



The University of Western Ontario
SOCIOLOGY 3321G-001
Identity & Society
Winter 2025
In-Person

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

Course Description: An in-depth analysis of social psychological theories of identity, with an emphasis on the social factors influencing the formation and maintenance of various forms of identity.

Prerequisite(s): Registration in third year or above.

Anti-requisite(s): N/A

Course Objectives and Learning Outcomes:

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

- Demonstrate knowledge of the social psychological research and theories of identity across multiple levels of analysis.
- Identify the historical roots, strengths, and limitations of contemporary “identity politics” discourse.
- Apply conventions of scholarly criticism and argumentation in various contexts including online and classroom discussion and textual interpretation.
- Summarize and critically analyze a book-length work of social scientific research on identity.

Course Material:

Reading assignments will consist of articles, book chapters, and knowledge mobilization resources. The main reference text for this course is:

Cote, J.E., & Levine, C. (2015). *Identity Formation, Youth, and Development: A Simplified Approach* (1st ed.). Psychology Press.

Links to PDFs, websites, and library resources will be provided via Brightspace/Perusall.

You will also be required to review one of four books for the Course Paper assignment (see below).

Communication:

Students are responsible for checking the course OWL Brightspace site (<https://westernu.brightspace.com/d21/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.

Course Paper: 33% of course mark

The course paper will consist of a book review and a critical analysis relating to identity. Students will write a 9-10 page paper that critically analyzes one of the following books:

Elite Capture: How the Powerful Took Over Identity Politics — Olúfẹ́ mi O. Táíwò

Angry White Men: American Masculinity at the End of an Era — Michael Kimmel

The Art of Loving — Erich Fromm

Doppelganger: A Trip into the Mirror World — Naomi Klein

Full instructions and grading rubric for this assignment will be provided on OWL, but please note: the paper will require you to not simply summarize the book's content but also to accurately explain the author's arguments and then to discuss the sociological implications of their analyses. You are encouraged to begin reading early and to consult with me often about the material. You are also encouraged to use the course lectures and readings to augment your understanding of the theorist's work, and vice versa.

Students seeking written feedback on their paper must submit a hard copy of their paper in class on Week 12 (April 3). Otherwise, the final due date for this assignment is April 4, 11:59pm.

Important Notes:

- Papers *must* be supported with embedded citations and a complete References page in accordance with either APA or ASA style guidelines.
- Your assignment must receive at least 50% in order to pass the course.
- Also, this is stated in the "Artificial Intelligence" section below but let me emphasize in this section as well: students will be expected to complete this assignment independently, without the aid of AI software, and to complete all written components using their own words. This course engages your capacity to wield *real* intelligence—creative, explanatory, theoretical, improbable. As [Chomsky, Roberts, and Watumull illuminate here](#), reliance on AI algorithms such as ChatGPT is inimical to that pursuit.

Final Exam — 30%

The Final Exam will be worth 30% of the final mark. It will be administered during the Final Exam period. The exam may consist of multiple choice, concept identification, short answer questions, argument summaries, and/or short essays. A specific breakdown of these components will be provided prior to the exam.

Use of electronic devices and other written aids (notes, outlines, etc.) will not be permitted during the examination unless otherwise stated. Students with an approved accommodations for the final exam will be required to write a makeup exam during the **departmental Final Exam make-up period** (Location TBA). 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 test will not necessarily be in the same format, be of the same duration, or cover the same material as the original test.

Students must complete the Final Exam to pass the course.

Note: 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.

Participation — 17% (5% Exit Tickets/Exit Tickets, 12% Perusall Participation)

Participation will be assessed cumulatively throughout the term. 5% of the course grade will be based on attendance consisting of weekly Exit Tickets, each worth 0.5% of the course grade. This mode of evaluation will begin in Week 2. Students who attend fewer than 66% of class meetings may be required to submit a written report demonstrating that they have obtained sufficient knowledge of the course materials to justify a passing grade.

During each week's readings, students will use the Perusall platform to comment on key passages, pose questions about the readings, and interact with peers who are doing the same. Each of these weekly "assignments" will be due by Thursday night, 11:59pm. However, this is mainly to allow for follow-up discussions after class — students arrive in class having completed all readings, and should be prepared to participate actively in lecture and discussions. Each assignment will be graded individually using the platform's proprietary algorithm which ensures fairness and consistency. Students' grades in this section of the course will be based on the consistency, quantity, quality, depth, and completeness of your engagement with the week's materials. I will provide further explanation of these standards on Week 1.

Students will be expected to participate in at least seven (7) of these weekly "assignments"—that is, the grade will consist of each student's top six Perusall marks in the term.

Critical Analysis Responses — 20%

Class meetings will feature discussion questions relating to the week's topic. Throughout the term, students will submit written responses to these discussion questions within four days of the class meeting (Mondays 11:59pm). Two responses will be due before Reading Week and two after. Responses that earn full marks will be approximately 400-550 words (2-4 paragraphs) in length and will directly address the question, the assigned materials for the week (including appropriate references), and other assignment conventions outlined in the rubric and instructions posted to Brightspace. They will also follow relevant conventions for ASA or APA style citations.

A 24-hour grace period will be in place to accommodate minor logistical problems, then late assignments will be deducted 5% per day. Assignments will not be accepted 72 hours past the original

deadline—students will instead have to choose a different topic. It is each student’s responsibility to ensure that they complete all work within the requisite time frames. Accommodations for “make-up” assignments or submissions on past weeks will be made only under extenuating (and officially documented) circumstances.

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:

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

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>

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