



The University of Western Ontario  
**SOCIOLOGY 2279A-001**  
**Unequal Cities**  
**Fall 2024**

**Delivery Method: In-person**

**Instructor:** Dr. Lora A. Phillips

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

**Course Description:** This course examines inequality by exploring how it occurs across cities and how different social groups experience cities unequally by examining class, race, ethnicity, immigration status, gender, and sexuality. It also examines how urban social problems, such as poverty, homelessness or gentrification reflect and generate urban inequality.

**Prerequisite(s):** None.

**Anti-requisite(s):** None.

**Communication:**

Office hours: Wednesdays from 12pm to 1pm or by appointment (SSC 5401). Email: [lphill33@uwo.ca](mailto:lphill33@uwo.ca). Emails received after normal business hours (i.e., 9am to 4pm, Monday through Friday) may not be replied to until the next business day, and students should plan accordingly ahead of evaluation dates. Additionally, email is not suitable for questions requiring considerable exposition; these questions are suited for in-person exchange during office hours. Office hours are drop-in and first come, first serve. 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.

Midterm	October 23, 2024	35%
Reading Checks	Throughout term*	10%
Apply It!	Throughout term*	20%
Final	Exam period	35%

\*See below for additional information regarding due dates and grading.

### ***Midterm***

The midterm will be administered **during the first 90 minutes of class on October 23**. The test will consist of 90 questions, predominantly in a multiple-choice format (with four response options per question). The Midterm may also contain true or false questions, not to exceed one-fourth of all questions. Course material from Weeks 1-5 will be eligible for testing, with 70% of questions coming from lectures and 30% of questions coming from readings. No electronic devices, books, cheat sheets, dictionaries or aids are permitted during the examination.

Per university policy on academic considerations (found [here](#)), requests for academic consideration related to the midterm **must** follow the procedures enumerated in the Student Absences section of this syllabus. Instructors are permitted to designate one assessment, per course, per term as requiring supporting documentation to receive academic consideration. For this course, the Midterm 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 exam period (location and date TBD).

### ***Final***

The final will be administered **during the Final Exam period**, with the date and location determined by the registrar's office. Students will have 90 minutes to answer 90 questions, predominantly in a multiple-choice format (with four response options per question); however, the exam may also contain true or false questions, not to exceed one-fourth of all questions. The Final will be cumulative, but there will be a greater focus on material covered after the Midterm, with 70% of questions coming from lectures and 30% of questions coming from readings. No electronic devices, books, cheat sheets, dictionaries or aids are permitted during the examination.

Per university policy on academic considerations (found [here](#)), requests for academic consideration related to the midterm **must** follow the procedures enumerated in the Student Absences section of this syllabus. Please note that: "Requests for examinations scheduled by the Office of the Registrar during official examination periods . . . **ALWAYS** require formal supporting documentation." Students with an approved absence from the Final will be required to write a makeup exam during the departmental Final make-up exam period (location and date TBD).

### ***Reading Checks***

This course has ten (10) **in-class** reading checks, which will be administered and marked using iClicker. Each reading check will consist of one (1) multiple-choice question related to the materials assigned for that class period (see Course Schedule and Readings section below). Although the reading checks will be open-book and open-note, each reading check must be completed within five (5) minutes. As such, students are **strongly encouraged** to familiarize themselves with the materials ahead of class.

Of the ten (10) in-class reading checks, the **eight (8)** with the highest mark will be counted towards the final grade. If a student misses more than two (2) reading checks, they will receive a grade of zero on each additional missed reading check. If a student attending class experiences a technological issue with iClicker that prevents them from completing a reading check, the student **must** speak to the instructor prior to the end of the same class period. No other academic consideration will be granted for missed reading checks.

### ***Apply It!***

This course has four (4) Apply It! assignments. For each assignment, students are expected to select a course concept and (a) thoroughly and accurately define, summarize, and explain that concept (based on course lecture and readings), and (b) thoroughly and accurately apply that concept to a real-world scenario. Students are free to use a wide range of application material, including (but not limited to): their own direct observation of the world, television, movies, news articles, podcasts, videos, social media postings, or scholarly works.

Typed responses should use 12-point font and consist of at least one double-spaced page with one-inch margins and standard line and paragraph spacing. Students must also include a references page and use American Sociological Association (ASA) referencing style, and this references page **does not** count toward the assignment length requirement. Assignments must be submitted via OWL Brightspace in either Microsoft Word or .pdf format.

Of the four (4) Apply It! assignments, the **three (3)** with the highest mark will be counted toward the final grade. If a student misses more than one (1) Apply It!, they will receive a grade of zero for additional each missed assignment. Each Apply It! assignment may be submitted early; however, each is due by its respective due date (see below). Any assignment submitted after its associated due date will receive an automatic 10% penalty. If an assignment is submitted more than one full week late, an additional 10% penalty will apply. Please note that, because each Apply It! may be submitted early, and because only three (3) out of four (4) Apply It! assignments are required in the calculation of the final course grade, no other academic consideration will be granted for missed assignments.

Apply It! Option 1: **Due** Wednesday, September 25, by 1:30pm, for materials covered in Weeks 1 – 2

Apply It! Option 2: **Due** Wednesday, October 23, by 1:30pm, for materials covered in Weeks 3 – 5

Apply It! Option 3: **Due** Wednesday, November 20, by 1:30pm, for materials covered in Weeks 9 – 10

Apply It! Option 4: **Due** Wednesday, December 4, by 1:30pm, for materials covered in Weeks 11 – 12

### **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.

### **Academic Policies:**

#### ***Artificial Intelligence***

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

#### ***Lectures and Course Materials***

Instructor-generated course materials (e.g., handouts, notes, summaries, exam questions, etc.) are protected by law and may not be copied or distributed in any form or in any medium without explicit permission of the instructor. Note that infringement of copyright is an academic offence.

#### ***Recording Lectures***

Recording lectures is not permitted. Some of the topics we discuss may be sensitive. If students choose to share personal stories or experiences, they should not worry that they are being recorded. If you require a recording device for medical or other reasons, please see me.

#### ***Electronic Devices***

All types of technology are welcome in my class, but they must not interfere with my lecture or distract other students. Please note, research suggests students do better when taking notes by hand. If your electronic device distracts me or another student, you will be asked to put it away and not permitted to use them for the remainder of the class. Cell phones should be turned to silent at the beginning of class.

#### ***Extra Credit***

Extra credit will be offered at my discretion. In the rare event that extra credit is offered, it will never be offered on an individual basis; all extra credit opportunities will be offered to the entire class.

#### ***Additional Important 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