



The University of Western Ontario  
**SOCIOLOGY 2263A-001**  
**Thinking Sociologically**  
**Fall 2023**  
**In-Person**

**Instructor:** Dr. Robert Nonomura

**Email:** [rmonomur@uwo.ca](mailto:rmonomur@uwo.ca)

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**Course Description:**

An in-depth examination of many of the core ideas that sociologists use in their analyses, including the social, society, subjectivity, institutions, and others. Involves questions regarding how we approach these theoretically, in terms of empirical observations, and in terms of evaluating their impact on our current social order.

***Prerequisite(s):*** 0.5 Sociology course at the 1000 level.

***Anti-requisite(s):*** Sociology 2240E, Sociology 2270A/B, Sociology 2271A/B

**Course Objectives and Learning Outcomes:**

This course is designed to provide you with a foundational understanding of the ideas, perspectives, concepts, and paradigms that have shaped, and continue to shape, the discipline of sociology. This involves not only surveying the “theories” of influential classical and contemporary social researchers but also considering how their ideas developed in the context of particular political, scientific, and philosophical movements. It is these theorists’ intellectual *responsiveness* to these various social phenomena—that is, the *sociologically imaginative* quality of their mode of inquiry—that makes their work especially relevant to present-day social research, and that will constitute the focus of our course.

Thus, the course will lay an intellectual foundation for sociological thinking that students can use throughout their degree program and beyond. We will explore what “sociological theorizing” can teach us about today’s society and how it might be used to gain deeper scientific and moral insight into our own beliefs, ideas, relationships, and interests. Upon successful completion of this course, students will be able to:

- Identify the historical and philosophical roots of sociological thought.
- Locate the role of theory and method in the process of social scientific inquiry.
- Critically analyze selections of primary texts written by influential 19th, 20th, and 21st century sociological theorists.
- Compare the relative strengths and limitations of various analytic frameworks for solving empirical, methodological, and epistemic problems.
- Connect core sociological concepts to “real-world” examples in contemporary society.

### **Course Material:**

Reading assignments will consist of journal articles, book chapters, and knowledge mobilization resources. Course materials will be accessed via Perusall and/or OWL. Some copyright costs may be involved in using this platform, but efforts have been made to keep these at a minimum.

### **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.

When emailing the course instructor or teaching assistants, please include our course code, **Soc 2263A** in the subject heading. In doing so, you can expect a response within two business days.

### **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. Lectures are designed to provide you with foundational tools for interpreting and mobilizing core social-theoretical concepts. The assigned readings serve as a common point of reference for developing those tools. You will need both in order to successfully pass the course. Lectures also cultivate mental focus in following 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 each week on Weeks 2-6 and 8-12 upon your completion of a weekly attendance activity. If you miss class, you can make up the missed grade by attending Office Hours the following week. If you require an extended absence (two or more weeks) on medical or compassionate grounds, consult with me once the issue is resolved and we can discuss a fair solution for your grade.

#### ***Argument Analysis Assignment 1 (October 6): 10%***

#### ***Argument Analysis Assignment 2 (November 25): 15%***

These assignments provide students an opportunity to develop their skills in social-theoretical reading, conceptualization, analysis, and writing. Students will draw upon their understanding of the course materials (readings and lectures) to respond to a series of questions about the course materials. **These assignments are to be completed using the OWL Tests & Quizzes Tool.** Due dates for Assignment 1 and 2 are **Friday October 6, 11:59pm ET** and **Friday November 25, 11:59ET** respectively. Late submissions will receive deductions of 5% per day. Assignments submitted later than 6 days past the deadline will receive a mark of zero. Students requiring academic accommodation for late or missed assignments must receive approval from Academic Counselling.

#### ***Perusall Online Discussion: 15%***

During each week's readings, you will have the opportunity to use the Perusall platform to comment on key passages, pose questions about the readings, and interact with peers who are doing the same. Of the ten (10) eligible weeks in which to participate on the platform, you will be expected to participate during at least six (6) of your choice. Your grade in this section of the course will be based on the consistency, quality, depth, and completeness of your engagement with the week's materials and with other members of the course.

### ***Midterm Exam: 25%***

The Midterm Exam will be worth **25% of the final mark**. It will be administered **in class on October 25**. The test will consist of multiple-choice questions. 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** (location and date TBD). 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. Accommodations for the make-up exam date will be provided only with further approval from an Academic Counsellor.

### ***Final Exam: 30%***

The Final Exam will be worth **30% of the final mark**. It will be administered during the **Final Exam period**. The exam will consist of multiple-choice questions.

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** (date and location TBD). 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 assignments, the midterm, and the final exam.***

### **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.

***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 or a rescheduling of your Discussion Facilitation to a later date.

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.

**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