



The University of Western Ontario
SOCIOLOGY 1027A-001
Life is Not Always Fair
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 introductory course challenges commonly held assumptions about individual success, talent and merit. Students will be introduced to underlying patterns and important debates about the nature of power and inequality, and how they shape issues such as work, family, education, the economy, and the pursuit of justice.

Prerequisite(s): None

Anti-requisite(s): Sociology 1020, Sociology 1020W/X, Sociology 1021E

Course Objectives and Learning Outcomes:

Upon successful completion of this course, students will be able to:

- Apply a social scientific perspective in explaining and examining social inequalities across institutions such as education, health, and employment.
- Recognize similarities and differences between sociological perspectives and the perspectives of other academic and non-academic ways of knowing.
- Evaluate sociological and individual explanations for patterns of inequality in society.
- Interpret the results of sociological studies conducted using qualitative and quantitative of research methods.
- Apply multiple social theoretical perspectives to explain the causes and consequences of social change.

Course Material:

The required textbook for this course is:

Corrigall-Brown, Catherine. 2023. *Imagining Sociology: An Introduction with Readings*. **Third Edition**. Don Mills, ON: Oxford University Press.

Note: you can purchase either the physical book or the e-book.

Other reading assignments may consist of an assigned course text journal articles, book chapters, and knowledge mobilization resources. Links to PDFs, websites, and library resources will be provided via Brightspace.

Communication:

Students are responsible for checking the course OWL Brightspace site (<https://westernu.brightspace.com/d2l/login>) 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.

Attendance/Participation: 5%

In-class attendance is vital to your success in the course. The assigned readings serve as a common point of reference for establishing your knowledge and understanding; lectures are designed to provide you with tools and explanations for solidifying your grasp of the material. You will need both in order to successfully pass the exam.

Lectures also build mental stamina to follow long-form oral arguments, and they provide social and cognitive stimuli that enhances retention.

To incentivize engagement in these vital aspects of this course, your attendance will be recorded upon completion of a weekly attendance activity using the iClicker platform. Your attendance grade will be calculated as a proportion of your in-class attendances on Weeks 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 8, 9, 10, 11, and 12. If you have an unexcused absence, you can make up the missed grade by attending Office Hours the following week. If you require an extended absence (two or more weeks) on medical or compassionate grounds, consult with me once the issue is resolved and we can discuss a fair solution for your grade.

Midterm Exam — 30%

The Midterm Exam will be administered **in class on October 30**. The test will consist of multiple choice questions. All course material from Week 1-6 will be eligible for testing.

Use of electronic devices and other written aids (notes, outlines, etc.) will not be permitted during the examination, unless otherwise stated. Instructors are permitted to designate one assessment per course per term as requiring supporting documentation to receive academic consideration. For this course the midterm exam has been designated as requiring supporting documentation. Students with an approved absence from the Midterm will be required to write a makeup exam during the **departmental Midterm make-up midterm exam period** (time and location TBA). The 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.

Final Exam — 36%

The Final Exam will be administered during the **Final Exam period**. The exam will consist of multiple choice questions. A specific breakdown of these components will be provided prior to the exam.

As with the Midterm, use of electronic devices and other written aids (notes, outlines, etc.) will not be permitted during the examination unless otherwise stated. Students with an approved accommodations for the final exam will be required to write a makeup exam during the **departmental Final Exam make-up period** (Location TBA). The 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.

Note: 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. *This applies to quizzes, the midterm, and the final exam.*

Scholarly Skills Upgrade — 5%

This guided online quiz will consist of a set of tasks using modules developed by the Writing Support Centre. You will select from a series of modules that can help enhance your skills in academic reading and writing. You will then demonstrate your skills by responding to a series of questions (multiple choice and short answer) using the Tests & Quizzes tool on OWL. **This assignment will be due September 28 by 11:59pm.** Late submissions will be deducted 5% per day.

Mini Assignments — 12% x 2

There will be two Mini Assignments in the term, due **October 7 by 11:59pm** and **November 18 by 11:59pm** respectively. These assignments test students' abilities to interpret and apply key course concepts. You will use OWL to submit multiple choice and short answer responses to a series of questions. This will not only support students who benefit from evaluations beyond time-restricted multiple choice test taking, it will also help build skills in critical reading and writing.

For each assignment, students are expected to submit the assignment by the deadline listed. Should illness or extenuating circumstances arise, students are permitted to submit their assignment up to 48 hours past the deadline without academic penalty. Should students submit their assessment beyond 48 hours past the deadline, a late penalty of 10% per day will be subtracted from the assessed grade. Students who require accommodations beyond this 48 hour grace period should request accommodation through Academic Counselling. Students who do not submit an assignment within 6 days of the original assignment deadline, and who do not receive an accommodation, will receive a mark of zero on the assignment.

Students will be expected to complete these assignments independently, without the aid of AI software, and to complete all written components using their own words. Full details concerning this assignment will be provided in class.

Student Absences:

If you are unable to meet a course requirement due to illness or other serious circumstances, please follow the procedures below.

University policy on academic considerations are described [here](#). This policy requires that all requests for academic considerations must be accompanied by a self-attestation. Further information about academic considerations, and information about submitting this self-attestation with your academic consideration request may be found here. Please note that 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 must familiarize themselves with the [Policy on Academic Consideration – Undergraduate Students in First Entry Programs](#). Students missing course work for medical, compassionate or extenuating circumstances can request academic consideration by completing a request at the central academic consideration portal. Students are permitted one academic consideration request per course per term without supporting documentation. Note that supporting documentation is **always** required for academic consideration requests for examinations scheduled by the office of the registrar (e.g. December and April exams) and for practical laboratory and performance tests typically scheduled during the last week of the term. Students should also note that the instructor may designate one assessment per course per term that requires supporting documentation. This designated assessment is described elsewhere in this document. Please note that any academic considerations granted in this course will be determined by the instructor of this course, in consultation with the academic advisors in your Faculty of Registration, in accordance with information presented in this course outline. Supporting documentation for academic considerations for absences 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 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.

Course Schedule:

Please consult OWL Brightspace for a complete list of assigned and recommended readings for each week.

Artificial Intelligence:

All assignments must be completed independently, without the aid of artificial intelligence (AI)

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