



The University of Western Ontario
SOCIOLOGY 3303F-001
Global Issues and Social Change

Winter 2025

In person

Instructor: Dr. Jasmine Ha

Department of Sociology

Email:jasmine.ha@uwo.ca

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

Course Description: This course examines the issues and theories that shape contemporary globalization and social change. It covers the substantive topics of global development, inequality and poverty, international migration and transnationalism, cyber security and “fake news”, the rise of fundamentalisms and 'anti-globalization' backlash, as well as global coordination on issues like climate change and sustainable development.

Prerequisite(s): None

Anti-requisite(s): Sociology 3364F/G if taken in 2022-23, Sociology 3378F/G, Sociology 3318F/G.

Course Objectives and Learning Outcomes:

By the end of the course, students will be able to:

- Synthesize and critically evaluate theoretical arguments and published research from a sociological perspective.
- Critically assess social institutions, social processes, social relations, and various dimensions of global issues and social change from a sociological perspective.
- Demonstrate an ability to present and discuss ideas clearly and articulately through effective oral and written communication.
- Develop important research skills, including conducting effective literature review, documenting and organizing evidence, and incorporating feedbacks in their research writings.

Course Material:

Students are required to purchase a course-pack from Harvard Business Publishing (approx. \$25-35 CAD). More information will be provided, as we will use the course-pack from Week 4 onward.

Other selected readings posted on the OWL Brightspace course website. To access them, please make sure you are enrolled on the course website through OWL.

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.

How to contact me:

By email: jasmine.ha@uwo.ca and office hours. Note that email is not suitable for questions requiring considerable exposition. These questions are suited for in-person exchange during office hours (drop-in hours on Mondays and by appointment).

Communication Guidelines & Expectations:

- Messages and email will be returned within 48 business hours (unless announced otherwise). That means you may not receive a response during the evening or on the weekend.
- Be patient, avoid emailing multiple times.
- Make sure your tone and correspondence in all communication are professional

Method of Evaluation:

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

Participation 15%

Discussion facilitation 20%

Course Project (65% Total)

- Proposal (due Jan 29) 15%
- Outline (due Mar 19) 5%
- 3M Presentation (Mar 26 or April 2) 15%
- Final Paper (due Friday, April 4) 30%

Participation (15%). Class attendance and participation are important to learning. Class attendance is expected, and it is important to come to class with some notes and reflections on the readings. Students will receive up to 1.5% for participation in the 10 class meetings, excluding the first week and the reading week. As a universal accommodation, students may miss one week of class without any penalty, no question asked. This rule does not apply to the weeks when their contribution will be graded (e.g., when students are assigned to facilitate discussions or the 3M presentation).

A 3-point rating scale will be used to evaluate your level of participation:

- A rating of 3 will be given to students facilitating the discussion in the given week, as well as non-presenting students who proactively help drive the discussion.
- A rating of 2 will be given to non-presenting students who engage in the discussion in a reactive fashion, e.g., by offering responses when called.
- A rating of 1 will be given to non-presenting students who show up but do not engage in the discussion, e.g., by offering a “Don’t know” response when called.

Please note that academic consideration will not be granted for missed participation. If students miss 1/11 classes, the remaining 10 grades will be used in the calculation of the final grade. If students miss more than 2 classes, they will receive a grade of zero on each missed class. Please note, because not all elements of this assessment are required in the calculation of the final course grade, the instructor reserves the right to deny academic consideration for these missed elements.

Discussion Facilitation (20%). Students will work in groups to facilitate class discussion once from Week 4 to Week 11. Students will have the opportunity to select a specific week on Wednesday (Jan 15 - Week 2). Discussion Facilitation includes 1) delivering a short presentation of the selected reading, and 2) leading the discussion following the presentation (posing 4-5 prepared discussion questions to the class). Students must send the prepared discussion materials to the instructor by Tuesday at noon of the assigned week. Additional details will be provided during the first and second class.

Course Project (65% total). The course project is designed for students to conduct their own sociological investigation (through library research and descriptive analysis of existing data) and learn to reflect on the evidence relative to their research question(s) on any topic relevant to global issues and social change. There will be two assignments associated with the final paper:

- **Proposal (15%)** due on Wednesday Jan 29th, 2025, at 11:55 PM. Each student will submit a 1-2 pages single-spaced proposal outlining: (1) the specific questions they will address in the final report; (2) up to three key references; and (3) an initial plan for their report (e.g., format, data source, type of analysis). The student is also required to sign up for a specific time to meet with the instructor/TA to discuss feedback on their proposal in a 15-minute meeting. We will send a list of available meeting times. The grade will be 10% for the written proposal and 5% for the meeting.
- **Outline (5%)** due on Wednesday Mar 19th, 2025, at 11:55 PM. Each student will submit an outline in max 2 pages (bullet-points are acceptable) of the final report to the instructor. The instructor will share this with all students in the class so everyone coming to the 3M presentation can have an idea of your project. This is worth 5% of the grade.
- **3M Presentation (15%)** will be held in-class on two days: Mar 26th and Apr 2nd, 2025. Each student will have three minutes to present the highlight(s) of their project. This will be followed by a brief Q&A to gather feedback from classmates and the instructor.

Please note that because the 3M presentation already includes flexibility in the form of two different dates to complete the assessment, the instructor reserves the right to deny academic consideration following the end of the period of flexibility. There will be no additional class time allocated to complete the 3M presentation. Students who do not complete the 3M presentation will receive a zero on this component.

- **Final Report (30%)** due Friday, Apr 4th, 2025, at 11:55PM. Students may choose from a variety of formats, e.g., research paper, policy brief, executive summary, or infographic. In the longest written form (research paper), the maximum word-count is 2500 words (approximately 10 pages, double-spaced), excluding the cover page, bibliography, tables, and figures.

