



The University of Western Ontario
SOCIOLOGY 1021E
Introduction to Sociology
2021-2022

Lecture: Wednesday 10:30 – 12:30

Tutorial: see [Timetable](#) for tutorial times and locations

Lecture Classroom: Rm SSC-2032

Instructor: Lauren Barr

Office Hours: TBD / By Appointment
Department of Sociology, Office: SSC 5432

Email: lbarr2@uwo.ca

Course Description:

*"What is sociology? It's the study of the way in which human beings are shaped by things that they don't see."
~ Dr. Sam Richards ~*

Sociology is the systematic study of human social relations. If you are a people watcher, who likes to question what people are doing and why then sociology will offer you unlimited opportunities to think about the world we live in. Throughout this course we will examine subjects such as crime, religion, family, social change, globalization, and the human experiences shared through culture and socialization. We will look at the relationship between individual agency and social structure. We will contemplate existing social problems and use our 'sociological imagination' to begin to propose possible solutions to some of the issues.

Sociology can change your life. It can help you see the world in a new way. It can force you to reflect on your own personal beliefs, experiences and choices. It can help you build skills that will prepare you to work in the labour force and be more successful in your interactions with people. Sociology is exciting and limitless in its scope. I hope you enjoy the journey as we build a sociological community together!

Mode of Delivery: (subject to change depending on health and institutional guidelines)

2 lecture hours – Synchronous in-person lecture Wed @ 10:30 – 12:30

1 tutorial hour - Synchronous tutorials (in person or online – TBD)

Prerequisite(s): None

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. The 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.

Antirequisite(s): [Sociology 1020](#), [Sociology 1020W/X](#), [Sociology 1025A/B](#), [Sociology 1026F/G](#), [Sociology 1027A/B](#).

Learning Objectives:

- To encourage students to move beyond common sense understandings of their world and begin to develop informed critical thinking
- To allow students to practice academic writing about issues of social importance
- To help students appreciate the significance of structural explanations of social behaviour
- To inspire students to practice self-reflection, open communication, and active listening

Required Text(s):

Brym, Robert. (2018). Soc +. 4th edition. Nelson Publishing.

- All other required material will be shared on our course website on Western's LMS – OWL.

Student Success in This Course:

Professor Barr's Basic Needs Statement: We learn as whole people and your safety and wellbeing are more important to me than anything else. I am always available to listen. I promise to do my best to create and maintain an inclusive environment. If you want or need support, even if it is merely someone to listen without judgement, reach out and let me know. *This includes physical, mental, spiritual, social, and intellectual health.* There are many resources at Western and in our community. If I cannot provide the support you need, I will help you find the right resources that can.

Brave and Inclusive: We will have challenging, essential conversations about “hard topics” throughout this course. All academic and perspectives will be honoured with space to be heard. However, we will promise an inclusive space that celebrates diversity and protects every person's need for inclusion and belonging. **If at any point something happens that makes you question this or feel unsafe**, please come speak to Lauren or your TA immediately.

Professional students: post-secondary education is the early part of your professional career. I encourage you to treat it as such. You are here to be successful. To do this you have to show up, be here fully, focus on growth and present yourself as a professional student (prepared, constructive, communicative, and accountable).

We are a Team & Communication is key!

All students are responsible for keeping up with communication for the course and reaching out to the Teaching Team when situations arise that will influence your ability to participate properly. Please do this as early as possible when ‘life happens’. We cannot know or support you if you don’t communicate with us, so please make it a habit to reach out. *If you have read this statement, send a picture of someone who inspires you to Lauren Barr through OWL for a bonus mark on your first test before Sept15.*

Method of Evaluation:

Assessment	Weight	Due Date
Written Assessments (35%)		
Assignment 1: Reading & Understanding Research	10%	December 5
Assignment 2: Critical Sociological Analysis	25%	March 27
Examinations (45%)		
Exam 1	10	Oct 20
Exam 2	15	Jan 19
Final Exam	20	April exam period
Engagement (20%)		
Tutorials	10	Ongoing – weekly (early feedback will be provided by Oct 15)
Lectures	5	Ongoing – weekly
Peer Evaluation	5	2 nd term – part of Assignment 2

Evaluation Breakdown:

General Statement on All Interactions:

All forms of communication (verbal, written, visual) formal and informal, are evaluated based on level of critical analysis, succinct arguments, use of reputable academic material and overall organization of your

thoughts. While grammar is not specifically marked, it will influence the delivery of your argument, so careful editing is expected, and academic focus is always required. The course material is a foundation and a motivator for critical reflection. I expect that you will move beyond the course material, expanding and offering new ways of thinking about sociology that relate to our course.

