



**The University of Western Ontario**  
**Department of Sociology**  
**SOCIOLOGY 3348F – 001**  
**Sociology of Religion**  
**Fall 2026**

**In-Person**

**Instructor: Dr. Teresa Abada**

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

**Course Description:**

In the last two decades, the dramatic resurgence of religions around the world has negated the assumption that secularization has led to the dissipation of religion in public and private life. Instead, religion has become a pervasive public force and vital influence in our personal lives. This course is a critical and sociological exploration in the sociology of religion. Students will have the opportunity to analyze the interrelationships of culture, society and religion, paying attention to the changing role of religion in society. It will examine the role of religion in various aspects of social life including the gender and family, immigration, the political sphere, the environment. It will also examine the increasing role that religion plays in violent conflicts today.

**Pre-requisite(s):** 0.5 Sociology course at the 1000 level and registration in third or fourth year of any program

Unless you have either the requisites for this course or written special permission from your Dean to enroll in it, you may be removed from this course and it will be deleted from your record. This 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):** None

**Course Objectives and Learning Outcomes:**

- Synthesize and critically evaluate theoretical arguments and published research from a sociological perspective
- Critically assess social institutions, social processes, social relations, and various dimensions of social experience from a sociological perspective as they pertain to Sociology of Religion\*
- Demonstrate an ability to present and discuss ideas clearly and articulately through effective oral and written communication

- Demonstrate an ability to engage in scholarly discussion and debate in formal and informal learning environments

Demonstrate an awareness and appreciation of the complexity of knowledge, the potential contributions of other interpretations, methods, and disciplines]

### **Course Material:**

**Required Readings:** All readings can be downloaded from [www.lib.uwo.ca](http://www.lib.uwo.ca) . The links to course readings will also be provided on Brightspace. Note that I will also bring additional news articles that will be of relevance to the weekly topics

### **Communication:**

“Students are responsible for reviewing the course [OWL Brightspace](#) site on a regular basis for news and updates. This is the primary method by which information will be disseminated to all students enrolled in the course.”

Replies to students’ emails are made within 48 hours Monday to Friday 9:00AM to 5:00PM. You must provide your full name and the purpose of your email. If these are not included, I will not respond. Your messages to your professor is a formal correspondence and not to be written as a text/facebook/twitter message. Please note: I do not respond to emails such as “*what did I miss in yesterday’s lecture?*”; If you missed any classes it is your responsibility to come and speak to me during my office hours and obtain the lecture notes from your classmates.

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

The reading list and weekly schedule is available on the course Brightspace

### **Method of Evaluation:**

|                                                                                    |     |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----|
| Midterm (November 2 2026)                                                          | 20% |
| Group Presentation To be scheduled                                                 | 20% |
| Class Participation                                                                | 10% |
| Final Essay (December 7 2026)                                                      | 20% |
| Final Exam (Scheduled by the Office of the Registrar during the final exam period) | 30% |

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

**The Final Essay** is due on the last day of class December 7th 2026. It can address the secularization topic and provide evidence using the Census of any country, (e.g USA, Australia, Canada, UK or any country of your choice.). This should be double spaced using Times New Roman, plus a **minimum** of 7 references (Journal articles, book chapters, Reports on the Census). In discussing the results of the Census, you must provide some sociological explanations as to why these trends are observed and discuss what may be the social and policy implications. It can be on any topic of your choice as long as it relates to the themes covered weekly. Note that some of the topics may overlap in any of the weeks and that is OK too. You are welcomed to discuss your essay topic with me beforehand to ensure you are on the right track. The final must be at least 2500 words and do not include any tables or the reference section. This must be submitted on OWL BrightSpace on December 7th, by 11:50 PM

The papers can also be critical reviews that bring together the literature and information on a specific question, The paper needs to relate to this course, so you should be able to put the topic somewhere in the course outline. Another way of saying this is that the paper needs to relate to the Sociology of Religion and include discussion (in terms of theoretical perspectives and the substantive issues that are relevant to this course).

The term paper should be seen as an investigation (through library research), where you put together the evidence, think through the implications. It is important that a term paper be unified around a central topic ("purpose" or "thesis"), and that the reader be able to follow the plan of the paper.

In reading the paper, one needs to have a good sense of what has been investigated/researched, and what was the conclusion of the investigation. Introductions and conclusions of papers are particularly important. The parts of the paper should be readily identifiable, normally through headings and transitions that make the reader aware of the logic of the plan of the paper. The paper should be well organized and checked for errors (including typos and spelling). Scholarly standards of referencing are expected. Referencing in the text should be used, rather than through footnotes. The referencing style of the American Psychological Association (APA) is to be used. If tables or figures are used in the paper, they should be properly labelled so that the reader knows when to look at given tables.

