



The University of Western Ontario
SOCIOLOGY 3317A-001

Problems of Higher Mass Education

Delivery Method - in-person

Instructor: Dr. Amanda Zavitz

Department of Sociology

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Course Description:

This course examines the problems that emerge when post-secondary education is provided on a mass scale. These problems include missions driven by corporate and consumer models, and the competing interests of stakeholders that produce dysfunctional systems normalizing academic disengagement and grade inflation, both of which put undue stress on students and professors. Alternatives to these degraded mass systems are examined and solutions to problems facing Canada's university system are discussed. This course analyses the ways that structures of higher education reproduce social inequalities associated with class, race, sex, and gender and offers an alternative vision of education.

Prerequisite(s): Registration in third year or above.

Unless you have either the prerequisites or written special permission from your Dean to enroll in the course, you may be removed from this course and it will be deleted from your record. The decision may not be appealed. You will receive no adjustment to your fees in the event that you are dropped from a course for failing to have the necessary prerequisites.

Anti-requisite(s): none

Course Objectives and Learning Outcomes:

- distinguish between forms of education that constitute liberal arts as opposed to pseudo-vocational substitutes for a liberal education.
- understand the history of higher education and the mission drifts that are taking place toward pseudo vocationalism
- identify the interests and conflicts among the various stakeholders pulling and pushing the mass-educational system
- appreciate the differences among elite, mass, and universal educational systems
- have an in-depth comprehension of the origins and consequences of academic disengagement, at the individual and institutional levels

- identify the stresses experienced by students and faculty and how these are related to the mission drifts and pressures on the system by various stakeholders
- understand and analyze the ways that mass education reproduces class, gender, sex, and race inequalities
- understand the history of Indigenous education in Canada
- generate potential solutions to the problems faced by mass systems in various societies, especially those governed by neoliberal ideologies

Course Material:

Required Text(s):

Lehmann, Wolfgang. Education and Society; Canadian Perspectives. Toronto: Oxford University Press, 2016.

Communication:

Students are responsible for checking the course OWL site (<http://owl.uwo.ca>) on a regular basis for news and information.

How to Contact Me: azavitzg@uwo.ca

Please email me to set up an appointment time.

Method of Evaluation:

Assignments: 30% - “pop” assignments given through the term

Midterm: 25% - October 17, 2023

Final: 25% - TBA (final exam period)

Essay: 20% - November 14, 2023

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

Evaluation Breakdown:

Tests: Each test will consist of multiple choice, definitions, fill in the blank and essay questions. The tests are not cumulative in nature. Tests will take place in class and then in the final exam period. Students will not be allowed any notes or aids during the examination.

Essay- This is an essay course. Thus, you are required to write a formal academic essay in this course. Your essay is **DUE Tuesday November 14, 2023**. Late papers will be penalized at 10% per day.

Class assignments- there will be four class assignments assigned throughout the term. The top three assignments will be worth 10% each. Some of the assignments will be completed in class, others will be given to take home and complete. These class assignments are “pop” assignments that are meant to encourage class attendance and participation. Students will be required to submit each assignment to our course site on Brightspace the day they are due.

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, the instructor is empowered to grant academic considerations without referring the student to their academic counsellors.

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. Students who have a documentable reason for their absence will be granted an extension.

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.

2023-2024

Course Schedule and Readings:

Date	Topic	Readings/Assignments
Week 1 Sept. 12	Sociological Analysis of Education What is a Schooled Society?	Lehmann, Chapter 1
Week 2 Sept. 19	Mass Education and Sociological Theory	Lehmann, Chapter 1, Chapter 2 (The Schooled Society, chapter 1 online)
Week 3 Sept. 26	History of Mass Education	Online readings
Week 4 Oct. 3	Higher Unlearning	Cote and Allahar, Higher Unlearning
Week 5 Oct. 10	Higher Unlearning	Cote and Allahar, Higher Unlearning
Week 6 Oct. 17	Socialization and the Role of Parents	Lehmann, Chapter 6
Week 7 Oct. 24	Midterm exam	Midterm exam October 17, 2023 In class
Reading Week 8 Oct. 31	Reading Week	Reading Week

Week 9 Nov. 7	Education and Gender Inequality Education and Sexual Assault	Lehmann, Chapter 9 & 10
Week 10 Nov. 14	Education and the Reproduction of Racism	Lehmann, Chapters 4 & 7 Essay DUE- November 14, 2023 Submit: IN CLASS
Week 11 Nov. 21	Education and Indigenous People	Lehmann, Chapters 8 & 12
Week 12 Nov. 28	Education and EDI	
Week 13 Dec. 5	Future Directions of Education	Lehmann, Chapters 13 & 14
Final exam period: December 10-22, 2023	Final examination	Final Exam- TBA

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