



The University of Western Ontario  
**SOCIOLOGY 3346F-200**  
**Sociology of Mental Health**  
**Fall 2024**

**Delivery Method - Blended**

**Instructor:** Dr. Willson

**Office Hours:** By appointment

**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 offers an overview of the ways a sociological perspective informs our understanding of mental health. It explores various definitions, theories, and forms of mental illness, our responses to mental illness, and how social factors affect mental disorder. We will examine social inequalities in mental health and resources important for mental health over the life course. A special emphasis will be placed on understanding how Sociological research related to mental health can help improve the lives of individuals living with mental disorders.

***Prerequisite(s):*** 1.0 from Sociology courses at the 1000 level, and third or fourth year standing in a module in Criminology, Criminal Justice, or Sociology.

Unless you have either the prerequisites or written special permission from your Dean to enroll in the course, you may be removed from this course and it will be deleted from your record. The decision may not be appealed. You will receive no adjustment to your fees in the event that you are dropped from a course for failing to have the necessary prerequisites.

***Anti-requisite(s):*** [Sociology 3385F/G](#), if taken at Brescia in 2014-15.

**Course Objectives and Learning Outcomes:**

- Understand, evaluate, critique, and apply the key theoretical and conceptual frameworks used in the Sociology of Mental Health
- Identify, explain, and engage with the key themes and debates in the Sociology of Mental Health
- Develop and apply critical writing skills related to the Sociology of Mental Health
- Write a paper that clearly utilizes class concepts and makes an evidence-based, sociological argument related to the Sociology of Mental Health

**Course Material:**

There is no textbook for this course; all required readings are available electronically. Technical requirements for the course: stable internet connection, computer with working microphone and/or webcam.

## **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. The professor will also email course information using the email address provided in OWL Brightspace.

## **Method of Evaluation:**

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

<b>Assignment</b>	<b>Percentage</b>	<b>Due Date</b>
Midterm	35%	October 28, 2024, 9:30 a.m.
Analytic Essays, 2	15% each	See below
Final Paper	35%	November 25, 2024, 11:59 p.m.

### ***Analytic Essay Assignments (2)***

Students will critically analyze a piece of popular media or culture, or public service announcement, applying theories and concepts from the course material. Further instruction will be provided in class. Minimum word count for each essay: 750 words. Due date: the first essay may be submitted at any point before October 20<sup>th</sup> at 11:59 p.m. The second essay may be submitted at any point before November 18, 11:59 p.m.

Please note that because the submission deadlines for these assessments already includes flexibility, the instructor reserves the right to deny academic consideration for assignments which are submitted following the final deadline for each assignment. Should students submit their assessment beyond 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.

### ***Midterm Exam***

The exam will consist of multiple-choice and short essay questions covering the lectures, films, and reading assignments. You are responsible for all the material in the assigned readings even if this material is not covered in class. The exam will be administered in class and is 2 hours in length. No aids or electronic devices will be allowed during examinations.

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.

\*Instructors are permitted to designate one assessment per course per term as requiring supporting documentation to receive academic consideration. For this course the Midterm Exam has been designated as requiring supporting documentation.

### ***Final Paper***

Students will analyze real-world problems and policy applications related to mental health in Canada using theories and concepts from course material and additional academic research. Detailed instructions will be provided in class. Minimum word count: 2,500 words. Due November 25, 2024, 5:00 p.m. The assignment will be submitted in the OWL Brightspace course site, including Turnitin.com for plagiarism checking.

Please note that because the submission deadline for this assessment, November 25, 5:00 p.m., includes flexibility in the form of 3 grace days, the instructor reserves the right to deny academic consideration for assignments which are submitted following the end of the period of flexibility. Students are expected to submit the assignment by the deadline listed. Should illness or extenuating circumstances arise, or if students have accommodation for flexible deadlines through Accessible Education, students are permitted to submit their assignment up to 72 hours past the deadline without academic penalty. Should students submit their assignment beyond 72 hours past the deadline, a late penalty of 5% per day will be subtracted from the assessed grade. Assignments submitted after the grace period will receive no written feedback. As flexible deadlines are used in this course, requests for academic consideration will not be granted.

### **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.

### **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.

### **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. Written assignments should reflect the student's own thoughts and independent written work. These assessments are designed to evaluate your individual understanding of the course material and your ability to engage in sociological reasoning independently. 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 allow 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.

### **Academic Policies:**

Please review the Department of Sociology "[Important Academic Policies](https://sociology.uwo.ca/undergraduate/courses/Academic_Policies.pdf)" 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

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

Provided in OWL Brightspace