



The University of Western Ontario  
**SOCIOLOGY 3324G-001**  
**Social Inequality over the Life Course**  
**Winter 2022**  
**Mondays 9:30 UC 3225**

**Instructor:** Dr. Andrea Willson  
Office Hours: By appointment  
Department of Sociology, Office: SSC 5423  
Email: [willson@uwo.ca](mailto:willson@uwo.ca)

---

**Course Description:**

This course focuses on social factors that affect social inequality in later life from a life course perspective. A life course perspective emphasizes the intersections of individual lives, social change, and social structure. It calls attention to the patterns and trajectories based on gender, race-ethnicity, class, and sexual orientation that span across human lives, and are shaped by broader social structure and historical time.

**Prerequisite(s):** 1.0 from: Sociology 1020, Sociology 1021E, Sociology 1025A/B, Sociology 1026F/G, Sociology 1027A/B. Third or fourth year standing in any module in the Department of Sociology.

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):** The former Sociology 2285.

**Learning Outcomes:**

At the end of this course, students should be able to:

- \*Understand and explain how continuity and change in human lives affect social inequality.
- \*Demonstrate knowledge of key concepts, strategies, and empirical examples from life course analysis related to social inequality.
- \*Write a paper that clearly utilizes class concepts and makes an evidence-based, sociological argument to discuss social inequality from a life course perspective.

**Required Text(s):**

There is no textbook for this course; all required readings are available electronically.

## **Method of Evaluation:**

### ***Evaluation Breakdown:***

Midterm test	35%	February 14
Final exam	30%	April Exam Period TBA
Final essay	35%	March 28

### ***Exams***

Exams will consist of multiple-choice and short essay questions covering the lectures, films, and reading assignments. You are responsible for all the material in the assigned readings even if this material is not covered in class. The final exam covers the material covered after the midterm and is NOT cumulative.

### ***Essay Assignment***

This assignment involves applying the sociological tools and knowledge that you gain in this course to understand the intersection of individual biography, social change, and social structure in an individual's life. Papers must be at least 10 pages in length. Detailed instructions will be provided in class. Unexcused late papers will be penalized 5% per day.

Note: All written work (including exams) is expected to meet the standards of university work. Grades will be based on mechanics, style, and clarity, in addition to ideas. This is a sociology class, so the major focus will be on learning sociological ideas. But clear thinking is related to clear writing, and the grading will reflect this. Marks are based on the following:

- A+ = outstanding work that far exceeds basic requirements
- A = outstanding work that significantly exceeds basic requirements
- B = work that exceeds basic requirements
- C = work that satisfies course requirements in all respects (average)
- D = substandard work
- F = performance that fails to meet course requirements

## **How to Contact Me:**

Email is the best way to contact me. During weekdays, allow for 24 hours for a response. During weekends, allow for 48 hours. You should not email me with questions that can be answered by referring to this course outline, or to Western's website.

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

Make sure to check the course OWL site regularly for course updates, cancellations, and other course-related postings. Announcements also may be emailed to your Western email account.

## **Important Policies**

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

If you miss the due date for an assignment or exam due to illness or for any other unforeseen reason, you must provide notification of and documentation for the reasons for your circumstances to your Academic Counselor within 48 hours. If your Academic Counselor agrees that your reasons are legitimate and are supported by your medical doctor's documentation, you will be allowed to schedule a make-up exam or hand in your assignment at a later date without penalty. Unexcused late assignments will be penalized 5% per day (including weekend days).

There will be one makeup date set by the Department for students needing to write a make-up exam (with approved accommodation from your academic counseling office). This makeup exam may or may not be in the same format as the original exam.

If a student misses a make-up exam due to sickness or another documented reason, then the weight of the mid-term will be added to the weight of the final exam. In cases where there is no approved justification for the absence, the student will receive a grade of zero on the exam.

### ***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 are not allowed during tests and examinations.

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 other websites or are disruptive, 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.