



The University of Western Ontario  
**SOCIOLOGY 2105A-001**  
**Sociology of Youth**  
**Fall 2024**

**Delivery Method - in-person**

**Instructor:** Brenda Kobayashi

**Office Hours:** by appointment

**Department of Sociology**

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**TA:** TBA

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

**Course Description:**

A general coverage of the literature and issues related to the sociological study of adolescence and youth. Major theories are related to the settings in which young people currently spend their time. The focus is on the practical problems of day-to-day life and the transition to adulthood.

***Prerequisite(s):*** none

***Anti-requisite(s):*** none

**Course Objectives and Learning Outcomes:**

This course examines young people within a sociological framework. Taking a critical approach, this course seeks to move away from perceptions of young people as being a “problem” to examining the social, economic, and political forces that are problematic. Further, we will examine the overlapping power relationships of capitalism, racism, patriarchy, and heterosexism, among others that shape the lives of all people but examine their relevance to young people.

**Course Material:**

Assigned Readings: White, Wyn, and Albanese (2011) “Youth & Society: Exploring the Social Dynamics of Youth Experience” Oxford University Press: Canadian Edition.

Additional Readings will be posted on Brightspace.

## **Communication:**

Your first sources of information are the course syllabus, attending class, and Brightspace. Students are responsible for attending class, reading the course outline in its entirety, and checking the course Brightspace site (<http://owl.uwo.ca>) on a regular basis for news and updates. These are the primary methods by which information will be disseminated to all students in the class.

If you have a question or would like to discuss course content, please speak with me before, during, or after class. Outside of class, please email me at [bkobaya@uwo.ca](mailto:bkobaya@uwo.ca) to set up a time to meet during office hours. You can expect a response within 24-48 hours on Mondays to Fridays between 9-5PM (EST). I do not respond to emails over the weekend. Prior to emailing me and/or the TA, please review the course outline, your class notes, announcements, and any other supplementary material posted on Brightspace to see if your question has already been answered.

Students are expected to adhere to professional and courteous email etiquette. Emails are to be professionally prepared, spell- and grammar-checked and not written in “text message” format. All communications must be written from your UWO account. The subject heading must read the course title and section. Sign the email with your full name and student number. Instructors and TAs reserve the right not to respond to emails that do not adhere to such practices.

## **Method of Evaluation:**

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

Assignment: worth 25% (November 13<sup>th</sup>)

Midterm Examination: worth 35% (in class October 23<sup>rd</sup>)

Final Examination: worth 40% (during final exam period)

## **Evaluation Breakdown:**

**Examination:** The midterm examination is worth 35% of your final course grade and will be held on Wednesday, October 23, 2024 during the regularly scheduled class time. The final exam is worth 40% and will be held during the final exam period. The examinations in this course will be closed book and **may** include multiple choice, true and false, fill in the blank, and/or short answer questions. The examinations will cover all material covered in the lectures, readings, and any supplementary material provided. Details regarding the exam format will be provided during the lecture before the upcoming examination date. If you do not attend these lectures, it is your responsibility to reach out to a classmate to catch up on what you have missed. Please do not email the instructor or the TA for this information as these emails may not be responded to. **N.B.** Makeup quizzes and exams are essay format (may include short and/or long-essay questions) and students will write with the Sociology Department Makeup Exam Session (date and location TBA). **Academic consideration for the midterm and final examination requires submission of formal supporting documentation provided to their Home Faculty Academic Counselling Office within 48 hours of the examination dates.** Please see Missed Examinations and Special Examination details below for additional details.

**Assignment:** There will be one assignment worth 25% of your final course grade. The deadline for this assessment is Wednesday, November 13, 2024 at 1:30PM (EST). Assignments will be submitted to Turnitin via the Assignment tab on Brightspace with a hard-copy of the assignment being submitted in person at the beginning of class on Wednesday, November 13, 2024. Students should plan to submit by the deadline, Wednesday, November 13, 2024 at 1:30 PM (EST). No late penalty, however, will be imposed for the first 96 hours after the deadline in the case of extenuating circumstances. The deadline flexibility is provided to all students enrolled in the course, including students who have accommodations with Accessibility Education. Because the submission deadline for this assessment already includes flexibility, students are not eligible to use a self-attestation accommodation. The instructor reserves the right to deny academic consideration for any assignment submitted past the flexibility window. A late penalty of 10%/day beginning Monday, November 18, 2024 at 1:30 PM (EST) will be imposed for papers submitted after the flexibility deadline (Monday, November 18, 2024 at 1:30PM (EST)). Late submissions will be submitted to Turnitin via the Assignment tab on Brightspace with a second copy sent to the Instructor and TA's email. An assignment handout will be posted on Brightspace with additional details and answers to questions being provided during our lecture times. If you do not attend these lectures, it is your responsibility to reach out to a classmate to catch up on what you have missed. Please do not email the instructor or the TA for this information as these emails may not be responded to.

### **Grading Guidelines:**

Grades (except the final exam and year-end mark) will be posted to OWL as they become available. Due to privacy regulations, I do not provide grades or discuss issues regarding grades via email. If you wish to discuss your grade(s) please contact or speak with me to set up an appointment during office hours. Final course grades will be released from the registrar and posted on your student centre.