This course is designated as writing-intensive, and the most important thing to learn in such a course is to incorporate feedback to improve your research project. Accordingly, students are required to modify and

improve the final project based on feedback received from the 3M presentation, including both the instructor's and peer feedback.

Please note that the submission deadline for all written component of the Course project (Proposal, Outline, Final Paper) includes flexibility in the form of a 48-hour grace period. For each component, students are expected to submit the assignment by the deadline listed. Flexible deadlines means that:

- 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 work beyond 48 hours past the deadline, a late penalty of 10% per one 24-hour period will be subtracted from the assessed grade.
- Late assignments will not be accepted after 7 full days (or 168 hours) from the original due date, and students will receive a zero grade for the component.

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

Extra Credits (3%). I am eager to learn about your learning journeys! You can submit a short reflection (300-500 words) to describe a key learning moment for 3% of the final course grade as extra credits in Week 13. Detailed guidelines will be discussed 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 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:

Scholastic Offences: Scholastic offences are taken seriously and students are directed to read the appropriate policy, specifically, the definition of what constitutes a Scholastic Offence, at the following web site:

https://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/scholastic_discipline_undergrad.pdf

Plagiarism: Students must write their assignments in their own words. Whenever students take an idea from another author, they must acknowledge their debt both by using quotation marks where appropriate and by proper referencing such as footnotes or citations. Plagiarism is a major scholastic offence.

All required papers may be subject to submission for textual similarity review to the commercial plagiarism detection software under license to the University for detection of plagiarism. All papers submitted for such checking will be included as source documents in the reference database for the purpose of detecting plagiarism of papers subsequently submitted to the system. Use of the service is subject to the licensing agreement, currently between The University of Western Ontario and Turnitin.com (<https://www.turnitin.com/>).

Students are expected to retain all research notes, rough drafts, essay outlines, and other materials used in preparing assignments. In the unlikely event of concerns being raised about the authenticity of any assignment, your instructor may ask you to produce these materials; an inability to do so may weigh heavily against you.

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.

Copyright: Students may not record or distribute any class activity, including conversations during office hours, without written permission from the instructor, except as necessary as part of approved accommodations for students with disabilities. Any approved recordings may only be used for the student's own private use.

Absence from Course Commitments: Students must familiarize themselves with the Policy on Academic Consideration – Undergraduate Students in First Entry Programs

https://uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/academic_consideration_Sep24.pdf

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 in the course outline. 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 https://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/medicalform.pdf or, where that is not possible, equivalent documentation by a health care practitioner.

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 Academic Counselling Office.

Missed Tests and Exams: Students with an approved absence from an in-class test will be required to write a make-up test. 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 professors may not be available to respond to questions during the make-up test/exam slots.

Students with an approved absence from a final exam in December or April will be required to write a makeup exam known as a Special Examination. Permission to write a Special Examination may be granted on the basis of compassionate or medical grounds with appropriate supporting documentation provided to the student's Home Faculty Academic Counselling office.

Students who fail to write a make-up test or special examination will receive a grade of zero on that assessment. No other make-up opportunities will be provided unless further academic consideration is granted by the student's Home Faculty Academic Counselling office.

Religious Accommodation: Students should review the policy for [Accommodation for Religious Holidays](#) . Where a student will be unable to write examinations and term tests due to a conflicting religious holiday, they should inform their instructors as soon as possible but not later than two weeks prior to writing the examination/term test. In the case of conflict with a midterm test, students should inform their instructor as soon as possible but not later than one week prior to the midterm.

Contingency plan for an in-person class pivoting to 100% online learning: In the event of a COVID-19 resurgence during the course that necessitates the course delivery moving away from face-to-face interaction, affected course content will be delivered entirely online, either synchronously (i.e., at the times indicated in the timetable) or asynchronously (e.g., posted on OWL Brightspace for students to view at their convenience). The grading scheme will **not** change. Any remaining assessments will also be conducted online as determined by the course instructor.

Accessibility Options: Students with disabilities or accessibility challenges should work with Accessible Education (formerly SSD) http://academicsupport.uwo.ca/accessible_education/index.html, which provides recommendations for accommodation based on medical documentation or psychological and

cognitive testing. The accommodation policy can be found here:

https://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/Academic%20Accommodation_disabilities.pdf . Information regarding accommodation of exams is available on the Registrar's website: www.registrar.uwo.ca/academics/examinations/accommodated_exams.html .

Mental Health: Students who are in emotional/mental distress should refer to Mental Health@Western <https://www.uwo.ca/uwocom/mentalhealth> for a complete list of options about how to obtain help.

Gender-Based and Sexual Violence: Western is committed to reducing incidents of gender-based and sexual violence (GBSV) and providing compassionate support to anyone who is going 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 .

Additional resources:

Registrar Services <http://www.registrar.uwo.ca>

Student Support Services <http://westernusc.ca/services>

Course Selection: Students are responsible for ensuring that their selection of courses is appropriate and accurately recorded, that all course prerequisites have been successfully completed, and that they are aware of any antirequisite courses they may have taken.

If a student enrolls in a course for which they do not have the prerequisites, they may be removed from the course and have it deleted from their record. This decision may not be appealed. A student will receive no adjustment to their fees in the event that they are dropped from a course for failing to have the necessary prerequisites.

If a student takes a course that is antirequisite to a course previously taken, they will lose credit for the earlier course, regardless of the grade achieved in the most recent course.

Please visit your Home Faculty Academic Counselling webpage for information on adding/dropping courses, academic considerations for absences, appeals, exam conflicts, and many other academic related matters: https://registrar.uwo.ca/faculty_academic_counselling.html .

Bookstore: Search for Textbook availability and cost <https://bookstore.uwo.ca/textbook-search>