*Students are expected to submit the assignment by the deadline listed. Should illness or extenuating circumstances arise, students are permitted to submit their assignment up to 72 hours past the deadline without academic penalty. Should students submit their assessment beyond the additional 72 hours past the deadline, a late penalty of 5% per day will be subtracted from the assessed grade including weekends. As flexible deadlines are used in this course, requests for academic consideration will not be granted.*

Students are required to submit PDF copies of their references along with their essay (links are not accepted). You must download your references and submit. Failure to do so will automatically result in a 5% deduction of your final essay

**Presentation:** You are required to get into groups of three for the presentation. If you do not form a group of your own by the end of the first class, I will assign you randomly. You will pull a number out of a hat and you get to choose which week and the article to be presented. The group responsible for a given presentation will be required to provide me a detailed summary of the article, which can be on point form. This will be a 1 to 1.5 pages You are required to have 3 questions that will be used as a focus for the discussions. Thus, the presentation mark will be based on distributing a set of discussion questions and leading the discussion for part of the presentation and providing the summary of the article. The presentation includes raising questions, sponsoring discussion, possibly bringing in additional material, synthesizing, and discussing the policy implications..

**Midterm Exam:** The midterm will take place on November 2, 2026 in the classroom. It will cover material from the beginning of the class up to and including lectures and readings brought into the class. It will be multiple choice, short answer and one long answer question. This is a closed book exam and no electronic aids are permitted.

*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. Students with an approved accommodation will be required to write a makeup exam scheduled by the Sociology department.*

**Final Exam:** The final exam will be the same format as the midterm but longer. It will be cumulative but with emphasis on the material covered since the midterm. It will be in person and will be three hours. If you miss the final exam, you will require supporting documentation for a makeup exam.

To pass the course, you must submit the requirements for the course including your presentation, essay, final exam. You should also take part in the discussions as part of your presentation grade.

### **Use of Generative Artificial Intelligence (AI):**

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

### **Electronic Devices:**

Laptops are permitted during classroom to take lecture notes. Cellphones must be turned off during class times. **Recording of the lectures are not permitted.** The use of laptops or any kind of electronic devices is not allowed during exams.



Department of Sociology  
Effective September 1, 2026.

## **Academic Policies**

***Scholastic Offences:*** Scholastic offences are taken seriously and students are directed to read the [Scholastic Offences](https://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/scholastic_offences.pdf) Policy, specifically, the definition of what constitutes a Scholastic Offence [https://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic\\_policies/appeals/scholastic\\_offences.pdf](https://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/scholastic_offences.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 the 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 Western University and 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.

Prior to any examination, students must turn their cellphones off and store them in their bags/coat at the front of the room. The use (or possession) of cellphones or other communications technologies during examinations is strictly prohibited. Those caught using a cell phone or other communication technologies, or even the physical possession of these technologies during an examination, will result in a zero on the examination in question. Similarly, the use (or possession) of these technologies during examination breaks (bathroom breaks during an exam) will also result in a zero. Intent does not matter. Forgetting to put away your cellphone or other communication technologies, whether during the examination or on examination breaks (bathroom breaks), are not justifications. It will result in a zero on the examination in question. In sum, your cellphones should never be seen or heard during an examination and should always be stored in your bags/coats at the front of the room.

***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.

**Code of Student Conduct:** Every student is expected to comply with the provisions of the Code of Student Conduct. Sanctions for non-compliance range from a warning or reprimand to expulsion from the University. It is the responsibility of every student to read the Code and familiarize themselves with its contents. The Code is available at [http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic\\_policies/appeals/code\\_of\\_conduct.pdf](http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/code_of_conduct.pdf).

**Student Responsibility:** Students in a degree program must select courses in accordance with the published requirements. Students are responsible for ensuring that their selection of courses is appropriate and accurately recorded. Students must ensure course prerequisites have been completed successfully or special permission from the Dean is obtained. Students who fail to do so will be removed from the course without adjustments to fees. The decision may not be appealed.

**Student Responsibility for Course Selection:**

[https://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic\\_policies/general/academic\\_counselling.pdf](https://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/general/academic_counselling.pdf)

**Registration and Progression:**

[https://uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic\\_policies/registration\\_progression\\_grad/registration\\_progression.pdf](https://uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/registration_progression_grad/registration_progression.pdf)

**Graduation Requirements:**

[https://uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic\\_policies/registration\\_progression\\_grad/graduation.pdf](https://uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/registration_progression_grad/graduation.pdf)

**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](https://uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/academic_consideration_Sep24.pdf).

Students missing regularly scheduled course work for medical, compassionate or extenuating circumstances can request academic consideration by completing a request using the Student Absence Portal (SAP) [https://registrar.uwo.ca/academics/academic\\_considerations/index.html](https://registrar.uwo.ca/academics/academic_considerations/index.html). 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 scheduled 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. Supporting documentation for academic considerations for absences due to illness must include the completed Western Student Medical Certificate (SMC) [https://registrar.uwo.ca/academics/pdfs/student-medical\\_certificate.pdf](https://registrar.uwo.ca/academics/pdfs/student-medical_certificate.pdf) or, where that is not possible, equivalent documentation by a health care practitioner. Students must request academic consideration as soon as possible and no later than 48 hours after the missed assessment.