All evaluations are guided by Western's Undergraduate Grading Guidelines:

#### **University-wide grade descriptors**

A+ 90-100: One could scarcely expect better from a student at this level

A 80-89: Superior work which is clearly above average

B 70-79: Good work, meeting all requirements, and eminently satisfactory

C 60-69: Competent work, meeting requirements

D 50-59: Fair work, minimally acceptable

F below 50: Fail

For more information about the university grading standards, see the Registrar's Handbook: Grading Standards

**N.B.** To ensure the fair treatment of all students, so that no one individual receives any consideration or special treatment as a result of verbal complaints (e.g., arbitrary bumping up of grades) that is not equally received by others, there are no make-up assignments for low evaluation scores or to enhance a final grade; nor will requests to change a grade because it is needed for a future program be considered.

## **Assessment Re-evaluation**

Any request of assessment re-evaluation is to be done within two weeks of the mark being released. The Instructor and TA reserve the right not to consider requests for re-evaluation past the two-week window. Students who seek a re-evaluation of grades must justify in detail and in writing why they feel that a mark is not justified. The request must be based on reasons rooted in the specific course content and keeping in mind my expectations for the class. The following are not grounds for a re-evaluation: the TA and/or instructor is a hard marker, the assignment was too difficult, you were disappointed with the mark because you put a lot of effort into the assignment, you need a higher grade to fulfill your grade or program requirements, among others. Students must meet with the TA who graded your assignment prior to submitting a formal request for a re-evaluation. The assessment will be re-graded in its entirety, not simply the portion the student believes were scored improperly. Note, in the course of remarking an assessment the instructor or TA may discover errors or defects that were not originally detected and as a result it is possible that a student's revised mark may go down, rather than up. The instructor reserves the right to adjust the mark both upwards and downwards. The revised mark stands. See additional information provided on the Assignment Handout for re-evaluation of assignments.

## **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.

### ***Makeup Examinations and Missed Evaluations***

Students with an approved absence from an in-class test or exam will be required to write a makeup exam. There will be **only one makeup examination** for each scheduled examination. The makeup examination for the in-class midterm examination will be held during the Department Makeup Exam scheduled on **TBA**. Failure to write the exam, without an academic accommodation, will result in a zero grade for that evaluation.

Note: missed work can only be excused through one of the mechanisms above. Being asked not to attend an in-person course requirement due to potential COVID-19 symptoms is not sufficient on its own. Students should check the Western website to see what directives for Covid are to be followed. Western has been and will continue to follow directives established by the Middlesex-London Health Unit. That directive will state whether students should or should not come to campus/class and any other requirements (e.g., masks are mandatory). Please check on your own and do not email the instructor, the Department Undergraduate Advisor/Coordinator or the Faculty of Social Science Academic Counselling Office.

### **Classroom Conduct and Additional Information:**

All students are expected to engage in a professional and respectful manner. This includes all in-person and online interactions with peers, as well as communication between TAs and your Professor. Failure to do so will result in academic discipline and/or discipline under the Student Code of Conduct. Recording of lectures or tutorials is not permitted. Some topics discussed in this course may be sensitive and students who wish to participate, share, and engage with the class should not worry they are being recorded. Recording of lectures without the explicit consent of the Professor, TA, and students enrolled in the class is grounds for academic discipline.

Class attendance is critical to getting the most of this course. While readings and lectures fit together, some material will only be covered in class. Students are responsible for everything that occurs during class time, including discussions, handouts, videos, guest speakers, etc.

I do not post or handout lecture notes. I will post powerpoint slides on Brightspace in advance of each class; however, these slides are intended only to aid in note-taking. They are not complete notes and are not a substitute for attending lectures. All course content created by a faculty member is considered the faculty member's intellectual property and may not be distributed, shared in any public domain, or sold by a student or other third part without prior written consent of the faculty member. Note, the infringement of copyright is an academic offence.

If you miss a class, are late or leave early, it is your responsibility to catch up on anything and everything that occurs during class (e.g., arrange with a classmate to exchange lecture notes,

discussions, handouts, videos, guest speakers, class announcements, etc.). It is a good idea to “buddy up” with a classmate to exchange notes.

A laptop can be an effective tool for taking notes in class. However, it is distracting to the instructor, TA, speakers, and other students when students use their laptops or cellphones to access the Internet and/or make personal calls and/or send and receive messages during lectures. Students who use their laptop and/or cellphone during the class for any reason other than to take lecture notes are considered to be engaging in disruptive behaviour under the Student Code of Conduct. Students caught violating this policy may be asked to leave the class lecture.

### **Use of AI Tools**

The use of ChatGPT or other AI services, including translation and grammar-checking tools is strictly prohibited in all assessments, including assignments, discussion forums, essays, tests, and examination. Unauthorized use of any AI services will be subject to academic discipline. By adhering to these guidelines, students contribute to a responsible and effective learning environment that promotes critical thinking, independent inquiry and all 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. High AI and/or turnitin scores will be penalized.

### **Course Schedule and Readings:**

A detailed weekly course schedule along with assigned readings will be provided in the first lecture and will also be posted on Owl.

### **Academic Policies:**

Please review the Department of Sociology “[Important Academic Policies](#)” document [https://sociology.uwo.ca/undergraduate/courses/Academic\\_Policies.pdf](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