



The University of Western Ontario
Department of Sociology
SOCIOLOGY 1027B-001
Life Is Not Always Fair
Winter 2026

Delivery Method: In Person

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

Course Description:

This introductory course challenges commonly held assumptions about individual success, talent and merit. Students will be introduced to underlying patterns and important debates about the nature of power and inequality, and how they shape issues such as work, family, education, the economy, and the pursuit of justice.

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. This 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.

Anti-requisite(s): [Sociology 2240E, Sociology 2270A/B, Sociology 2271A/B.

Course Objectives and Learning Outcomes:

Upon successful completion of this course, students will be able to:

- Apply a social scientific perspective in explaining and examining social inequalities across institutions such as education, health, and employment.
- Recognize similarities and differences between sociological perspectives and the perspectives of other academic and non-academic ways of knowing.
- Evaluate sociological and individual explanations for patterns of inequality in society.
- Interpret the results of sociological studies conducted using qualitative and quantitative research methods.
- Apply multiple social theoretical perspectives to explain the causes and consequences of social change.

Course Material:

The required textbook for this course is:

Corrigall-Brown, Catherine. 2023. *Imagining Sociology: An Introduction with Readings*. Third Edition. Don Mills, ON: Oxford University Press.

Note: you can purchase either the physical book or the e-book.

Other reading assignments may consist of an assigned course text journal articles, book chapters, and knowledge mobilization resources. Links to PDFs, websites, and library resources will be provided via Brightspace.

Students will also use the Perusall platform for an optional (bonus!) exercise on Week 11. Access links to this software are available through Brightspace.

Communication:

Students are responsible for checking the course [OWL Brightspace](#) site on a regular basis for news and updates. This is the primary method by which information will be disseminated to all students enrolled in the course.

Course Schedule and Readings:

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

Method of Evaluation:

Mini Assignments 1 & 2: 7.5% each = 15%

There will be two Mini Assignments in the term, due January 30 by 11:59pm and March 20 by 11:59pm respectively. These assignments test students' abilities to interpret and apply key course concepts. You will use Brightspace's "Quizzes" tool to submit multiple choice and short answer responses to a series of questions. This will not only support students who benefit from evaluations beyond time-restricted multiple-choice test taking, it will also provide a relatively low-stakes opportunity to help you build skills in critical reading and writing.

Students will be expected to complete these assignments independently, without the aid of AI software, and to complete all written components using their own words.

A 36-hour grace period will be allotted for students who encounter technical issues or minor illnesses, inconveniences, etc. After that, a late penalty 5% per day will be subtracted from the assessed grade. Assignments submitted later than 6 days past the original deadline will receive a mark of zero. Students requiring academic accommodation for late or missed assignments beyond the allotted grace period must receive approval from Academic Counselling.

Midterm Exam: 35%

The Midterm Exam will be administered during class time on February 23. The exam location will be announced in class and on Brightspace. The test will consist of multiple-choice questions. All course materials covered prior to the midterm will be eligible for testing.

Students will be expected to arrive on time for the exam. Students who arrive later than 30 minutes past the start of the Midterm will not be admitted into the examination room. Students will not be permitted to leave the exam room until 30 minutes has elapsed and attendance has been taken.

Use of electronic devices and other written aids (notes, outlines, etc.) will not be permitted during the examination, unless otherwise stated.

Accommodations for the make-up exam date will be provided only with approval from an Academic Counsellor. Students with an approved absence from the Midterm will be required to write a makeup exam during the departmental Midterm make-up midterm exam period (location and date TBD). The 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. If an approved accommodation extends beyond the designated make-up dates, either an alternate date or a re-weighting of the Midterm grade to the Final Exam will be determined at the discretion of the course professor.

Final Exam: 40%

The Final Exam will be administered during the Final Exam Period (location TBD). The exam will consist of multiple-choice questions.

As with the Midterm, use of electronic devices and other written aids (notes, outlines, etc.) will not be permitted during the examination unless otherwise stated. Students with an approved accommodations for the final exam will be required to write a makeup exam during the departmental Final Exam make-up period (Location TBA). The 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.

Note: 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. *This applies to quizzes, the midterm, and the final exam.*

"Let's Discuss" Activity: 10%

During class on Weeks 2–6 and 8–12, students will participate in small group discussions relating to the week's topic. I will pose a critical analysis question that invites students to explore real-world connections to core course concepts.

Students will discuss the question in groups of 3–5. A group representative will upload the group's conclusions in a written response (along with the names and emails of group members) to Brightspace. The submissions are due by 4:30pm on the day of class and will be marked out of 4. This assignment uses a flexible grading scheme: the mark for this course component will be based on the student's top 8 scores earned throughout the term.

It is each student's responsibility to ensure that the group's work is submitted and credited (I recommend getting your group representative's name and contact information *each week* so that I or a TA can look up the submission if there are any record-keeping issues). Since this assignment provides flexibility for students who may miss class for health, compassionate, or extra-curricular reasons, there are no opportunities for "make-up" submissions. Exceptions will be made only for extenuating circumstances in which Academic Accommodation has been provided. *If you require an extended absence (two or more weeks) on medical, religious, or compassionate grounds, consult with me ASAP so we can discuss a fair solution for your grade.*

Note: These assignments are designed to promote *in-class* discussion. Only students present for the week's activity are eligible for the grade. Submitting work for an activity you were not actually present for, and/or submitting the name of a classmate who was not in attendance, is an academic offence under the Senate's [Scholastic Discipline for Undergraduate Students](#), "3. *Submitting false or fraudulent assignments or credentials.*" Students found to have committed this offence will receive a 20% deduction from the overall assignment grade for their first offence, an additional 30% deduction for a second offence, and an official report for Scholastic Discipline submitted to the Department Chair for any further offences.

Use of Generative Artificial Intelligence (AI):

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

Electronic Devices:

Use of electronic devices is permitted in class, but notifications and ringers should be turned off.

Per university policy, recording class proceedings is prohibited without special permission.

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>