



The University of Western Ontario
SOCIOLOGY 3320G- 001

Youth and Society

Winter 2024

Delivery Method - in-person

Instructor: Dr. Amanda Zavitz

Department of Sociology

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

Course Description:

This course surveys issues related to the study of the transition to adulthood. Sociological perspectives on the nature and relevance of youth are reviewed, along with historical and cultural variations in coming-of-age socialization contexts, and current institutional influences on the timing and prospects of youth-adult transitions.

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:

- understanding the origin and perpetuation of stereotypes about youth
- knowing the difference between critical and conservative approaches
- grasping the connection between institutional re-structuring the transition to adulthood, including the education system, workplace, and family
- developing an appreciation of the risks associated with the transition to adulthood and the role of youth culture and new technologies in the transition
- gaining insights into how consensus is manufactured, especially through popular culture
- understanding the politics of identity development and race as well as gender and sexuality
- acquiring an understanding of how political engagement and public policy could enhance the lives of youth

Course Material:

Côté, James (2018). Youth Development in Identity Societies. Routledge. ISBN 9781138353312

Communication:

Students are responsible for checking the course OWL site (<http://owl.uwo.ca>) on a regular basis for news and updates. Students are also responsible for coming to class, this is the primary method by which information will be disseminated to all students in the class.

Method of Evaluation:

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

Midterm exam: 25% February 14, 2024 (in class exam)

Final exam: 25% Final exam period: date to be announced (in person exam, during final December exam period)

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** 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.

Class Assignments: 30% To be assigned throughout the course. (Submit in the drop box before class). I will assign 6 assignments and the top 5 will count towards the final grade in the class. Late assignments will receive a 10% late penalty.

Essay: 20% Due March 27, 2024 (submit in the drop box before class). The essay should be approximately 5-7 pages and 3000 words. Essays must be submitted to the OWL drobox and printed to submit in class.

Course Conditions:

To pass this course: you should plan to attend lectures. Lecture materials are not cited directly from the text and will not be posted on OWL for review.

Students MUST attend 80% of lectures.

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.

Students who have documentable absences will be able to make-up assignments or tests, but they may be different than the original assignment or 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).

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.

You may also be eligible to write the Special Exam if you are in a “Multiple Exam Situation” (e.g., more than 2 exams in 23-hour period, more than 3 exams in a 47-hour period).

Note: missed work can *only* be excused through one of the mechanisms above. Being asked not to attend an in-person course requirement due to potential COVID-19 symptoms is **not** sufficient on its own. Students should check the Western website to see what directives for Covid are to be followed. Western has been and will continue to follow directives established by the Middlesex-London Health Unit. That directive will state whether students should or should not come to campus/class and any other requirements (e.g., masks are mandatory). Please check on your own and do not email the instructor, the Department Undergraduate Advisor/Coordinator or the Faculty of Social Science Academic Counselling Office.

Course Schedule and Readings:

Date	Topic	Readings/Assignments
Week 1	Course Introductions	No readings this week

January 10, 2024	Sociological Imagination and Identity Politics	C.W Mills, the Promise
Week 2 January 17, 2024	Sociological Theory and Youth	
Week 3 January 24, 2024	Part 1: Identity and Purpose in Modern Societies Youth Identity and the Choice Paradox	The Meaning of Youth in Identity Societies Chapter 1- The Principal Paradox: Prosperity Without Purpose
Week 4 January 31, 2024	Youth Identity and the Choice Paradox	Part II: Coming of Age Struggles in Identity Societies Chapter 2- From Roles to Identities: The Crisis of Purpose in a Sea of Choice
Week 5 February 7, 2024	Part II: Coming of Age Struggles in Identity Societies The Meaning of Youth in Identity Societies	Chapter 3- Finding Direction and Forming Identities: The Meaning of Purpose and the Purpose of Meaning Chapter 4- Growing Up in Identity Societies: The Cross-Purposes of a Prolonged Youth
Week 6 February 14, 2024	Midterm exam	Midterm exam- February 14, 2024, IN CLASS
Week 7 February 21, 2024	Winter Reading week	No class this week
Week 8 February 28, 2024	Youth and Education	Chapter 5- The Paradoxes of Universal Higher Education:

		Students Misdirected by Credentialism
Week 9 March 6, 2024	Youth and Mental Illness	Chapter 6- The Student Mental Health Crisis: The Perfect Storm for Identity Confusion
Week 10 March 13, 2024	Part III: Purpose, Agency, and Generativity: New Forms of Adulthood	Chapter 7- Adulthood in Identity Societies: Agency and Generativity in a Sea of Confusion
Week 11 March 20, 2024	Youth, Gender, Sexuality, and Identity	Readings TBA
Week 12 March 27, 2024	Youth and Race Identity	Readings TBA Essay DUE- March 27, 2024, IN CLASS
Week 13 April 3, 2024	The Brave New Youth	Chapter 8- The Brave New Adult of Identity Societies: A Brave New World? Chapter 9. Conclusion: Purpose as a Mutual Project
April 9, 10 – study days Final exam Period April 11-30 2022	Final examination	Final Exam- date TBA

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