



The University of Western Ontario  
**SOCIOLOGY 2166B UW001**  
**The Organization and Experience of Work**  
**Winter 2022**  
**Mondays, 10:30am -12:30pm, SSC 2032**

**Instructor: Professor T. Adams**

Office Hours: TBA  
Department of Sociology, Office: SSC 5328

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**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. Finally we look at the future of work and the impact of technology.

**Prerequisite(s): None**

**Antirequisite(s): Sociology 2145A/B, The former Sociology 2169**

**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.

**Required Text:**

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

(An e-version of the book is available at a discounted price).

## **Method of Evaluation and Evaluation Breakdown:**

1) Test (in person)	40%	February 7 <sup>th</sup> 2022
2) Final Assignment	30%	April 1st, 2022
4) Discussion Responses (3)	30%	Week of Jan 24, March 7, March 14

## **Evaluation Details:**

*Test:* A test will be conducted in person, during class time. It will involve a mix of multiple choice and short answer questions. The test will be held on Feb 7<sup>th</sup> 2022.

*Final Assignment:* The final assignment will consist of 2-3 questions, for which you have to provide exam-style short written answers, drawing on your knowledge of course content. Answers should be uploaded onto OWL by April 1<sup>st</sup> at noon.

*Discussion Responses:* On three occasions a question will be posted on OWL. You are asked to provide an answer to this post by submitting something through the 'assignment' tab on OWL. Responses should be between 200 and 300 words, and should draw on both course material and your own opinion. External sources are not recommended. There will be a total of 3 posts and each response will be marked out of 10. More details will follow, but these posts should be submitted the weeks of Jan 24, March 7, and March 14.

## **How to Contact Me:**

Please contact me via email: [tladams@uwo.ca](mailto:tladams@uwo.ca)

## **How to get important information:**

Visit our Course OWL site, and look under the resources and lessons tabs. I will also post a Frequently Asked Questions page under Resources on OWL.

## **Important Policies**

### ***Policies for Assignment Deadlines:***

Tests must be completed in the time allotted for doing so.

Assignments must be loaded onto OWL by the deadline, unless a formal extension or accommodation has been granted.

Late assignments are subject to grade reductions of 5% a day.

### ***A Note on 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 (the Scholastic Offence Policy can be viewed in the Western Academic Calendar).

### ***Plagiarism Checking:***

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 ([www.turnitin.com/](http://www.turnitin.com/)).

### ***Policies on Examinations***

**Electronic devices will NOT be allowed during tests.**

**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.**

### ***Policy on Laptops and other Electronics/Phones in Class:***

Laptops are permitted in class, but if it is observed that students are on social networking sites such as Facebook or Twitter, they will be told to close the lid and they will not be permitted to use it for the remainder of the class. Be sure that all cell phones are turned off at the beginning of class.

### ***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](http://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: [counselling.ssc.uwo.ca/procedures/academic\\_consideration.html](http://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 2 self-reported absences, 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.

[www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic\\_policies/appeals/accommodation\\_illness.pdf](http://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](http://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:

[www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic\\_policies/appeals/scholastic\\_discipline\\_undergrad.pdf](http://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/](http://www.uwo.ca/health/mental_wellbeing/)) for a complete list of options how to obtain help.

## Course Schedule and Readings:

<b>January 3</b>	<b>Introduction to Course and the Study of Work</b>
Reading:	Textbook chapter 1.
<b>January 10</b>	<b>Theoretical Approaches to Studying Work</b>
Reading:	Textbook chapter 2
<b>January 17</b>	<b>Work in Historical Context</b>
Reading:	Textbook chapter 3
<b>January 24</b>	<b>Organizations; Labour Markets &amp; Employment</b>
Reading:	Textbook chapter 4 (Mini Discussion Response 1)
<b>January 31</b>	<b>Occupations &amp; Non-Standard Work</b>
Reading:	Textbook chapters 5&6
<b>February 7</b>	<i>Test (in class)</i>
<b>February 14</b>	<b>Skill, Expertise, Knowledge &amp; Education</b>
Reading	Textbook chapter 7
<b>February 21</b>	<b>Reading Week</b>
<b>February 28</b>	<b>Work, Health and Well-Being</b>
Reading	Textbook chapter 8
<b>March 7</b>	<b>Occupational Segregation</b>
Reading	Textbook chapter 9 (Mini Discussion Response 2)
<b>March 14</b>	<b>Discrimination and Harassment</b>
Reading:	Textbook chapter 10 (Mini Discussion Response 3)

**March 21**                      **Working Across the Life Course**

Reading                      Textbook chapter 11

**March 28**                      **The Future of Work**

Reading                      Textbook chapter 12

**\*\* Final Assignment Due April 1<sup>st</sup> 2022**