



Sociology 2228A-001  
Social Inequality in Canada  
Fall 2024

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

<b>Course Instructor</b>	<b>Contact Information</b>
Dr. Julie McMullin	<a href="mailto:mcmullin@uwo.ca">mcmullin@uwo.ca</a> Department of Sociology

**Office Hours:** See course site

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

## COURSE DESCRIPTION

Social Inequality is the study of the causes and consequences of the unequal distribution of prestige, power, and wealth and of the ideologies used to defend and criticize inequality. This course focuses on inequality within Canadian society and its institutions.

**Antirequisite(s):** [Sociology 2239](#).

**Prerequisite(s):** None

**Course Weight:** 0.50

## COURSE OBJECTIVES AND LEARNING OUTCOMES

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

- Identify and describe sources of social inequality and their interconnections.
- Understand and critically analyze sociological theories of social inequality.
- Evaluate contradictory explanations of social inequality.
- Understand how sources of social inequality influence daily life (e.g., in families, work, health, education and the state).
- Understand and be able to communicate why social inequality is pervasive and important.

## TEXTBOOK AND OTHER RESOURCES

***Understanding Social Inequality: Intersections of Class, Age, Gender, Ethnicity, and Race in Canada***, 3<sup>rd</sup> Edition by Julie McMullin and Josh Curtis, Don Mills, Ontario: Oxford University Press.

Information about purchasing or renting the book is available at the following link.

[https://bookstore.uwo.ca/textbook-search?campus=UWO&term=W2024A&courses%5B0%5D=001\\_UW/SOC2228A](https://bookstore.uwo.ca/textbook-search?campus=UWO&term=W2024A&courses%5B0%5D=001_UW/SOC2228A)

**Additional readings and course material will be posted on the OWL site.**

## COMMUNICATION

Students are responsible for checking the course OWL Brightspace site (<https://westernnu.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.

The best way to reach me is through email ([mcmullin@uwo.ca](mailto:mcmullin@uwo.ca)). I will endeavour to reply to messages within 24 hours between Monday and Friday and within 48 hours on Saturday and Sunday.

## 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 <b>2024</b>	Topics/Readings	Activity/Deadlines
1	Sept. 11	<b><i>Why study social inequality?</i></b> Mc&C, Preface, Part 1, & Chapter 1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Read the syllabus</li> <li>• Complete the readings</li> <li>• Complete the online lessons</li> <li>• Begin reading newspaper articles</li> </ul>
2	Sept. 18	<b><i>Why is Social Class important?</i></b> Mc&C Chapter 2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Complete the readings</li> <li>• Complete the online lessons</li> <li>• Select newspaper article for assignment 1.</li> </ul>
3	Sept. 25	<b><i>Why is Gender important?</i></b> Mc&C Chapter 3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Complete the readings</li> <li>• Complete the online lessons</li> <li>•</li> </ul>
4	Oct. 2	<b><i>Why do Race &amp; Ethnicity matter?</i></b> Mc&C Chapter 4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Complete the readings</li> <li>• Complete the online lessons</li> <li>• Work on your assignment</li> </ul>
5	Oct. 9	<b><i>Why should we care about Age?</i></b> Mc&C Chapter 5	<p><b>Newspaper article elevator pitch due-see OWL for details.</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Complete the readings</li> <li>• Complete the online lessons</li> </ul>

	<b>Oct. 16</b>	<b>READING WEEK</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Rest and get caught up on readings and other course work.</li> </ul>
6	Oct. 23	<b><i>Is it really individual choice that leads to social inequality?</i></b> Mc&C, Chapter 6	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Complete the readings</li> <li>Complete the online lessons</li> </ul> <p>Assignment 1 Part 2 due-See OWL for details.</p>
7	Oct. 30	<b><i>Understanding Social Inequality</i></b> Mc&C, Chapter 7	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Complete the readings</li> <li>Complete the online lessons</li> </ul>
8	Nov. 6	<b><i>Inequality in Families?</i></b> Mc&C Chapter 8	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Complete the readings</li> <li>Complete the online lessons</li> </ul>
9	Nov. 13	<b><i>How does inequality influence paid work?</i></b> Mc&C Chapter 9	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Complete the readings</li> <li>Complete the online lessons</li> </ul>
10	Nov. 20	<b><i>Are our education systems fair?</i></b> Mc&C Chapter 10	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Complete the readings</li> <li>Complete the online lessons</li> </ul> <p>Major assignment uploaded to OWL on Nov. 20</p>
11	Nov. 27	<b><i>Who is unhealthy and why?</i></b> Mc&C Chapter 11	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Complete the readings</li> <li>Complete the online lessons</li> </ul>
12	Dec. 4	<b><i>How does the state influence inequality?</i></b> Mc&C Chapters 12 & 13	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Complete the readings</li> <li>Complete the online lessons</li> </ul> <p>Finish assignment and submit to OWL.</p>

## ONLINE LESSONS

This course requires students to complete online lessons which involves writing answers to weekly questions. Completion of these lessons will count toward your participation grades. 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.

Students are expected to attend all classes and to come to class prepared to critically discuss the readings and other course material.

Students are expected to submit each assignment by the deadline listed. Should illness or extenuating circumstances arise, students are permitted to submit their assignment up to 72 hours past the deadline without academic penalty. Should students submit their assessment beyond 72 hours past the deadline, a late penalty of 5% per day will be subtracted from the assessed grade. **As flexible deadlines are used in this course, requests for academic consideration will not be granted.**

<b>Evaluation Component</b>	<b>Brief Description</b>	<b>Due Date</b>	<b>Percentage of Grade</b>
Participation	Answer weekly lesson questions on Owl Brightspace course site. Answers are due two days before class, but the forms	<b>On-going</b>	20%

	<p>will be open for an additional week.</p> <p>Attend class.</p> <p>Complete online lessons. Discuss answers to lesson questions in class.</p>		
Assignment #1	<p>Newspaper Article Assignment. This is a two-part assignment. For Part 1, students are required to video record a 30 second elevator pitch about a chosen news article. These must be uploaded to the OWL Brightspace Course site. This is worth 30% of the grade for this assignment.</p> <p>Part 2 is a written component of 500 words worth 70 percent of the assignment grade. This must be uploaded to the OWL Brightspace Course site.</p>	<p><b>Part 1: October 9<sup>th</sup></b></p> <p><b>Part 2: October 23, 2024</b></p>	30%
Major Assignment	<p>An assignment to demonstrate the skills and knowledge you have gained throughout the course. It is a written assignment of 2000 words. You will have 2 weeks to complete this assignment. Your answers will be submitted through</p>	<p><b>December 4, 2024</b> (the assignment will be uploaded to OWL on November 20, 2024)</p>	50%

	<p>OWL. It is expected that you will spend approximately 10 hours writing this assignment. You will be expected to respond to the questions using the assigned course materials and your class notes. The assignment will be comprised of 2-4 essay questions.</p>		
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**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. [Required] 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](#)" 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