Examinations:

The plan is to have all examinations synchronous and in-person. This is subject to change depending on Public Health orders and decision making required for the pandemic. All changes will be announced via OWL in advance.

All tests may include a combination of m/c, short answer or essay style questions. A breakdown will be provided before each test. The tests will consist of questions drawn from lectures, tutorials, and all assigned material. There will be no midterm during the Christmas exam period. The final exam will be held during the April examination period and the date and time will be set by the Registrar's Office, it will be cumulative. You are responsible for all the material in the assigned material even if this material is not discussed directly in lecture or tutorial. If you are unsure of material, you will be given many opportunities to ask for clarity. It is up to you to take advantage of them.

“Essay”: Written Assessments

In this class, the two written assignments combined make up your “essay” component. The average of the two must be 50% and each of them must demonstrate competence in thinking, research and communication. The writing assignments are ultimately worth 40% of your mark (2 written assignments + peer evaluation). These assignments are divided into smaller phases, giving you opportunity to learn, receive feedback, develop and change as you work to complete your final assignment. You cannot (by nature of the course breakdown) leave this work to the last minute. You will spend 6 months analyzing and developing your reading, writing and analysis. A full outline for each assignment will be provided on OWL and we will go through this process throughout the year in lecture and tutorial.

**Senate regulations require that an essay course be structured so that passing the course is dependent upon passing the “essay component”. What this means for this course is that (1) you must turn in your written assignments and (2) your unweighted average grade for the essay must be 50% or higher. In other words, if you fail to turn in an essay before the end of the term, or if your average essay grade is less than 50%, you will not pass the course regardless of the grades you receive on the other components listed.*

Engagement:

Learning is better when you are an active participant. Listening to someone ‘lecture at you’ is not enjoyable for anyone, so be prepared to be an active member of our community. Opportunities for engagement will be offered each week throughout the year in a variety of ways. The goal is to create a community that is comfortable, supportive and connected. If you have questions, our Teaching Team will be here to support you.

You should have signed up for a tutorial when you registered for this course. These sessions are 1 hour each week and are mandatory for you to attend and participate. They begin the second week of class (September 13-17). You are asked to attend the tutorial that you signed up for. They are limited in numbers to allow smaller group discussions. In the second term, all tutorials will resume the first week of classes.

For tutorial you will be reviewing posted materials that will be found in OWL. You will be asked to read, listen to podcasts or watch videos in advance, have questions read and complete any assigned exercises before, during or after tutorial. Tutorial attendance is a required component of this course. *If a student is absent from more than three tutorials in a term or five across the entire course, they may be barred from taking the final examination and may therefore fail the course.*

For lecture, we may use i-clicker for active participation, as well as group work and class discussion. *More information will follow on how to set this up.*

How to Contact Me: Lauren Barr

OWL – Use this as the primary way to reach me regarding our course. You will find a place to message on the left navigation bar on our course website

Email: lbarr2@uwo.ca – for urgent communication only (Add course name / number in title + brief description of issue in subject)

Facebook Messenger – optional, but students find this to be a quick way to reach me. ProfLauren Barr

Important Information: Course Communication

Communication Guidelines & Expectations:

- Messages and email will be returned within 48 business hours (unless announced otherwise).
 - That means you may not receive a response during the evening or on the weekend.
- Be patient, avoid emailing multiple times.
- Email both your TA and Instructor together for quicker response and more open communication (do not feel you ever have to share personal details, stick to general info)
- Make sure your tone and correspondence in all communication is professional

Where do you Find Course Information? OWL !!

- Our **OWL Course site** will be set up to allow you to navigate week to week in a consistent way. It will be available Sept to April. A welcome announcement will be sent out when it is live.

- **Homepage** will have key instructions on where to find information.
- **Course Content** will have all information about assessments, plus weekly content (lectures, material, etc)
- **Announcements** will be Used for Regular Communication or Urgent Messages

OWL will be used regularly to let you know what is happening, check it several times each week.

