



The University of Western Ontario  
**SOCIOLOGY 4471F-200**  
The Sociology of Climate Change  
Fall 2024

Delivery Method – Blended

**\*See Zoom tab in OWL for class meeting links\***

**Instructor:** Dr. Kim Shuey

Office Hours: by appointment via Zoom

**Email:** kshuey@uwo.ca

---

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

**Course Description:** This course will explore the root causes of anthropogenic climate change. Topics include environmental ethics and activist movements, conceptualizing human/nature relations, cultural perceptions of climate change, and transitioning to a post-carbon society.

**Prerequisite(s):** Registration in third year or above in any Department of Sociology module, or fourth year in any module.

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 4485F/G taught in 2020/2021

**Course Objectives and Learning Outcomes:**

- \* Demonstrate an understanding of the social dimensions of climate change from a sociological perspective.
- \* Critically evaluate theoretical arguments and current research related to society's role in climate change and other environmental issues.
- \* Analyze the relationships between social forces, social institutions and climate change
- \* Develop critical and creative thinking & writing skills
- \* Develop presentation skills (clearly express ideas and arguments orally & lead discussions)
- \* Develop the ability to present and discuss ideas clearly and articulately through effective oral and written communication.

**Course Material:**

**Technical Requirements:** Stable internet connection, computer with working microphone and webcam.

**Required Text(s):** Articles and other materials used in this course will be publicly available or available through Western libraries and/or through OWL.

**Communication:**

Students are responsible for checking the course OWL Brightspace site (<https://westernu.brightspace.com/d2l/login>) and their Western email 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.

Contact me via email at [kshuey@uwo.ca](mailto:kshuey@uwo.ca)

**Method of Evaluation:**

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

**Evaluation Breakdown:**

Class participation	15%
3 Reflections	30%
Class presentation and discussion leader	15%
Final project, due November 26 <sup>th</sup> , 11:59pm	40%

**1. Class participation (15%)**

This course is organized as a seminar. Class periods will include a mix of lecture and student-led discussion. It is critical that everyone read the assigned readings each week and come to class ready to actively participate in the discussion. The more you participate, the more you will get from the class and the more interesting it will be for all of us. Participation will be evaluated on both the quality and frequency of contribution.

**2. Reflections (30% = 3 x 10%) due prior to class meeting**

Over the course of the semester, students will submit 3 written reflection papers on the assigned articles for that week (approximately 2-3 double-spaced pages). *The discussion leader cannot submit a Reflection on the week they present.* Students will not just summarize the articles, but will reflect on how they 1) relate to the topic of the day or other topics covered in the course and/or 2) how they relate to current events as covered in the media. Reflection papers should be submitted to the OWL course website by class time on the day they are due.

**NOTE:** Please note that flexibility is built into the reflection assignments. Students will *choose 3 out of 10* weeks to submit reflection papers on the topic and readings covered that week. If submission one week is not possible due to illness or extenuating circumstances, students can choose to instead write and submit a reflection on one of the other upcoming weeks. It is therefore strongly recommended that students do not choose to wait until the last few weeks of class to write reflections. Because of this flexibility, and that reflections are tied to weekly class discussions, *due dates and times listed are firm* and requests for academic consideration will not be granted.

### **3. Class presentation and discussion leader (15%)**

Each student will be required to present orally on one of the readings assigned in a given week. The purpose of the presentation is not to provide simply a summary of the reading to the class, but to also raise questions for class discussion through a critical analysis. Prepare for a 15-minute presentation and to lead class discussion on the reading. *Students will submit their notes/slides following their presentation, under the Assignments tab in OWL.*

**NOTE:** Instructors are permitted to designate one assessment per course per term as requiring supporting documentation to receive academic consideration. For this course, the class presentation and discussion leader component has been designated as **requiring supporting documentation**. This is an important component of the class, and an absence will impact the learning of the other students in the class. Presentation dates are chosen by students at the beginning of the term, and as a result, this assignment cannot be rescheduled. Those with approved medical accommodation for absence will be required to present to the instructor at a later time scheduled outside of class meeting in order to make-up this assignment.

### **4. Final project (40%) – Due November 26th, 11:59 pm**

The final paper should be between 3000-3500 words in length, double-spaced, 12-point Times New Roman font, including references (12-15 pages). The assignment will be submitted to the OWL course site, including Turnitin.com for plagiarism checking. References should follow [ASA formatting](#).

**NOTE:** 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 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.

### **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.

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

Discussed in class and posted on OWL

### **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, written assignments and/or lab reports should reflect the student's own thoughts and independent 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 all 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