



The University of Western Ontario  
Department of Sociology  
SOCIOLOGY 2263B-001  
Thinking Sociologically  
Winter 2026

Delivery Method: In Person

Instructor: Dr. Robert Nonomura  
Email: rnonomur@uwo.ca

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

Course Description:

An in-depth examination of many of the core ideas that sociologists use in their analyses, including the social, society, subjectivity, institutions, and others. Involves questions regarding how we approach these theoretically, in terms of empirical observations, and in terms of evaluating their impact on our current social order

*Prerequisite(s):* 0.5 Sociology course at the 1000 level.

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:

This course is designed to provide you with a foundational understanding of the ideas, perspectives, concepts, and paradigms that have shaped, and continue to shape, the discipline of sociology. This involves not only surveying the “theories” of influential classical and contemporary social researchers but also considering how their ideas developed in the context of particular political, scientific, and philosophical movements. It is these theorists’ intellectual responsiveness to these various social phenomena—that is, the sociologically imaginative quality of their mode of inquiry—that makes their work especially relevant to present-day social research, and that will constitute the focus of our course.

Thus, the course will lay an intellectual foundation for sociological thinking that students can use throughout their degree program and beyond. We will explore what “sociological theorizing” can teach us about today’s society and how it might be used to gain deeper scientific and moral insight into our own beliefs, ideas, relationships, and interests. Upon successful completion of this course, students will be able to:

- Identify the historical and philosophical roots of sociological thought.
- Locate the role of theory and method in the process of social scientific inquiry.
- Critically analyze selections of primary texts written by influential 19th, 20th, and 21st century sociological theorists.
- Compare the relative strengths and limitations of various analytic frameworks for solving empirical, methodological, and epistemic problems.
- Connect core sociological concepts to “real-world” examples in contemporary society.

### Course Material:

Reading assignments will consist of articles, book chapters, and knowledge mobilization resources. Links or PDFs to all resources will be provided via Perusall or linked through Brightspace. Some copyright costs may be involved in using this platform, but efforts have been made to keep these at a minimum.

There is no required textbook for this course.

### 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:

***Attendance: 5%***

In-class attendance is vital to your success in the course. Lectures are designed to provide you with foundational tools for interpreting and mobilizing core social-theoretical concepts. The assigned readings serve as a common point of reference for developing those tools. You will need both in order to successfully pass the course. Lectures also cultivate mental focus in following long-form oral arguments, and they provide social and cognitive stimuli that enhances retention.

To incentivize engagement in these vital aspects of this course, your attendance will be recorded upon completion of a weekly attendance activity using iClicker. Your attendance grade will be calculated as a proportion of your attendances at scheduled in-person class sessions. If you require an extended absence (two or more weeks) on medical or compassionate grounds, consult with me once the issue is resolved and we can discuss a fair solution for your grade.

### *Critical Analysis Assignment 1 & 2: 12.5% each = 25%*

These assignments provide students an opportunity to develop their skills in social-theoretical reading, conceptualization, analysis, and writing. Students will draw upon their understanding of the course materials (readings and lectures) to respond to a series of questions about the course materials. These assignments are to be completed using the Quizzes Tool on Brightspace. Due dates for Assignment 1 and 2 are January 26, 11:59pm ET and March 28, 11:59pm ET respectively. A 24-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.

Also, this is stated in the “Artificial Intelligence” section below but let me emphasize in this section as well: 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. This course engages your capacity to wield real intelligence—creative, explanatory, theoretical, improbable. As [Chomsky, Roberts, and Watumull illuminate here](#), reliance on AI algorithms such as ChatGPT is often inimical to that pursuit.

### *Perusall Online Discussion: 15%*

During each week’s readings, you will have the opportunity to use the Perusall platform to comment on key passages, pose questions about the readings, and interact with peers who are doing the same. Of the eleven eligible weeks in which to participate on the platform, you will be expected to participate in at least eight (8). However, you are welcome to participate in more than this. I will base this component of your grade on your top 8 assignment scores throughout the term. Marks for your discussion posts each week will be taken based on the work completed by Wednesday 11:59pm of the week the material was covered in class (i.e., after class, you have the rest of the day to complete the readings and participate in the online discussion. Your mark will be based on the consistency, quality, depth, and completeness of your engagement with the week’s materials. Specific details about expectations for this component of the course will be provided in the Week 1 slides.

### *Midterm Exam: 25%*

The Midterm Exam will be worth 25% of the final mark. It will be administered during class time on February 25. The test will consist of multiple-choice questions. All course materials covered prior to the Midterm will be eligible for testing.

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: 30%*

The Final Exam will be worth 30% of the final mark. It will be administered during the Final Exam period. 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 (date and location 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.

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 assignments, the midterm, and the final exam.

### 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](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](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](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](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](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](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](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](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](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](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](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>