



Sociology 2228A-001

Social Inequality in Canada

Fall 2023

Delivery Method: In-Person

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Course Instructor	Contact Information
Dr. Julie McMullin	<a href="mailto:mcmullin@uwo.ca">mcmullin@uwo.ca</a>

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

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## COURSE DESCRIPTION

Social Inequality is the study of the causes and consequences of the unequal distribution of prestige, power, and wealth and of the ideologies used to defend and criticize inequality. This course focuses on inequality within Canadian society and its institutions.

**Antirequisite(s):** [Sociology 2239](#).

**Prerequisite(s):** None

**Course Weight:** 0.50

## COURSE OBJECTIVES AND LEARNING OUTCOMES

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

- Identify and describe sources of social inequality and their interconnections.
- Understand and critically analyze sociological theories of social inequality.
- Evaluate contradictory explanations of social inequality.
- Understand how sources of social inequality influence daily life (e.g., in families, work, health, education and the state).
- Understand and be able to communicate why social inequality is pervasive and important.

## TEXTBOOK AND OTHER RESOURCES

***Understanding Social Inequality: Intersections of Class, Age, Gender, Ethnicity, and Race in Canada***, 3<sup>rd</sup> Edition by Julie McMullin and Josh Curtis, Don Mills, Ontario: Oxford University Press.

Information about purchasing or renting the book is available at the following link.

[https://bookstore.uwo.ca/textbook-search?campus=UWO&term=W2023A&courses%5B0%5D=001\\_UW/SOC2228A](https://bookstore.uwo.ca/textbook-search?campus=UWO&term=W2023A&courses%5B0%5D=001_UW/SOC2228A)

**Additional readings and course material will be posted on the OWL site.**

## 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.

The best way to reach me is through email ([mcmullin@uwo.ca](mailto:mcmullin@uwo.ca)). I will endeavour to reply to messages within 24 hours between Monday and Friday and within 48 hours on Saturday and Sunday.

## COURSE CONTENT AND SCHEDULE

Students should check the course OWL site frequently to access the online lessons, course material, and for key deadlines.

Week	Dates <b>2023</b>	Topics/Readings	Activity/Deadlines
1	Sept. 7	<b><i>Why study social inequality?</i></b> Mc&C, Preface, Part 1, & Chapter 1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Read the syllabus</li> <li>• Complete the readings</li> <li>• Complete the online lessons</li> <li>• Begin reading newspaper articles</li> </ul>
2	Sept. 14	<b><i>Why is Social Class important?</i></b> Mc&C Chapter 2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Complete the readings</li> <li>• Complete the online lessons</li> <li>• Select newspaper article for assignment 1.</li> </ul>
3	Sept. 21	<b><i>Why is Gender important?</i></b> Mc&C Chapter 3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Complete the readings</li> <li>• Complete the online lessons</li> <li>•</li> </ul>
4	Sept. 28	<b><i>Why do Race &amp; Ethnicity matter?</i></b> Mc&C Chapter 4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Complete the readings</li> <li>• Complete the online lessons</li> <li>• Work on your assignment</li> </ul>
5	Oct. 5	<b><i>Why should we care about Age?</i></b> Mc&C Chapter 5	<p><b>Newspaper article elevator pitch due-see OWL for details.</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Complete the readings</li> <li>• Complete the online lessons</li> </ul>

6	Oct. 12	<b><i>Is it really individual choice that leads to social inequality?</i></b> Mc&C, Chapter 6	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Complete the readings</li> <li>• Complete the online lessons</li> </ul>
7	Oct. 19	<b><i>Understanding Social Inequality</i></b> Mc&C, Chapter 7	<p>Assignment 1 due-See OWL for details.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Complete the readings</li> <li>• Complete the online lessons</li> </ul>
8	Oct 26	<b><i>Inequality in Families?</i></b> Mc&C Chapter 8	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Complete the readings</li> <li>• Complete the online lessons</li> </ul>
<b>8</b>	<b>Nov. 2</b>	<b>READING WEEK</b>	Rest and get caught up on readings and other course work.
9	Nov. 9	<b><i>How does inequality influence paid work?</i></b> Mc&C Chapter 9	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Complete the readings</li> <li>• Complete the online lessons</li> </ul>
10	Nov. 16	<b><i>Are our education systems fair?</i></b> Mc&C Chapter 10	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Complete the readings</li> <li>• Complete the online lessons</li> </ul>
11	Nov. 23	<b><i>Who is unhealthy and why?</i></b> Mc&C Chapter 11	<p>Major assignment uploaded to OWL on Nov. 23</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Complete the readings</li> <li>• Complete the online lessons</li> </ul>
12	Nov. 30	<b><i>How does the state influence inequality?</i></b> Mc&C Chapters 12 & 13	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Complete the readings</li> <li>• Complete the online lessons</li> </ul>
13	Dec. 7	Independent Study	Finish assignment and submit to OWL by December 8.

## ONLINE LESSONS

This course requires students to complete online lessons. Completion of these lessons will count toward your participation grades. These lessons and other course material are available on OWL: <http://owl.uwo.ca>.

Google Chrome or Mozilla Firefox are the preferred browsers to optimally use OWL. If you need assistance, support is available on the [OWL help page](#).

## METHOD OF EVALUATION

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

Students are expected to attend all classes and to come to class prepared to critically discuss the readings and other course material.

<b>Evaluation Component</b>	<b>Brief Description</b>	<b>Due Date</b>	<b>Percentage of Grade</b>
Participation	Answer weekly lesson questions; attend class; complete online lessons; discuss answers to lesson questions in class	<b>On-going</b>	20%
Assignment #1	Newspaper Article Assignment. This is a two-part assignment. For Part 1, students are required to record a 30 second elevator pitch about a chosen news article. This is worth 30% of the grade for this assignment. Part 2 is a written component of 500 words worth 70 percent of the assignment grade.	<b>October 5<sup>th</sup> and October 19, 2023</b>	30%

Major Assignment	An assignment to demonstrate the skills and knowledge you have gained throughout the course. Written, 2000 words. You will have 2 weeks to complete this assignment. Your answers will be submitted through OWL. It is	<b>December 8, 2023</b> (the assignment will be uploaded to OWL on November 23, 2023)	50%
	expected that you will spend approximately 10 hours writing this assignment. You will be expected to respond to the questions using the assigned course materials and your class notes. The assignment will be comprised of 2-4 essay questions.		

### Student Absences/Academic Consideration for Missed Work

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:***

N/A

***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. Reasonable extensions will be negotiated in these cases.

**Extension for Final assignment:**

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 give extensions and extensions will be negotiated with the instructor.

## 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

## IMPORTANT DATES

Please refer to the [Western's academic calendar](#) for important dates.

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