## **Procedure on makeup assessments for Social Science students and for courses offered by the Faculty of Social Science (Effective September 1, 2026):**

If academic consideration is granted, students should consult the course outline for information regarding how the missed assessment will be addressed and follow any instructions provided by the instructor. At the instructor's discretion, the weight of a missed test/quiz or mid-term may be transferred to another assessment in the course, including the final exam, rather than requiring a makeup assessment. Reweighting is not available for missed final exams.

Students are entitled to **one makeup assessment opportunity** for a missed test/quiz, mid-term, or final exam supported by approved academic consideration. **No additional makeup opportunities will be provided.**

Makeup assessments represent the final opportunity to complete a missed course assessment. The course instructor or teaching assistant(s) may not be available to respond to questions during the makeup test/exam. Students should be aware that the make-up test/exam will not necessarily be in the same format, be of the same duration, or cover the same material as the original test/exam.

### **What happens if I miss a makeup assessment as a Social Science student or in a course offered by the Faculty of Social Science?**

Students who miss a makeup assessment are not eligible for an additional makeup opportunity. Depending on their circumstances, they may:

1. Remain enrolled in the course and accept a grade of zero on the missed makeup assessment. Students should consult the course outline and calculate whether they can still achieve a passing grade in the course.
2. Withdraw from the course through [Student Center](#) before the [published drop deadline](#). A course dropped before the deadline will result in a withdrawal (WDN) without academic penalty. Part-time students should consult the Registrar's Office [refund schedule](#) to determine whether a tuition refund is available. Students enrolled full-time in 4.0-5.0 courses are generally not eligible for tuition refunds when a course is dropped.
3. If the published drop deadline has passed and the missed makeup assessment is supported by appropriate documentation, students may submit their documentation through the [Student Absence Portal](#) to request a **WDN (withdrawal without academic penalty)**. Approval is not automatic and remains subject to Faculty review. Requests for a second makeup assessment will not be considered.

Students are encouraged to carefully consider their ability to complete a makeup assessment as scheduled, as no further opportunities to complete the missed work will be available.

**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 Advising Office.

**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.

**Guidelines for Grades/Marks:** The Department of Sociology has grade distribution guidelines that all instructors are expected to follow. Generally, and with few exceptions, this means that the number of A's in a course cannot exceed the number of B's, and class means are expected to fall within a prescribed percentage range. This means that your final grade depends on your ranking relative to your peers. Courses with grades falling outside this range may be adjusted, up or down. These guidelines do not prohibit a student achieving 95% or higher in all their courses, but it does mean that an entire course cannot be made up of students receiving 95%. This policy combats grade inflation, contributing to higher standards, and ensuring uniformity across all courses of the same level. Motivated and hard-working students receive grades well above the course averages. The use of grade guidelines, including any adjustments of grades, either up or down for this purpose, cannot be used as the basis of an appeal.

**Sociology 1000-Level**

A's not to exceed B's

Means in the range of 68-72%

**Sociology 2000-Level**

A's not to exceed B's

Means in the range of 70-75%

**Sociology 3000-Level**

Means in the range of 73-80%

**Sociology 4000-Level**

Means in the range of 78-82%

**Support Services:**

- **Office of the Registrar Services** <http://www.registrar.uwo.ca>
- **Faculty Academic Advising** - Please visit your Home Faculty Academic advising webpage for information regarding adding/dropping courses, important dates, academic considerations for absences, appeals, exam conflicts, and many other academic related matters  
[https://registrar.uwo.ca/faculty\\_academic\\_counselling.html](https://registrar.uwo.ca/faculty_academic_counselling.html) .
- **USC services** – information available regarding student health/dental plan, LTC bus pass, food support services, Peer support Centre etc <http://westernusc.ca/services/> .
- **Mental health** – Students who are in emotional/mental distress should refer to [Mental Health@Western](#) <https://www.uwo.ca/health/> for a complete list of options about how to obtain help.

- **Health & Wellness Services** – Registered part-time and full-time students can book a physical health appointment at <https://www.uwo.ca/health/shs/index.html>.
- **Accessible Education** provides support and services to students with disabilities at Western, in all programs and faculties. Students with disabilities or accessibility challenges should work with Accessible Education (formerly SSD) [http://academicsupport.uwo.ca/accessible\\_education/index.html](http://academicsupport.uwo.ca/accessible_education/index.html), which provides recommendations for accommodation based on medical documentation or psychological and cognitive testing.
- **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 or has gone through these traumatic events. If you are experiencing or have experience GBSV (either recently or in the past), you will find information about support services for survivors, including emergency contacts on the Wellness and Wellbeing website <https://www.uwo.ca/health/gbsv/index.html>. To connect with a case manager or set up an appointment, please contact [support@uwo.ca](mailto:support@uwo.ca).
- **Western Libraries** – Visit the many library locations on campus. Western Libraries provide access to material in physical and digital formats <https://www.lib.uwo.ca/catalogue/index.html>. Research support is also available <https://www.lib.uwo.ca/research/index.html>.
- **Writing Support Centre** – Online writing resources, writing support and writing modules are available to undergraduate students <https://writing.uwo.ca/undergrads/>.
- **Bookstore:** Search for Textbook/course material availability and cost <https://bookstore.uwo.ca/course-materials-textbooks/course-materials-and-textbooks>.