



The University of Western Ontario
Department of Sociology
SOCIOLOGY 1025A - 650
Society & You
Summer 2026

Delivery Method – Online lectures and In-Person exams

Instructor: Lauren Barr
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Course Description: This course introduces the sociological imagination to help understand how underlying social forces shape our lives and how we, as individuals, can change society. The course explores key social problems, and how they shape our life courses and shift the demographic makeup of our society.

Prerequisite(s): none

Antirequisite(s): Sociology 1020, Sociology 1020W/X, Sociology 1021E.

Course Weight: 0.50

Course Objectives and Learning Outcomes:

Learning Outcome
LO1: Define and explain key sociological concepts and theories
LO2: Apply the sociological imagination to everyday experiences
LO3: Analyze how social problems shape life paths and demographics
LO4: Critically reflect on personal beliefs, assumptions, and knowledge
LO5: Propose ways that sociological knowledge can support social change

Course Material:

Brym, Robert J., Lisa Strohschein, and Karen Kampen. 2025. *Sociology: Compass for a New Social World*, 8 th Edition. Toronto: Cengage.

Additional material available on our OWL Brightspace course site

A list of technical requirements for the course:

- stable internet connection
- consistent access to a computer, and internet for the entire six weeks of the course

Communication:

Students are responsible for checking the course [OWL Brightspace](https://westernu.brightspace.com/d2l/login) 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.

You can reach me directly at lbarr2@uwo.ca with individual questions.

- I will check my email once each day, Monday-Friday.
- Please be patient and wait for my reply.

Course Schedule and Readings:

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

Method of Evaluation:

Assessment	Weight	Due Date	Submission Method
Weekly Discussion Posts	—	Weekly (Mon–Saturday)	Posted to OWL Forums
Midterm Exam	40%	Wed, May 27 6:30pm-8:30pm	In-Person – location TBD
Final Reflection Assignment	15%	Wed June 10	Upload to OWL Assignments
Final Exam	45%	Saturday, June 13 th 11:00 am – 1:00pm	In-Person – location TBD

Assessment Descriptions

Weekly Discussion Posts (Required, Not Graded directly)

- Students are expected to contribute **one original post and at least one response** to each topic on the OWL Forums, responding to discussion prompts and peers. (2 topics each week)
- These posts help students **develop their sociological thinking**, connect with peers, and **prepare content** for the Final Reflection Assignment.
- Although not graded directly, **consistent participation is expected**, and **students must reference a minimum of 5 posts** (including peer interactions) in their Final Reflection.
- Posts should be submitted between **Monday and Sunday each week**. Late posts will not be considered for the reflection.

Midterm Exam (40%)

- In-person midterm exam, closed book, covering Weeks 1–3.
- Multiple choice format – 75 questions.
- A practice quiz will be posted on Friday, May 22nd.
- **Supporting documentation is required** for academic consideration for the midterm.

Final Reflection Assignment (15%)

- A 750-1000-word written reflection integrating at least **5 self-selected weekly discussion posts** and relevant course content.
- Students will critically analyze how their understanding of sociological concepts has evolved and connect course materials to a central question or theme. A more in-depth assignment outline will be posted online.
- **Due: Wednesday, June 10** via **OWL Assignments**.

Flexibility Policy: A **24-hour grace period** applies (until **June 12**). Assignment must be submitted by Sunday, June 14th or it will not be graded. Late penalty will be 10% / day.

Final Exam (45%)

- Comprehensive multiple-choice exam covering the entire course. There will be more emphasis on the second half.
- Administered in person at Western Saturday, June 13th from 11:00 am – 1:00pm. Location TBD.
- **Timed and closed-book**, no communication or outside help permitted.

Course Completion Requirements

To pass this course, students must:

- Submit the **Final Reflection Assignment**
- Complete the **Midterm Exam and Final Exam**
- **Consistently participate** in weekly discussions (posts are ungraded but required for the final reflection)

I am looking forward to working with you this term!

Let the sociological journey begin.



Department of Sociology
Revised April 28, 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, at the following web site: 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 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 The University of Western Ontario and Turnitin.com (<https://www.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.

The use of cellphones or other information transmitting electronic devices are prohibited during exams. Students who are caught, regardless of intent, with an electronic device during any part of an exam will receive zero on the exam in question.

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.

Absence from Course Commitments: Students must familiarize themselves with the [Policy on Academic Consideration](https://uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/academic_consideration_Sep24.pdf) – Undergraduate Students in First Entry Programs https://uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/academic_consideration_Sep24.pdf.

Students missing 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. 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 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.

Once the request and supporting documentation have been received and reviewed, appropriate academic consideration, if granted, shall be determined by the instructor in consultation with the academic advisor, in a manner consistent with the course outline. Students with an approved absence from an in-class test or exam will be required to write a makeup exam, unless otherwise specified in the course outline. The course instructor or teaching assistant(s) may not be available to respond to questions during the makeup text/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.

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. Students who fail to write a make-up test or special examination will receive a grade of zero on that assessment. No other make-up opportunities will be provided unless further academic consideration is granted by the student's Home Faculty Academic advising office.

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Religious Accommodation: Students should review the policy for Accommodation for Religious Holidays https://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/accommodation_religious.pdf . Where a student will be unable to write examinations and term tests due to a conflicting religious holiday, they should inform their instructors as soon as possible but not later than two weeks prior to writing the examination/term test. In the case of conflict with a midterm test, students should inform their instructor as soon as possible but not later than one week prior to the midterm.

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.

Guidelines for Grades/Marks:

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%

Code of Student Conduct: 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. Sanctions for non compliance range from a warning or reprimand to expulsion from the University.

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, that all course prerequisites have been successfully completed, and that they are aware of any anti-requisite course(s) they may have taken. Students must familiarize themselves with the following policies:

Student Responsibility for Course Selection policy

https://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/general/academic_counselling.pdf

Registration and Progression policy

https://uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/registration_progression_grad/registration_progression.pdf .

Students are responsible for the successful completion of the **Graduation Requirements** for their degree program https://uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/registration_progression_grad/graduation.pdf.

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 .
- **USC services** offers information about the student health/dental plan, LTC bus pass, food support services, Peer support Center 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/) <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> . Additional on-campus services are also available <https://www.uwo.ca/health/shs/services/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://academicssupport.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/student_support/survivor_support/get-help.html
- **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 available <https://www.lib.uwo.ca/research/index.html> .
- **Writing support** – Online writing resources, writing support and writing modules are available <https://writing.uwo.ca/undergrads/>
- **Bookstore:** Search for Textbook availability and cost <https://bookstore.uwo.ca/textbook-search>