



Sociology 1027B-002

Life is not Always Fair

Winter 2025

Delivery Method	Date/Time	Location
In-person	See course site	See course site

Course Instructor	Contact Information
Dr. Julie McMullin	mcmullin@uwo.ca Department of Sociology

This syllabus is subject to change. Please see the course OWL site possible updates.

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.

Anti-requisite(s): [Sociology 1020](#), [Sociology 1020W/X](#), [Sociology 1021E](#).

Prerequisite(s): None

Course Weight: 0.50

COURSE OBJECTIVES AND LEARNING OUTCOMES

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

- Begin to understand how to think like a sociologist.
- Apply sociological explanations to different aspects of social inequality.
- Understand and explain foundational concepts in sociology.
- Begin to understand different methodological approaches.
- Understand and explain different theoretical approaches in sociology.
- Begin to develop critical thinking, research, and writing skills.

TEXTBOOK and OTHER LEARNING MATERIALS

Required textbook: Steckley, John (2024). *Elements of Sociology: A Critical Canadian Introduction 6th Edition*.

Print and e-book versions of the text are available at the bookstore.

[Click here for information about the textbook costs.](#)

Students need to purchase this edition. Older editions will not be sufficient.

Additional course material (e.g., videos, readings) will be posted on the OWL site.

COMMUNICATION

The best way to reach the teaching team is through email. My email and the Teaching Assistants emails will be posted to OWL.

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.

COURSE CONTENT AND SCHEDULE

Students should check the course [OWL Brightspace site](#) frequently to access the online lessons, course material, and for key deadlines.

Week	Dates 2025	Topics/Readings	Activity/Deadlines
1	Jan. 7	<i>Introduction and Course Overview</i> <i>Chapter 1-Elements</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Read the syllabus• Complete the online lessons• Complete getting to know you survey
2	Jan. 14	<i>Thinking Like a Sociologist</i> <i>Chapter 2-Elements</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Complete the readings• Complete the online lessons
3	Jan. 21	<i>Doing Sociology: Research Methods</i> <i>Chapter 3-Elements</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Complete the readings• Complete the online lessons

4	Jan. 28	<i>What is Culture and why do we care?</i> <i>Chapter 5: Elements</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Complete the readings • Complete the online lessons
5	Feb. 4	<i>What is socialization?</i> <i>Chapter 4-Elements</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Complete the readings • Complete the online lessons
6	Feb. 11	<i>Social Construction of Deviance</i> <i>Chapter 6-Elements</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Complete the readings • Complete the online lessons
	Feb. 18	READING WEEK	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rest and get caught up on readings and study for the mid-term
7	Feb. 25	Mid-term Exam Multiple Choice Examination held during the first 2 hours of class. There will be no lecture after the Exam.	
8	Mar. 4	<i>Social Class and Inequality</i> <i>Chapter 7-Elements</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Complete the readings • Complete the online lessons
9	Mar. 11	<i>Gender, Sex, and Sexuality</i> <i>Chapter 9-Elements</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Complete the readings • Complete the online lessons
10	Mar. 18	<i>Race and Ethnicity</i> <i>Chapter 8-Elements</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Complete the readings • Complete the online lessons

11	Mar. 25	Education <i>Chapter 13-Elements</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Complete the readings • Complete the online lessons
12	April 1	Families <i>Chapter 11-Elements</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Complete the readings • Complete the online lessons

ONLINE LESSONS

This course requires students to complete online lessons.

Answering the questions in the online lessons is required and will be evaluated as part of your participation grade.

These lessons and other course material are available on OWL: <http://owl.uwo.ca>. Google Chrome or Mozilla Firefox are the preferred browsers to optimally use OWL. If you need assistance, support is available on the [OWL help page](#).

METHOD OF EVALUATION:

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

As flexible deadlines are used in this course, requests for academic consideration will not be granted.

What does this mean?

For attendance: **2 absences are allowed.**

For weekly questions/muddy points: **These are due on the Monday before class at 11:59 pm.** However, you will be able to submit answers to the questions for an additional week.

Students are expected to attend all classes and to come to class prepared to critically discuss the readings and other course material. **Instructors are permitted to designate one assessment per course per term as requiring supporting documentation to receive academic consideration.**

For this course the following assessment has been designated as requiring supporting documentation: MID-TERM/February 25th.

Evaluation Component	Brief Description	Due Date	Percentage of Grade
Participation	Attend class; complete critical writing assignments; discuss critical writing assignments in class; actively participate in group work. Attendance will be taken using Iclicker.	On-going	30%
Mid-term	Multiple Choice Examination held during the first 2 hours of class. There will not be a lecture after the mid-term.	February 25	30%

Final	Multiple Choice Examination (2 hour) Location TBA	April Exam Period	40%
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Additional Test/Examination Information

No electronic devices will be allowed during the examinations.

Students with an approved absence from an in-class exam will be required to write a makeup exam. 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 exam will not necessarily be in the same format, be of the same duration, or cover the same material as the original exam.

The test and exams will be computer-marked. Computer marked multiple-choice exams may be subject to submission for similarity review by software that will check for unusual coincidences in answer patterns that may indicate cheating.

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 schedule 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.

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. Essays and written assignments should reflect the student's own thoughts and independently 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 you 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.

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

- Course Selection
- Absence from Course Commitments
- Missed Tests and Exams
- Religious Accommodations
- Accessibility Options
- Mental Health
- Gender-Based and Sexual Violence statement

Western is committed to reducing incidents of gender-based and sexual violence (GBSV) and providing compassionate support to anyone who is going through or has gone through these traumatic events. If you are experiencing or have experienced GBSV (either recently or in the past), you will find information about support services for survivors, including emergency contacts at the following website: https://www.uwo.ca/health/student_support/survivor_support/get-help.html To connect with a case manager or set up an appointment, please contact support@uwo.ca.