



**The University of Western Ontario**  
**SOCIOLOGY 2144B 650**  
**Sociology of Education**  
**Summer 2025: June 16-July 31**  
**Delivery Method – Online (asynchronous)**

**Instructor:** Lauren Barr (Lecturer)

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**Course Description:**

A comprehensive study of educational institutions in modern society. The focus of this course is on the sociological study of education in Canadian society. Applying different empirical and theoretical perspectives on education, we will do the following throughout this course:

- trace the historical development and organization of education in Canada
- investigate patterns of educational participation and the socialization function of schools
- debate the relationship between school and work
- analyze the role of education in the reproduction of social inequality
- learn about contemporary challenges facing education systems
- compare the Canadian education system to other systems (international)

***Prerequisite(s):*** none

***Anti-requisite(s):*** none

**Course Objectives and Learning Outcomes:**

*At the end of this course, the student will be able to*

- **Interpret** the historical and social conditions that have shaped contemporary educational systems and institutions.
- **Challenge** dominant narratives and assumptions about school success, failure, and meritocracy.
- **Analyze** the connections between educational institutions and broader social structures such as class, race, gender, and colonialism.
- **Evaluate** key arguments and motivations for educational reform from multiple sociological perspectives.

### **Course Material:**

- All required resources (articles, podcasts, videos) will be posted on OWL

### **A list of technical requirements for the course:**

- stable internet connection (especially for Quizzes and Exams)
- 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](mailto:lbarr2@uwo.ca) with individual questions.

- I will do my best to check email once each day, Monday-Friday.
- Please be patient and wait for my reply. At times I may be running behind.

### **Method of Evaluation:**

The evaluation methods described in the course outline are essential requirements for the course. All assessments are designed to support course learning outcomes and the development of critical thinking, communication, and analytical skills within an asynchronous, online environment.

<b>Evaluation</b>	<b>Value of Final Grade</b>	<b>Date / Due</b>
<b>Learning Engagement – Posts</b>	<b>5 %</b>  2.5 % for Original Posts  2.5% for Replies to Peers	Ongoing  Discussion topics will open on Monday @ 8am and close Sunday @ 11:59pm each week.
<b>Midterm</b>	<b>45 %</b>	Opens Friday July 4 @ 10:00 am EST and closes Saturday, July 5 @ 11:59pm EST.
<b>Final Exam</b>	<b>45%</b>	Monday, July 28. Opens at 10:00 am and closes at 10:00 pm EST.
<b>Final Mark</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>Course ends July 31</b>

### Midterm Exam – 45%

- **Date:** Opens **Friday, July 4 at 12:00 p.m.**, closes **Saturday, July 5 at 11:59 p.m.**
- **Time:** Timed online exam (90 minutes), available via OWL Brightspace using Gradescope.
- **Format:** Multiple choice
- **Content:** Includes material from Weeks 1-3
- **Academic Consideration:** This assessment requires **supporting documentation** to receive academic consideration for missed or late submissions.

### Final Exam – 45%

- **Date:** Monday, July 28, 2025 – opens at 10:00 am and closes at 10:00 pm EST
- **Format:** Timed online exam (1.5 hours), available via OWL & Gradescope
- **Content:** Cumulative. multiple choice
- **Academic Consideration:** University-wide exam policies apply.

### Online Discussion Posts –2.5%

- **Structure:** Students will complete **5 short discussion posts** (150–250 words) responding to course material.
- **Submission:** Posts for each week will open on Monday at 8:00 am and close on Sunday at 11:59 p.m.
- **Flexibility:** You have the entire week to post 2-3 times. You can do this on your own schedule.
- **Academic Consideration:** Due to built-in flexibility, **academic consideration will not be granted** for missed discussion posts.

### Peer Engagement (Discussion Replies) – 2.5%

- **Structure:** Students must reply to **2 peers per week** in the discussion forums, engaging respectfully and thoughtfully with their ideas
  - **Submission:** Replies due by **Mondays at 11:59 p.m.** — June 24, July 1, 8, 15, 22
  - **Assessment:** Reviewed for engagement, relevance, and reflection
  - **Academic Consideration:** Requests will not be granted for missed replies due to built-in flexibility.
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## **Course-Specific Conditions to Pass the Course**

- Students must attempt both the **midterm** and the **final exam** in order to be eligible to pass the course.
- While participation is asynchronous, regular engagement in forums is strongly recommended for success and community learning.

## **Student Absences:**

If you are unable to meet a course requirement due to illness or other serious circumstances, please follow the procedures below.

University policy on academic considerations are described [here](#). This policy requires that all requests for academic considerations must be accompanied by a self-attestation. Further information about academic considerations, and information about submitting this self-attestation with your academic consideration request may be found here. Please note that any academic considerations granted in this course will be determined by the instructor, in consultation with the academic advisors in your Faculty of Registration, in accordance with information presented in this course outline.

