Professionals and their Work
Winter 2024
In-person

Instructor: Professor Tracey L. Adams  
Office Hours: TBD  
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Email: tladams@uwo.ca

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

Official Course Description: This course examines the nature of professions and professional work in Canadian society and elsewhere in the world. Attention will be paid to the structure of professional work, and workers experiences within professions, as well as inequalities within and across professions.

Detailed Course Description: This course examines professions, professionals, and their work within Canadian society and elsewhere in the world. Attention will be paid to the structure of professional work, and workers’ experiences within professions, as well as intersectional inequalities within and across professions in varying social-historical contexts. Among the topics explored are the following: Professions and mental health, the future of professions, education and training, finding a job and launching careers, professional misconduct, and workplace change.

Prerequisite: Registration in third year or above in any Department of Sociology module, or fourth year in any Faculty of Social Science module.

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:  
By the end of this course, students should:

* Understand the characteristics of professions, and their implications for society.
* Be aware of various theoretical accounts of professions.
* Be able to reflect critically on professions, professionals and expertise.
* Understand the changing nature of professions and professional work.

**Course Material:**
There will be a variety of articles and book chapters assigned to students throughout the course. All materials will be accessible, either through the Western Library system or our OWL course site.

**Communication:**
Students are responsible for checking the course OWL site ([http://owl.uwo.ca](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.

If you want to reach me, please do so through email: tladams@uwo.ca

**Method of Evaluation:**
The evaluation methods described in the course outline are essential requirements for the course.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Evaluation Method</th>
<th>Due Date</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Class attendance</td>
<td>All weeks</td>
<td>12%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mini-paper 1</td>
<td>Feb 29, 2024 (or earlier)</td>
<td>25%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lead Class discussion</td>
<td>Selected Weeks</td>
<td>13%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>OPTION A</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mini-paper 2</td>
<td>April 8, 2024</td>
<td>25%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mini-paper 3</td>
<td>April 8, 2024</td>
<td>25%</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>OPTION B</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Longer Paper</td>
<td>April 8, 2024</td>
<td>50%</td>
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**Evaluation Details:**
*Mini-paper 1:* Choose one article or a chapter of an assigned book. Summarize the major arguments of that book, and provide some critical reflection on it. Papers should be approximately 5-6 pages double-spaced with 2 or so pages devoted to summary, and the remainder devoted to critical reflections, including what did you like or dislike about the article. Are there arguments you think are important or convincing? Why or why not? How does it relate to other material you have read in the course? More details will be provided later. Papers should be 5-8 pages double-spaced (12-point Times New Roman font). This paper is due no later than February 29 2024, and should be submitted via OWL.
Class Attendance: Attendance at in-person classes is expected. If you cannot attend a class due to illness or other reasons please inform Professor Adams ahead of time. With respect to class attendance you receive 1 mark for each of the classes you attend and participate in.

Lead Class Discussion: Every student will have a chance to lead class discussion, including providing a few-minute summary of a reading and coming up with 5-6 discussion questions. Students can select a date to present in the opening week of classes. This component will be marked of 13.

OPTION A

Mini-Papers 2 and 3: As with mini-paper 1, choose an article or assigned chapter. Write a mini-paper summarizing and critically evaluating it. Emphasis here will be placed on the quality and extent of your critical reflections. These papers can be handed in at anytime. More details will be provided later. Papers should be 5-8 pages double-spaced (12-point Times New Roman font). The final due date is April 8 2024, and should be submitted via OWL.

OPTION B

Longer Paper: Write a 10 page paper (double spaced), on a profession or professional issue of your choice (using course content and other sources). If you choose this option, make sure to discuss your topic with Professor Adams ahead of time. The due date for this paper April 8 2024, should be submitted via OWL.

Student Absences:

It is understood that sometimes students cannot attend class. In those instances you are expected to notify the instructor ahead of time. Explained absences due to extenuating circumstances will not result in a penalty in the final grade.

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:

Should you need more time on major assignments you can contact the professor for a small extension. Any accommodation beyond a few days will require approval from your Home Faculty Academic Counselling Office.

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.

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
Course Schedule and Readings:
The following is a draft course schedule. A finalized schedule with course readings will be available on the OWL site prior to the start of the course.

January 11  Week 1: Introduction to course – what are professions?
January 18  Week 2: Theories of Professions and their role in society
January 25  Week 3: Professions Historically
February 1  Week 4: Professional Education and Training
February 8  Week 5: Finding a Job / Settling into Careers
February 15 Week 6: Gender and Professional work
February 22 Reading Week
February 29 Week 7: Racism and Professional work
March 7     Week 8: Intersectionality and professional work
March 14    Week 9: Workplace Change & precarious work
March 21    Week 10: Mental Health
March 28    Week 11: Professional Misconduct
April 4     Week 12: Future of Professional Work