



The University of Western Ontario
SOCIOLOGY 3324F-001
Social Inequality over the Life Course
Fall 2023

Delivery Method: In-person, with synchronous Zoom provided

Instructor: Dr. Andrea Willson

Office Hours: By appointment

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

Course Description: This course focuses on social factors that affect social inequality in later life from a life course perspective. A life course perspective emphasizes the intersections of individual lives, social change, and social structure. It calls attention to the patterns and trajectories based on gender, race-ethnicity, class, and sexual orientation that span across human lives, and are shaped by broader social structure and historical time.

Prerequisite(s): 1.0 from: Sociology 1020, Sociology 1021E, Sociology 1025A/B, Sociology 1026F/G, Sociology 1027A/B. 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:

At the end of this course, students should be able to:

*Understand and explain how continuity and change in human lives affect social inequality.

*Demonstrate knowledge of key concepts, strategies, and empirical examples from life course analysis related to social inequality.

*Write a paper that clearly utilizes class concepts and makes an evidence-based, sociological argument to discuss social inequality from a life course perspective.

Course Material:

There is no textbook for this course; all required readings are available electronically.

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.

Method of Evaluation:

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

Midterm	35%	October 19
Final paper	35%	Due December 8, 5:00 p.m.
Final exam	30%	December Exam Period TBA

Exams

Exams will consist of multiple-choice and short essay questions covering the lectures, films, and reading assignments. You are responsible for all the material in the assigned readings even if this material is not covered in class. The final exam covers the material covered after the midterm and is NOT cumulative. Exams will be administered in class and are 2 hours in length. No aids or electronic devices will be allowed during examinations.

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.

Final Paper

This assignment involves conducting an in-depth interview and applying the sociological tools and knowledge that you gain in this course to understand the intersection of individual biography, social change, and social structure in an individual's life. Papers must be at least 10 double-spaced pages in length, Times New Roman 12-point font. Detailed instructions will be provided in class. Due December 8, 5:00 p.m. The assignment will be submitted in the OWL course site, including Turnitin.com for plagiarism checking. Unexcused late papers will be penalized 5% per day. Comments on the term paper will only be provided if requested in advance of submission; late assignments will receive no written feedback.

Note: All written work (including exams) is expected to meet the standards of university work. Grades will be based on mechanics, style, and clarity, in addition to ideas. This is a sociology class, so the major focus will be on learning sociological ideas. But clear thinking is related to clear writing, and the grading will reflect this. Marks are based on the following:

- A+ = outstanding work that far exceeds basic requirements
- A = outstanding work that significantly exceeds basic requirements
- B = work that exceeds basic requirements
- C = work that satisfies course requirements in all respects (average)
- D = substandard work
- F = performance that fails to meet course requirements

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 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.

For absences approved by Academic Counselling, an extension for the final paper will be arranged.

Course Schedule and Readings:

Posted in OWL

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

Use of AI:

Within this course, students are permitted to use AI tools exclusively for information gathering and preliminary research purposes. It is essential that students critically evaluate the obtained information, exercise independent thinking, and engage in original research to synthesize and develop their own ideas, arguments and perspectives. Students expected to uphold academic integrity by appropriately attributing all sources of information and avoiding plagiarism. Written assignments must reflect the student’s own thoughts and independent written work. Students should also generate their own figures (e.g., graphs, diagrams) rather than using AI generated ones. By adhering to these guidelines, students contribute to a responsible and effective learning environment that promotes critical thinking, independent inquiry and allows them to produce original written contributions. The same principles also apply to the use of translation software to support the writing the essays and other written assessments.

Contingency plan for an in-person class pivoting to online learning: In the event of a COVID-19 resurgence during the course that necessitates the course delivery moving away from face-to-face interaction, affected course content will be delivered entirely online, synchronously at the times indicated in the timetable. The grading scheme will not change.