



The University of Western Ontario
SOCIOLOGY 1025A-002
Society and You
Fall 2024
In-person

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

Course Description: This course introduces the sociological imagination to help understand how underlying social forces shape our lives and how we, as individuals, can change society. The course explores key social problems, and how they shape our life courses and shift the demographic makeup of our society.

Prerequisite(s): None. **Anti-requisite(s):** Sociology 1020, Sociology 1020W/X, Sociology 1021E.

Course Objectives and Learning Outcomes:

By the end of this course, you will be able to:

1. Recall the fundamental aspects of core sociological theories and research methods and be able to identify their relative strengths and weaknesses;
2. Apply key sociological concepts;
3. Examine various features of society (e.g., culture, socialization, deviance) from a sociological viewpoint;
4. Compose a sociological research paper; and,
5. Interpret society from a new perspective that challenges your assumptions about human group life.

Along with these outcomes, develop your own learning goals for this course by answering the following questions: Why are you interested in sociology? What skills, knowledge, and attitudes do you hope to develop? How does this course fit into your learning objectives?

Course Material:

1. Brym, Robert J., Lisa Strohschein, and Karen Kampen. 2025. *Sociology: Compass for a New Social World, 8th Edition*. Toronto: Cengage.
2. Additional readings available on our OWL Brightspace course site.

Communication:

Students are responsible for checking the course [OWL Brightspace site](#) 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. Please respect your classmates, teaching assistants (TAs), and instructor in all communications. Your TAs and I constitute the teaching team for this course. TA contact information and office hours will be posted on our OWL site.

E-mail. You can reach a teaching team member outside of class through e-mail. If you have a more complicated question (e.g., differences between theories), it is best to meet to discuss. E-mail can also be used for addressing administrative issues about the course and arranging to meet. We will do our best to respond to e-mail messages within 24 hours. Please use “Sociology 1025A” as the subject line. Use your Western e-mail account.

Office Hours. Do not hesitate to visit any teaching team member during office hours. We are here to help with any questions you might have. This time not only serves as a great way to clarify understanding of the course material, but we also enjoy talking with students about sociology in general, educational pursuits, and career aspirations. If you cannot make it to my office hours I will usually be around after class, or you can make an appointment to meet with me in person or online over Zoom.

Zoom is a webconferencing app that is free to Western students. Instructions for downloading and running Zoom can be found at: <https://wts.uwo.ca/zoom/>. **IMPORTANT:** When logging in to Zoom, select *Sign In with SSO*. On the Sign In with SSO screen, enter *westernuniversity*, then click Continue. You will log in to Zoom using your Western user ID and password.

Classroom Etiquette:

We only have a short amount of time in each class to cover a lot of material. To help everyone stay focused keep phones turned off and put away, avoid whispering with your neighbours, and use computers only for class-related activities. If there is a problem with classroom conduct you may be asked to leave for the duration of the lecture.

Learning Resources:

Taking a vested interest in learning is the key to academic success. Some of the specific things you can do to help with learning in this course (and others) include: (1) Regularly attending class; (2) Staying on top of your readings; (3) Keeping good lecture and reading notes; (4) Meeting with your TAs or professor when you need extra help or would like to discuss the course material on a more sustained basis; (5) Participating in the applied learning exercises; and, (6) Staying organized and developing and maintaining good study habits (e.g., reviewing your material regularly).

Copyright and Intellectual Property:

PowerPoint lecture slides and notes, lists of readings, in-class activities, assignment guidelines, and other components of the course materials are typically the intellectual property of the instructor. Unauthorized reproduction through audio-recording, video-recording, photographing, sharing on social media, or posting on course-sharing websites is an infringement of copyright and is prohibited. Such action may be considered a Code of Conduct violation and lead to sanctions.

