



The University of Western Ontario  
**SOCIOLOGY 1025A-650**

**Society & You**  
**Distance Studies**

**May 6-June 14, 2024,**  
**Delivery Method: online**

**Instructor:** Lauren Barr

**Office Hours:** by appointment

**Email:** [lbarr2@uwo.ca](mailto:lbarr2@uwo.ca)

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**Course Description:**

The sociological imagination helps us see how society shapes our lives and how we, as individuals, can change society. It also helps us understand the relationship between problems we face as individuals and issues in society. Throughout the term we will focus on three core themes: inequality, institutions, and social change.

In modern Canadian society, most people believe that individuals shape their own destiny. And, to a certain extent that is true – we, as individuals, make decisions every day that shape the kind of life we lead. You made decisions about if you would attend university, how hard to work in your classes, where to live when attending school, and the type of summer job that you want. But, of course, you do not get to make those decisions just as you choose. Together, we will learn about how individual choices (sometimes called agency) are structured in society.

Finally, we will also always seek to consider how we can use what we know to be social innovators and make an impact on the world around us.

***Prerequisite(s)*** none

***Anti-requisite(s):*** Sociology 1020, Sociology 1020W/X, Sociology 1021E

**Course Objectives and Learning Outcomes:**

*At the end of this course, the student will be able to*

- Use their sociological imagination and demonstrate an understanding of the relationship between individual experience and societal context.
- Apply (extend) the terms, discourse and ideas discussed in class.
- Begin to develop the theoretical, methodological, and cognitive skills to use sociology actively as applied scholars.
- Communicate with clear critical reading, thinking and analytical skills.

### **Course Design and Material:**

#### **Required Resources:**

- Symbaluk & Bereska. (2022). *Sociology in Action: A Canadian Perspective*. 4th ed. TopHat.
  - This is a primarily digital textbook and has access to the Top Hat learning platform.
    - Selling price \$82.50 (for life).
  - You can purchase access through the Western Bookstore or directly from TopHat
    - [https://bookstore.uwo.ca/textbook-search?campus=UWO&term=N2024&courses%5B0%5D=650\\_UW/SOC1025A](https://bookstore.uwo.ca/textbook-search?campus=UWO&term=N2024&courses%5B0%5D=650_UW/SOC1025A)
    - Please use your Western email, registered student name, and student number so that your work in the system can be connected to your student information in OWL
- Additional resources (articles, podcasts, videos) required will be posted on OWL

#### **Technology Needed for Learning:**

- **Students will need regular access to OWL and the digital TopHat platform.** This means you will need access to a device with stable internet capability. This can be done on campus, or through your own personal device.

### **Communication:**

Students are responsible for checking the course OWL 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 reach Prof Barr: [lbarr2@uwo.ca](mailto:lbarr2@uwo.ca) (Make sure the subject heading includes Soc 1025)

## **Method of Evaluation:**

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

<b>Assessment</b>	<b>Mark Value</b>	<b>Date</b>
Learning Engagement Activities	20 %	Ongoing throughout the course
Test 1	25 %	May 15-16
Test 2	25 %	May 30-31
Final Exam	30 %	June 15 - 16

### **Learning Engagement Activities: 20%**

**You are expected to be an active learner** online throughout the course.

Every week there will be an online lesson page. It will include a brief blog from me, with details for all learning materials and activities.

- This may include lecture slides, videos, reading materials or podcasts, plus activities that will allow you to reflect, share information and ideas, practice, apply and create.
- A detailed outline will be found on OWL about the learning activities (instructions & expectations)

**Key to Success:** You want to constantly challenge yourself and others to think about the material and the world around us. Your learning will be so much deeper, and you will enjoy the experience so much more.

### **Test 1 and 2: Each worth 20%**

These tests will act as unit evaluations to determine that you are understanding the material and keeping on top of your assigned work.

Test 1: Topics 1-4 (Opens May 15 @ 12:00 pm EST; Closes May 16 @ 11:55pm EST)

Test 2: Topics 5-9 (Opens May 30 @ 12:00pm EST; Closes May 31 @ 11:55pm EST)

Tests 1 and 2 will be a mix of multiple-choice questions and written questions. You will each receive a randomized set of assigned questions. The tests will be timed. You will have 1 hour to complete 20 multiple choice questions, 1 written analysis question (15 marks) and 1 written reflection question (5 marks).

### **Final Examination (30%) June 15-16 (exam period)**

- It will be timed, you will have 1.5 hours to complete this exam.
- The final examination will be multiple choice questions. (Between 60-80 questions)

- This exam is not cumulative. However, you are expected to be able to recall major concepts throughout the course.
- This exam will be created using any/all resources and learning opportunities included as part of the course. *This includes lectures, any required material on OWL and the textbook.*
- Computer-marked multiple-choice tests and/or exams will be subject to submission for similarity review by software that will check for unusual coincidences in answer patterns that may indicate cheating.

### **Professionalism for the Classroom:**

You expect me, your professor, to be professional. You expect that I will be there, be prepared and be ready to expand on the material and that I will communicate and get work back to you in a timely manner, with constructive feedback. If for some reason I am unable to do so, you would expect that I have a valid reason and that I let you know as soon as possible, with a plan on how the work will be completed.

### **As your instructor, I expect the same from you.**

- I expect that you will be online consistently.
- You will be ready to engage and connect with your classmates.
- You will plan for the due dates and schedule trips and other personal business around our assignments and exams (not during them).
- If something is going sideways, I would ask that you come and talk with me *as soon as possible*. Be honest, be open and we will figure out solutions together.

*In any job, you are expected to be there, act professional, be respectful, to go 'beyond' to contribute to your team. Post-secondary education is part of your professional career, so I encourage you to treat it as such.*

### **Student Absences and Late Policies:**

#### **Absences from Tests and the Final Examination:**

Students must provide valid medical or supporting documentation to their Home Faculty Academic Counselling Office as soon as possible. Academic Counselling will determine eligibility to write a Special Examination (the name given by the University to a makeup Exam).

Students with a formally approved absence (through Academic Counselling) will be required to write a makeup exam on the date provided by the instructor following the original exam.

- Students will be provided with 1 make-up test/exam date.
  - If they are unable for valid institution approved reasons, they must go through the same appeal process as above for this make up exam.

- Not completing the test/exam will result in a 0.
- Students should also 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.

**Note:** missed work can *only* be excused through one of the mechanisms above.

**If you are unable to meet a course requirement due to illness or other serious circumstances, please follow the procedures below.**

***Assessments worth less than 10% of the overall course grade:***

Not applicable for this course.

***Assessments worth 10% or more of the overall course grade:***

For work totaling 10% or more of the final course grade, students must provide valid medical or supporting documentation to their Home Faculty Academic Counselling Office as soon as possible.

**Course Schedule and Readings:**

Will be found on OWL in the Course Content section of our online learning environment.

**Teaching the "Whole Student"**

I am **always** available to discuss life with you. I do my best to create and maintain an inclusive and supportive learning environment. If you ever want to see me, drop into my virtual office hours, or schedule an appointment and let me know if there are external factors that are influencing your success in our course or just things on your mind that you would like to talk about.

**Academic 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
- Use of AI for course work
- Copyright

- Academic Accommodation
- Accessibility Options
- Mental Health

**Welcome to this course!**

2023-2024