anti-requisite(s):** Soc 2145A/B

**Course Objectives and Learning Outcomes:**

At the end of the course, students will be able to:

- ❖ Identify, analyze and evaluate a variety of theoretical explanations of work, and assess the differences, strengths and weaknesses among them.
- ❖ Draw on theoretical explanations of work to understand their own personal experiences in the workplace.
- ❖ Explain how work has changed over time.
- ❖ Understand the link between work and social inequality.
- ❖ Recognize discrimination in the workplace and provide strategies to help improve the situation.

**Course Textbook:**

Adams, Tracey. 2022. *Working in Canada: A Sociological Exploration*. Oxford University Press.

(An e-version of the book is available at a discounted price).

## **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.

If you need to reach me, please email me at [tladams@uwo.ca](mailto:tladams@uwo.ca).

## **Method of Evaluation:**

1) Test	40%	Week of Oct 16 2023
2) Final Assignment	30%	December 8 <sup>th</sup> 2023
4) Discussion Responses (2)	30%	Sept 27, Nov 15, 2023

## **Evaluation Details:**

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

*Test:* A test will be conducted online during the week of October 16<sup>th</sup> 2023 (likely via OWL). It will be a multiple choice test, and you will have 90 minutes to complete it.

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.

\*\* Students with an approved absence for the entire week of October 16<sup>th</sup> will be allowed to write a makeup exam. The course professor or teaching assistant 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 Assignment:* The final assignment will consist of 2-3 questions, for which you have to provide discussion-response-style short written answers, drawing on your knowledge of course content. Answers should be uploaded onto OWL by December 8<sup>th</sup> 2023.

*Discussion Responses:* On two occasions a question will be posted on OWL. You are asked to provide an answer to this post by submitting something through the 'assignment' tab on OWL. Responses should be approximately 500 words, and should draw on both course material and your own opinion. External sources are not recommended. There will be a total of 2 posts and each response will be marked out of 15. More details will follow, but these posts should be submitted by September 27 2023 and November 15 2023.

## **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 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. With Academic Counselling approval, students will be allowed to make-up the missed assignment or test.

Note that the make-up may not be in the same format, be of the same duration, or cover the same material as the original test or assignment.

**Academic Policies:**

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

[https://sociology.uwo.ca/undergraduate/courses/Academic\\_Policies.pdf](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

## Course Schedule and Readings:

**September 13**      **Introduction to Course and the Study of Work**

Reading:              Textbook chapter 1

**September 20**      **Theoretical Approaches to Studying Work**

Reading:              Textbook chapter 2

**September 27**      **Work in Historical Context**

Reading:              Textbook chapter 3

\* Discussion response due this week.

**October 4**            **Organizations; Labour Markets & Employment**

Reading:              Textbook chapter 4

**October 11**         **Occupations & Non-Standard Work**

Reading:              Textbook chapters 5&6

**October 18**         **Test**

**October 25**         **Skill, Expertise, Knowledge & Education**

Reading                Textbook chapter 7

**November 1**        **Reading Week**

**November 8**        **Work, Health and Well-Being**

Reading                Textbook chapter 8

**November 15**      **Occupational Segregation**

Reading                Textbook chapter 9

\* Discussion response due this week.

**November 22      Discrimination and Harassment**

Reading:            Textbook chapter 10

**November 29      Working Across the Life Course**

Reading             Textbook chapter 11

**December 6        The Future of Work**

Reading             Textbook chapter 12

**\*\* Final Assignment Due December 8<sup>th</sup> 2023**

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