

The University of Western Ontario
Department of Sociology
SOCIOLOGY 2166B UW001
The Organization and Experience of Work
Winter 2026

In-Person

Instructor: Professor T. Adams

Department of Sociology

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

Official Course Description: This course reviews trends in the organization of work in capitalist societies, and workers' experiences of working, with a focus on Canadian society. Emphasis is placed on the changing organization of work, and organizational impacts on workers' health, skills, and well-being. The links between work and social inequality are also explored.

More Detailed Course Description: This course will survey topics pertaining to the sociology of work. We will examine modern day work in Canada, while putting it in its historical and cross-national context. Our focus will be on a range of characteristics, debates, and social issues associated with the organization and experience of work. The first part of the course reviews the organization of work, and the impact of various organizational forms on workers' experiences and well-being. The second part of the course focuses on the potential of work to reproduce and challenge prevailing social inequalities. We also consider the impact of technology.

Prerequisite(s): None

Anti-requisite(s): Soc 2145A/B

Course Objectives and Learning Outcomes:

At the end of the course, students will be able to:

- ❖ Identify, analyze and evaluate a variety of theoretical explanations of work, and assess the differences, strengths and weaknesses among them.
- ❖ Draw on theoretical explanations of work to understand their own personal experiences in the workplace.
- ❖ Explain how work has changed over time.
- ❖ Understand the link between work and social inequality.
- ❖ Recognize discrimination in the workplace and provide strategies to help improve the situation.

Course Material:

Adams, Tracey. 2022. *Working in Canada: A Sociological Exploration*. Oxford University Press.

A paperback copy of the textbook costs \$108.15. An ebook copy costs \$46.00.

* Students are welcome to purchase second-hand copies of this textbook.

Communication:

Students are responsible for checking the course OWL Brightspace 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.

If you need to reach me, please email me at tladams@uwo.ca.

Method of Evaluation:

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

1) Test	40%	February 11, 2026
2) Final Assignment	30%	April 8, 2026
4) Discussion Responses (2)	30%	Jan 21, March 18, 2026

Evaluation Details:

Test: A test will be conducted **in person** on February 11 2026. It will be a multiple choice test, and you will have 90 minutes to complete it. **No electronic devices are permitted during the exam.**

Instructors are permitted to designate one assessment per course per term as requiring supporting documentation to receive academic consideration. For this course the following assessment has been designated as requiring supporting documentation: TEST, Due date February 11th.

Final Assignment: The final assignment will consist of 3 questions, for which you have to provide discussion-response-style short written answers, drawing on your knowledge of course content. Answers should be uploaded onto OWL Brightspace by April 8th 2026, or within **48 hours** of this deadline. After this 48-hour window, late marks of 5% per day will be deducted.

Discussion Responses: On two occasions a question will be posted on OWL Brightspace. You are asked to provide an answer to this post by submitting something under the 'assignment' section on OWL Brightspace. Responses should be approximately 500 words, and should draw on both

course material and your own opinion. External sources are not recommended. There will be a total of 2 posts and each response will be marked out of 15. More details will follow, but these posts should be submitted by January 21 2026 and March 18 2026.

DISCUSSION POST DEADLINES ARE FLEXIBLE. THERE IS A 48-HOUR SUBMISSION WINDOW DURING WHICH ASSIGNMENTS CAN BE HANDED IN AND NOT CONSIDERED LATE. AFTER THIS WINDOW CLOSES, LATE MARKS OF 2% PER DAY WILL BE DEDUCTED.

Please note that because the submission deadline for written course assessments already includes flexibility in the form of extra grace days, the instructor reserves the right to deny academic consideration for assignments and tests which are submitted following the end of the period of flexibility.

Use of Generative Artificial Intelligence (AI):

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

Electronic Devices:

Laptops are permitted in class. Phones should be on silent and tucked away. No devices are allowed during exams.

Course Schedule and Readings:

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

Academic Offences: Scholastic offences are taken seriously and students are directed to read the appropriate policy, specifically, the definition of what constitutes a Scholastic Offence, at the following website: https://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/scholastic_discipline_undergrad.pdf

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.

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](#) – 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 Counselling 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 Counselling office.

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 or University approved emergency 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.

Code of Student Conduct: It is the responsibility of every student to read the Code and familiarize him or herself 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 antirequisite course(s) they may have taken. Students must familiarize themselves with the Student Responsibility for Course Selection policy https://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/general/academic_counselling.pdf and the 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 student the health/dental plan, 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 <http://www.uwo.ca/uwocom/mentalhealth/> 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 supports 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, 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 at the following website: http://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>