Course Schedule and Readings:

- A weekly schedule and all content will be found in COURSE CONTENT on OWL.

Important Policies

Class Policies for Deadlines and Missed Assessments

If you know that you have a problem with a due date or an exam (conflict, sick, etc), let's talk about it as soon as possible. If you talk to me ahead of time, we can determine together whether a formal accommodation request should be filed.

If you do not or are not able to let me know ahead of time, then you will be asked to go through the formal academic accommodation process. (see policy below)

If a student misses an in class exam with legitimate reason and has submitted the appropriate documentation to Academic Counselling, you will be assigned a makeup due date approximately one week after the original exam date.

If an assignment is late with no communication, there will be a **5% late penalty per day for up to 5 days past the due date**. At that point, assignment will no longer be accepted without formal academic accommodation.

A Note on Academic Misconduct (cheating, plagiarism, theft of intellectual property, privacy):

Students must do their own work following the instructions of each individual assessment. All assessments submitted will be evaluated with the assumption that students have been informed of the expectations and have followed them responsibly.

Plagiarism: Many opportunities to practice and understand the rules and processes around Academic writing will be provided in class. Academic misconduct, including plagiarism, are major scholastic offences and will be addressed directly with the appropriate institutional process (TA, Professor, Department Chair, Dean) (the Scholastic Offence Policy can be viewed below).

Plagiarism Checking:

All required writing may be subject to submission for textual similarity review to the commercial plagiarism detection software under license to the University for detection of plagiarism (Turnitin). 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/>).

Recording and Sharing Course Information:

- **Recording** (video, audio, images) of lectures, tutorials or virtual Meetings or online course content without the explicit consent of the Professor, TA and students involved is ground for serious academic and or legal discipline.
- All course content created by a faculty member is considered the faculty member's intellectual property; it should not be distributed, shared in any public domain, or sold by a student or other third party without prior written consent of the faculty member

Policy on Electronics/Phones for This Class:

Students are permitted to use devices in class for their own academic process. However, devices should be used respectfully and responsibility. No student will disrupt another student in any way. If a student is asked to change their use of their device by the Teaching Team or any Guests to our classroom, it is expected that students will comply. Failure to do so will result in the student being asked to leave the classroom and schedule a meeting with the Course Instructor before they are permitted to return.

Policy on Accommodation for Medical Illness

Western's policy on Accommodation for Medical Illness can be found at www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/accommodation_medical.pdf.

Students must see the Academic Counsellor and submit all required documentation in order to be approved for certain accommodation:

https://counselling.ssc.uwo.ca/procedures/academic_consideration.html.

Academic Consideration for Missed Work

Students who are seeking academic consideration for missed work during the semester may submit a *Self-Reported Absence (SRA)* form online provided that the absence is **48 hours or less** and the other conditions specified in the [Senate policy](#) are met.

Two important exceptions to this rule: SRAs will NOT be allowed for final examinations or assessments worth more than 30% of a given course. Students whose absences are expected to last **longer than 48 hours**, or where the other conditions detailed in the policy are not met (e.g., work is worth more than 30% of the final grade, the student has already used a self-reported absence, the absence is during the final exam period), may receive academic consideration by submitting a [Student Medical Certificate](#) (for illness) or other appropriate documentation (for compassionate grounds) to your Home Faculty Academic Counselling office.

All students pursuing academic consideration, regardless of type, must contact their instructors no less than 24 hours following the end of the period of absence to clarify how they will be expected to fulfill the

academic responsibilities missed during their absence. Students are reminded that they should consider carefully the implications of postponing tests or midterm exams or delaying submission of work, and are encouraged to make appropriate decisions based on their specific circumstances.

https://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/accommodation_illness.pdf

Accessibility Options:

Please contact the course instructor if you require material in an alternate format or if you require any other arrangements to make this course more accessible to you. You may also wish to contact Services for Students with Disabilities (SSD) at 519 661-2111 x 82147 for any specific question regarding an accommodation. Information regarding accommodation of exams is available on the Registrar's website: www.registrar.uwo.ca/academics/examinations/accommodated_exams.html

Scholastic 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 web site: https://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/scholastic_discipline_undergrad.pdf

Mental Health

Students who are in **emotional/mental distress** should refer to Mental Health@Western (www.uwo.ca/health/mental_wellbeing/index.html) for a complete list of options how to obtain help.