



The University of Western Ontario
Department of Sociology
SOCIOLOGY 2144-A-001
Sociology of Education
Fall 2025

In-Person

Instructor: Professor Anders Holm
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This is a DRAFT copy only. Please see the course site for the final version.

Course Description: A comprehensive study of educational institutions in modern society. This course introduces the sociological study of education, exploring how schools and other educational institutions both shape and reflect broader social structures. Students examine key theories and concepts, including socialization, stratification, cultural capital, and educational inequality. Topics include the relationship between education and social mobility, the role of race, class, gender, and immigration in shaping educational experiences and outcomes, and the impact of policy and reform. Through lectures, students develop a critical understanding of how education operates as both a site of opportunity and a mechanism of social reproduction.

Prerequisite(s): none.

Anti-requisite(s): none.

Course Objectives and Learning Outcomes:

By the end of this course, students will have developed a strong foundation in critical thinking and sociological analysis, enabling them to evaluate how education both reflects and shapes social structures and individual experiences. They will gain the ability to interpret and integrate quantitative and qualitative evidence on issues such as social mobility, inequality, cultural capital, and policy impacts. Students will also strengthen their capacity to critically assess research findings, draw connections between theory and empirical evidence, and articulate informed arguments about the complex roles schools and other educational institutions play in structuring opportunities, identities, and social outcomes.

Course Material:

Davies, Scott and Niel Guppy (2018) "The Schooled Society – An Introduction to the Sociology of Education, Oxford University Press, 4.th edition. (Required). Nonetheless, all discussions on Kritik as well as all exam content will be entirely based on lecture notes presented in class and posted on Brightspace.

Various papers, posted during the course. (optional)

Subscription to Kritik ([Kritik](#)). Required.

Communication:

Students are responsible for checking the course OWL site ([Homepage - SOCIOLOG 2144A 001 LEC FW25: SOCIOLOGY OF EDUCATION](#)) 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.

Course Schedule and Readings:

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

Thursday the 4th of September

Chapter 1, in Davies and Guppy

Thursday the 11th of September:

No class!

Thursday the 18th of September:

Chapter 2-3, in Davies and Guppy

Thursday the 25th of September

Chapter 4-5, in Davies and Guppy

(1st Kritik assignment due)

Thursday the 2nd of October

Chapter 6, in Davies and Guppy

Thursday the 9th of October

Chapter 7, in Davies and Guppy

Thursday the 16th of October

MIDTERM EXAM (In Class)

Thursday the 23rd of October

(2nd Kritik assignment due)

Thursday the 30th of October

Chapter 8, in Davies and Guppy

Thursday the 6th of November (READING WEEK)

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Thursday the 13th of November

(3rd Kritik assignment due)

Chapter 9-10, in Davies and Guppy

Thursday the 20th of November (NO CLASS)

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Thursday the 27th of November

(4th Kritik assignment due)

Chapter 11-12, in Davies and Guppy

Thursday the 4th of December

Chapter 13, in Davies and Guppy

FINAL EXAM: TBA

Method of Evaluation:

The evaluation methods described in the course outline are essential requirements for the course.

There are three modes of evaluation:

Online submission and evaluation of peer creations through submissions to the online platform "Kritik":
20 %. Due dates are shown in the course schedule and readings.

Midterm multiple-choice exam 40 %. To be held in class, Thursday the 16th of October.

Final multiple-choice exam 40 %. TBA.

Use of Generative Artificial Intelligence (AI):

Within this course, students are permitted to use AI tools exclusively for information gathering and preliminary research purposes. These tools are intended to enhance the learning experience by providing access to diverse information sources. However, it is essential that students critically evaluate the obtained information, exercise independent thinking, and engage in original research to synthesize and develop their own ideas, arguments and perspectives. The use of AI tools can serve as a starting point for exploring a topic, with students expected to uphold academic integrity by appropriately attributing all sources of information and avoiding plagiarism. Essays, written assignments and/or lab reports should reflect the student's own thoughts and independent written work. Students should also generate their own figures (e.g., graphs, diagrams) rather than using AI generated ones. By adhering to these guidelines, students contribute to a responsible and effective learning environment that promotes critical thinking, independent inquiry and all them to produce original written contributions. The same principles also apply to the use of translation software to support the writing the essays and other written assessments.

Electronic Devices:

All kinds of devices are allowed during class and when working in Kritik.

For the midterm and the final exam, a simple pocket calculator and a two-sided cheat sheet is allowed (either front and back or two separate pieces of paper only front). The cheat sheet can be with any font size or handwritten and may include figures and tables.

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>