



The University of Western Ontario

Department of Sociology

SOCIOLOGY 2105A-001

Sociology of Youth

Fall 2025

Delivery Method: In Person
Instructor: Dr. Merita Limani
(mlimani2@uwo.ca)

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

Course Description:

A general coverage of literature and issues related to the sociological study of adolescence and youth. Major theories are related to the settings in which young people currently spend their time. The focus is on the practical problems of day-to-day life and the transition to adulthood.

Prerequisite(s): None

Antirequisite(s): None

Course Objectives and Learning Outcomes

By the end of this course, students will be able to:

- Recognize youth as a socially constructed category that can be understood from multiple perspectives.
- Critically apply sociological theories and research in analyzing adolescence and youth.
- Examine how social differences (such as class, race, gender, sexuality, and ability) shape youth identities and experiences.
- Evaluate the influence of key institutions, including family, education, work, media, and justice, on young people's lives and transitions.
- Engage in collaborative learning that fosters critical reflection, self-awareness, and collective growth.

Course Material:

Required Course Textbook: France, A., Coffey, J., Roberts, S., & Waite, C. (2020). Youth Sociology. Macmillan Education Ltd. For purchase, follow: ISBN: 978-1-137-49041-4 (paperback).

*All other material will be provided on Brightspace.

Communication:

The course syllabus, classroom sessions, and our Brightspace site will serve as your primary sources of information. Students are expected to check the course site (<https://westernu.brightspace.com/>) regularly for announcements, updates, and resources, as this will be the main channel for course-related communication. You are also responsible for attending class and reading the syllabus carefully.

If you have questions about course content, please feel free to approach me before, during, or after class. For matters outside of class, you may email me at mlimani2@uwo.ca to arrange a meeting during office hours. I aim to respond to emails within 24–48 hours on weekdays (Monday to Friday, 9:00 a.m.–5:00 p.m. EST).

Before sending an email, please review the syllabus, your lecture notes, and any materials posted on Brightspace to confirm whether your question has already been addressed. All email communication should be professional and respectful: messages must be written in full sentences (not in text-message style), carefully proofread, and sent from your UWO email account. Please include the course title and section in the subject line, and sign your message with your full name and student number. Emails that do not follow these guidelines may not receive a response.

Method of Evaluation:

The evaluation methods described in the course outline are essential requirements for the course. Further guidance on assignments and exams will be provided on Brightspace.

Description	Due Date	Weight
In Class-Participation	In the Classroom	10%
Short Written Assignment	October 1, 2025	15%
Midterm Examination	TBA	35%
Final Examination	TBA	40%

Evaluation Details:

Lecture attendance and in-class participation (10% of your final grade): Students will respond to one short iClicker question at the beginning of each Wednesday lecture. iClicker Cloud is fully supported by Western and provided free of charge to all students and faculty. Students need to download the iClicker Student app or use the web client and log in with their Western credentials ([iClicker - Western Technology Services - Western University](#)). Please ensure your device (phone, tablet, or laptop) is functioning and connected before class begins.

Short Written Assignment (15% of your final grade)

Students will complete one short written assignment (maximum **1,000 characters**). The task is to select a topic related to youth that they find important or meaningful and address it in the form of a concise, critical reflection. The goal of this assignment is to encourage students to connect sociological concepts to real-world issues in a clear and focused way.

Further instructions, including formatting requirements, and submission details, will be posted on Brightspace.

Midterm Exam (35% of your final grade): The course midterm will cover all material from lectures, readings, and class activities/discussions completed prior to the date of the test. The exam will consist entirely of multiple-choice questions and will be closed book, meaning that students are not permitted to

use notes, textbooks, or other course materials during the test. Electronic devices such as mobile phones, headphones, and smart watches will not be permitted. The midterm will take place during class time, and no lecture will be held on that day. Please note that computer-marked multiple-choice exams may be subject to similarity review by software designed to detect unusual coincidences in answer patterns that may indicate cheating.

Final Exam (40% of your final grade): The final exam will be scheduled by the Registrar's Office during the official exam period. It will be a closed-book exam and may include a combination of multiple-choice, true/false, fill-in-the-blank, and/or short-answer questions. The exam will cover material from the entire course, including lectures, readings, and class activities/discussions.

Further instructions, including dates of the exams will be posted on Brightspace.

Grading Guidelines: Grades (except for the final exam and year-end mark) will be posted to Brightspace as they become available. Due to privacy regulations, I do not provide grades or discuss issues regarding grades via email. If you wish to discuss your grade(s) please contact or speak with me to set up an appointment, during office hours. Final course grades will be released from the registrar and posted on your student center. All evaluations are guided by Western's Undergraduate Grading Guidelines:

A+ 90-100: One could scarcely expect better from a student at this level

A 80-89: Superior work which is clearly above average

B 70-79: Good work, meeting all requirements, and eminently satisfactory

C 60-69: Competent work, meeting requirements

D 50-59: Fair work, minimally acceptable

F below 50: Fail

For more information about the university grading standards, see the Registrar's Handbook: Grading Standards

Use of Generative Artificial Intelligence (AI):

Students may use AI tools (e.g., ChatGPT) only for information gathering and preliminary research purposes. These tools are meant to help with exploring ideas, but students are expected to:

- Critically evaluate all information obtained.
- Engage in independent thinking and develop their own arguments.
- Ensure all written work reflects their own original contributions.
- Properly cite any sources of information, including material obtained with AI.
- Create their own figures, diagrams, and graphs (AI-generated visuals are not permitted).

The same principles apply to the use of translation software: it can support the writing process, but final submissions must represent the student's own work. Adhering to these guidelines ensures academic integrity while encouraging critical thinking and originality.

Electronic Devices:

The use of electronic devices is permitted on this course.

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>