Method of Evaluation:

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

Applied Learning Exercises

- You will carry out brief in-class, group exercises designed to extend your knowledge of course material through direct application of sociological ideas.
- **Missed exercises:** You are allowed 2 missed exercises without penalty. It is not necessary to complete the missed exercise or notify me about your absence. Given this flexibility, I reserve the right to deny academic consideration for missing more than 2 exercises.
- Counts for **10%** of your final mark.

Midterm Exam

- Multiple choice questions.
- Duration: 1.5 hours.
- Written in class **Tuesday, October 29th**. Covers material from September 10th to October 22nd.
- Electronic devices, books, notes, or other study aids are not permitted during the exam.
- **Missed exams:** If you miss the exam for medical, compassionate or extenuating circumstances, you can request academic consideration by completing a request at the central academic consideration portal. Supporting documentation IS required. If your absence is approved, you must write a make-up exam.
- Counts for **30%** of your final mark.

Research Paper

- You will write a 750 to 1,000-word, library-based research paper on a sociological topic of interest to you. Instructions will be made available on our course OWL site and discussed in class.
- Due on **Tuesday, November 26th by 11:59 pm**. Submit your completed assignment on our OWL site.
- **Late submissions:** Should illness or extenuating circumstances arise, you are permitted to submit your assignment up to 1 week past the deadline (by Tuesday, December 3rd, 11:59 pm) without academic penalty. No need to contact me about a late submission. If you submit your assignment after the 1-week grace period, 5% per day will be subtracted from the assessed grade. Given the flexible deadline, I reserve the right to deny academic consideration for submissions beyond the 1-week grace period.
- Counts for **20%** of your final mark.

Final Exam

- Multiple choice questions.
- Duration: 2 hours.
- Written during the December final exam period.
- Covers all course material with an emphasis on material covered after the midterm exam.
- Electronic devices, books, notes, or other study aids are not permitted during the exam.
- **Missed exams:** If you miss the exam for medical, compassionate or extenuating circumstances, you can request academic consideration by completing a request at the central academic consideration portal. Supporting documentation IS required. If your absence is approved, you must write a make-up exam.
- Counts for **40%** of your final mark.

Course Schedule and Readings:

A finalized version of this outline will be provided on our OWL site. It will include a table detailing topics, assessments, and readings by date.

Student Absences:

If you are unable to meet a course requirement due to illness or other serious circumstances, please follow the procedures described here. Students must familiarize themselves with the [Policy on Academic Consideration – Undergraduate Students in First Entry Programs](#). Students missing any assessments in this course for medical, compassionate or extenuating circumstances can request academic consideration by completing a request at the central academic consideration portal. In this course, there is flexibility for completion of the Applied Learning Exercises (2 missed exercises without penalty) and Research Paper (a 1-week grace period). For students whose situation warrants additional consideration for the exercises and assignment (e.g., extensive absence due to illness) and those who are unable to write an exam due to illness or other serious circumstances, supporting documentation is required for academic consideration requests. Any academic considerations granted in this course will be determined by the instructor, in consultation with the academic advisors in your [Faculty of Registration](#), in accordance with information presented in this course outline. Students whose absences are due to illness should use the [Student Medical Certificate](#) or, where that is not possible, equivalent documentation by a health care practitioner. Students with an approved absence from an exam will be required to write a make-up exam. Course professor or teaching assistant(s) may not be available to respond to questions during the make-up exam. Students should be aware that the make-up exam will not necessarily be in the same format, be of the same duration, or cover the same material as the original test.

Artificial Intelligence:

Within this course, students are permitted to use AI tools exclusively for information gathering and preliminary research purposes. These tools are intended to enhance the learning experience by providing access to diverse information sources. However, 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. The use of AI tools can serve as a starting point for exploring a topic, with students expected to uphold academic integrity by appropriately attributing all sources of information and avoiding plagiarism. Completed assessments should reflect the student's own thoughts and independent written work. 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 student writing.

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
- Course Selection
- Absence from Course Commitments

- Missed Tests and Exams
- Religious Accommodations
- Accessibility Options
- Mental Health
- Gender-Based and Sexual Violence statement

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