Students must familiarize themselves with the [Policy on Academic Consideration – Undergraduate Students in First Entry Programs](#). Students missing course work for medical, compassionate or extenuating circumstances can request academic consideration by completing a request at the central academic consideration portal. 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 schedule 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 elsewhere in this document. Please note that any academic considerations granted in this course will be determined by the instructor of this course, in consultation with the academic advisors in your Faculty of Registration, in accordance with information presented in this course outline. Supporting documentation for academic considerations for absences due to illness should use the [Student Medical Certificate](#) or, where that is not possible, equivalent documentation by a health care practitioner.

Students with an approved absence from an in-class test or exam will be required to write a makeup exam. Course professor or teaching assistant(s) may not be available to respond to questions during the makeup exam. Students should be aware that the make-up test will not necessarily be in the same format, be of the same duration, or cover the same material as the original test.

## **Course Schedule and Readings:**

The weekly schedule will be posted on OWL under CONTENT.

## **Artificial Intelligence:**

This course is grounded in the belief that education is about developing your own thinking, voice, and understanding of the world. While tools like AI can offer shortcuts, they cannot replace the deep learning that comes from struggling with ideas, making connections, and forming your own insights.

All written work in this course — including discussion posts, reflections, and exams — must be your own. Your assignments should clearly reflect your engagement with the course materials, your personal reflection, and your critical thinking. Using AI to generate ideas or text may feel tempting, but doing so undermines the purpose of your education and the integrity of your work.

You are encouraged to ask questions, explore difficult topics, and make mistakes — that's how learning happens. I ask that you honour that process by submitting work that is authentically yours. This is not just about meeting academic standards; it's about respecting yourself and your growth as an academic.

## **Academic Policies:**

**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](https://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/scholastic_discipline_undergrad.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.

**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.

**Course Selection:** 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 courses they may have taken.

If a student enrolls in a course for which they do not have the prerequisites, they may be removed from the course and have it deleted from their record. This decision may not be appealed. A student will receive no adjustment to their fees in the event that they are dropped from a course for failing to have the necessary prerequisites.

If a student takes a course that is antirequisite to a course previously taken, they will lose credit for the earlier course, regardless of the grade achieved in the most recent course.

***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](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 at the central academic consideration portal. 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 schedule 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. Please note that any academic considerations granted in this course will be determined by the instructor of this course, in consultation with the academic advisors in your Faculty of Registration, in accordance with information presented in this course outline. Supporting documentation for academic considerations for absences due to illness should use the Student Medical Certificate [https://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic\\_policies/appeals/medicalform.pdf](https://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/medicalform.pdf) or, where that is not possible, equivalent documentation by a health care practitioner.

**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.

***Missed Tests and Exams:*** Students with an approved absence from an in-class test will be required to write a make-up test. The make-up test will not necessarily be in the same format, be of the same duration, or cover the same material as the original test. Course professors may not be available to respond to questions during the make-up test/exam slots.

Students with an approved absence from a final exam in December or April will be required to write a makeup exam known as a Special Examination. Permission to write a Special Examination may be granted on the basis of compassionate or medical grounds with appropriate supporting documentation provided to the student's Home 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](#) . 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.

**Accessibility Options:** Students with disabilities or accessibility challenges should work with Accessible Education (formerly SSD) [http://academicsupport.uwo.ca/accessible\\_education/index.html](http://academicsupport.uwo.ca/accessible_education/index.html), which provides recommendations for accommodation based on medical documentation or psychological and cognitive testing. The accommodation policy can be found here: [https://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic\\_policies/appeals/Academic%20Accommodation\\_disabilities.pdf](https://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/Academic%20Accommodation_disabilities.pdf) . 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) .

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

**Additional resources include:**

Registrar Services <http://www.registrar.uwo.ca>

Student Support Services <http://westernusc.ca/services>

Please visit your Home Faculty Academic Counselling webpage for information on adding/dropping courses, academic considerations for absences, appeals, exam conflicts, and many other academic related matters: [https://registrar.uwo.ca/faculty\\_academic\\_counselling.html](https://registrar.uwo.ca/faculty_academic_counselling.html) .

**Gender-Based and Sexual Violence:** Western is committed to reducing incidents of gender-based and sexual violence and providing compassionate support to anyone who has gone through these traumatic events. If you have experienced sexual or gender-based violence (either recently or in the past), you will find information about support services for survivors, including emergency contacts at [https://www.uwo.ca/health/student\\_support/survivor\\_support/get-help.html](https://www.uwo.ca/health/student_support/survivor_support/get-help.html) . To connect with a case manager or set up an appointment, please contact [support@uwo.ca](mailto:support@uwo.ca) .

I am looking forward to working with you this term!

Let the sociological journey begin.