



The University of Western Ontario
SOCIOLOGY 2144A-650
Sociology of Education
Distance Studies: May 6-June 14, 2024,
Delivery Method: online

Instructor: Lauren Barr
Office Hours: by appointment
Email: lbarr2@uwo.ca

Course Description:

The focus of this course is on the sociological study of education in Canadian society. Applying different empirical and theoretical perspectives on education, we will do the following throughout this course:

- trace the historical development and organization of education in Canada,
- investigate patterns of educational participation and the socialization function of schools
- debate the relationship between school and work,
- analyze the role of education in the reproduction of social inequality
- learn about contemporary challenges facing education systems
- compare the Canadian education system to other systems (international)

Prerequisite(s) none

Anti-requisite(s): none

Course Objectives and Learning Outcomes:

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

- Interpret historical conditions that have led to the development of current education systems and institutions.

- Challenge common assumptions about school success and failure.
- Analyze the relationships between educational institutions and wider social structures.
- Evaluate critically different reasons for educational reform
- We will work on competencies including: collaboration, critical thinking, problem-solving, inter and intro personal awareness, and communication

Course Design and Material:

Required Resources:

- Davies, Scott and Neil Guppy 2018. *The Schooled Society: An Introduction to the Sociology of Education*. Fourth Edition. Don Mills, ON: Oxford University Press.
- Additional resources (articles, podcasts, videos) required will be posted on OWL

Technology Needed for Learning:

- **Students will need regular access to OWL.** 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 (**Make sure the subject heading includes Soc 2144**)

Method of Evaluation:

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

In this course you will be given the option of choosing your evaluation process.

Evaluation Breakdown: Option 1: with Assignment

Learning Engagement	15 %	Ongoing
Midterm Exam	25 %	May 30-31
Research Project	30 %	June 14
Final Exam	30%	June 15 - 16
Total	100	

Evaluation Breakdown: Option 2: Mainly Exams

Learning Engagement	20 %	Ongoing
Midterm Exam	40 %	May 30-31
Final Exam	40 %	June 15 - 16
Total	100	

Learning Engagement:

Online Forums_Collaborative Knowledge Building

Knowledge development is interactive. Active and informed discussion helps students engage consistently as they learn new material. You get to learn from your peers and use each other to challenge your own thinking. This will help us create an environment of critical academic reflection, in professional work this is called a “Community of Practice”.

The purpose of these online forums is to generate conversation and push thinking, so keep that in mind as you engage. Your final mark will reflect your consistent participation, as well as the quality of your contributions.

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.

Midterm and Final Exams:

- **Midterm Exam: May 30-31**
- **Final Exam: June 15 - 16**
- These exams will be timed, you will have 1 hour and 45 min to complete this exam.
- The final examination will be mixed method. You will have the choice of writing:
 - all multiple choice questions. (70 questions)
 - or 45 m/c questions and 1 written analysis question (worth 25 marks)
- These exams are not cumulative. However, you are expected to be able to recall major concepts throughout the course.
- These exams 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.

Optional Research Assignment:

You will choose and analyze a problem currently identified in schools today. Using sociology through an applied sociological approach, you will examine the problem and create a proposal for an evidence-based plan to begin solving the problem. A detailed assignment outline will be provided on OWL.

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](https://sociology.uwo.ca/undergraduate/courses/Academic_Policies.pdf)" document 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