



The University of Western Ontario
Department of Sociology
SOCIOLOGY 4422F-001
LGBTQ2S+ Populations
Fall 2025

Format: In-Person

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

Course Description:

This course deconstructs sex, gender, and sexuality binaries to understand LGBTQ2S+ diversity. Drawing from diverse empirical and theoretical literatures, we explore what it's like to be LGBTQ2S+ in a heteronormative world. Topics include mental health, family, education, employment, data and methods, homelessness, crime and victimization, intersectionality, HIV/AIDS, and resiliency.

Prerequisite(s): Registration in third year or above in any Department of Sociology module, or fourth year in any module

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): None.

Course Objectives and Learning Outcomes:

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

- Combine knowledges from across multiple disciplines and sectors into a critical sociological understanding of the current literature on LGBTQ2S+ populations and communities.
- Recognize distinct empirical and ethical challenges to studying LGBTQ2S+ populations.
- Lead a scholarly discussion that generates critical analysis of a recent publication (or publications) on LGBTQ2S+ populations.
- Systematically develop an essay-length sociological analysis of an issue or gap in the current literature on LGBTQ2S+ populations.
- Contribute to knowledge mobilization about LGBTQ2S+ populations by synthesizing scholarly analysis into a resource designed for general audiences (e.g. infographic, short webinar, vlog).

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.

There is no required textbook for this course.

The only foreseeable cost related to this course may be printing/copier fees. As part of the Discussion Facilitation assignment, students will work in groups of 2–3 to lead in-class discussions once in the term. Discussion Facilitators will provide a 2–4 page handout to all members of the class. Assuming library printing fees of \$0.10/page and a course enrolment of 20 students, total printing costs should not exceed \$8.00 per group.

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:

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

Students must attend at least 50% of eligible class meetings (Week 2–13) to pass the course. Absences will be dealt with in accordance with the [Academic Consideration Policy](#) regarding student absence requests and flexible deadlines.

Students must achieve a 50% or higher on the Research Paper assignment to pass the course.

Paper Proposal – 10%

Prior to submitting the Final Paper, students will submit a Research Paper Proposal. The Paper Proposal will contain three elements: a summary of the proposed Final Paper project, a tentative outline of the paper, and a proposed bibliography.

This assignment must be uploaded to Brightspace by **Thursday October 9, 11:59pm ET**. All students are expected to submit the assignment by this deadline except for those serving as the week's Discussion Facilitators (these students will receive a one-week extension on the assignment). Should illness or extenuating circumstances arise, students are permitted to submit their assignment up to 36 hours past the deadline without academic penalty. Should students submit their assessment beyond 36 hours past the deadline, a late penalty of 5% per

day will be subtracted from the assessed grade. Students should seek academic accommodation if medical or compassionate grounds delays submission past this grace period.

A grading rubric and a PDF containing detailed instructions for this assignment are posted on Brightspace.

Research Paper — 33%

Students will write a research paper on a topic related to LGBTQ2S+ populations. This assignment must be uploaded to Brightspace by either **Wednesday November 27, 11:59pm ET** or **Wednesday December 4, 11:59pm ET** depending on presentation date of the Knowledge Mobilization presentation (see below). Further details will be discussed in class.

Students are expected to submit the assignment by the deadline listed. Should illness or extenuating circumstances arise, students are permitted to submit their assignment up to 36 hours past the deadline without academic penalty. Should students submit their assessment beyond 36 hours past the deadline, a late penalty of 5% per day will be subtracted from the assessed grade. Students should seek academic accommodation if medical or compassionate grounds delays submission past this grace period.

Research papers should be roughly thirteen (13) double-spaced pages, excluding cover and reference pages. Strong research papers will use at least 12 sources. It is expected that these sources will be from peer-reviewed academic publications, but exceptions will be made for grey literature and non-traditional resources *pending consultation with the instructor*. Papers should be formatted according to either ASA or APA guidelines.

A grading rubric and a PDF containing detailed instructions for this assignment are posted on Brightspace.

Knowledge Mobilization Presentation — 10%

On the last two weeks of class, we will hold an informal conference on LGBTQ2S+ populations. Students will prepare a knowledge mobilization resource of their choice (e.g. poster presentation, webinar, vlog, infographic) about their topic and present this resource to the class.

Your presentation and assignment due date will correspond with your Research Paper due date. Students with November 27 paper deadlines will present on **December 5**. Students with December 4 paper deadlines will present on **November 28**. A digital version of your resource must be uploaded to Brightspace no later than twelve hours before your presentation (i.e. by 9:30pm the night before). Late submissions will result in a 5% deduction from the overall assignment mark.

Your peers will pose questions and share feedback on the resource you present. Therefore, attendance on *both* presentation dates will be considered *mandatory* unless excused by Academic Counselling on compassionate or medical grounds, or with prior arrangement by me. Unexcused absence will result in a 20% deduction in this assignment grade.

A grading rubric and a PDF containing detailed instructions for this assignment are posted on Brightspace.

Discussion Facilitation — 20%

Weekly seminar discussions will be led by designated discussion facilitators. Students will facilitate in groups of two or three (2–3) once in the term. Students will have the opportunity to select their facilitation date and topic in order of a random draw on Thursday September 5 (Week 1).

Facilitators will lead the class in a discussion of the theoretical, methodological, and sociological significance of the week's readings. This will consist of a synoptic commentary on themes emerging in the texts (10–12 minutes total) and a series of discussion questions.

Facilitators will construct a 3–4-page handout sheet to be distributed to each member of the class. A draft of this handout sheet must be uploaded to Brightspace at least 24 hours prior to the start of class (i.e. by 9:30am Wednesday morning). A final version should be uploaded to Brightspace by 9am Thursday. Late submissions will result in a 5% deduction from the overall assignment mark. Facilitation groups that fail to provide a hard copy outline to the class will receive a 10% deduction from the overall assignment mark.

A grading rubric and a PDF containing detailed instructions for this assignment are posted on Brightspace.

Perusall Participation — 12%

For each week's readings, you will use the Perusall platform to comment on key passages, pose questions about the readings, and interact with peers who are doing the same. Each of these "assignments" will be graded individually using the platform's proprietary algorithm, which ensures fairness and consistency. Your grade will be based on the consistency, quantity, quality, depth, and completeness of your engagement with the week's materials. I will provide further explanation of these standards, as well as instructions on using the platform on Week 1.

The deadline for weekly Perusall participation grades is 9:10am on Thursdays (i.e., 20 minutes before class). The platform will remain open past this date so that students can continue the conversation, but the week's assignment grade will be based on work submitted before the deadline.

You will be expected to participate in at least eight (8) of these weekly "assignments." That is, the grade for this component of the course will consist of your top eight Perusall marks in the term.

In-Person Participation — 15%

Participation will be assessed cumulatively throughout the term. Evaluation for this mark comprises all forms of interaction and communication (in class and in office hours) that

contribute to the accomplishment of our learning objectives and that also uphold the class code of ethics. Note: communications about assignments, absences, or other logistical concerns do not constitute participation.

A PDF outlining the grading standards for this course is posted on Brightspace. We will also discuss standards of classroom conduct on Week 1.

Use of Generative Artificial Intelligence (AI):

The faculty requires the following statement to appear on Course Outlines:

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 allow 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.

To avoid confusion regarding interpretation of this policy, the following course-specific standards will be enforced:

- Use of AI-generated text in written assignments (including Paper Proposals, Research Papers, Knowledge Mobilization resources, Discussion Facilitation handouts and scripts, and Perusall posts) is not permitted under any circumstances.
- Use of grammar and spellcheck programs like Grammarly are permitted for basic copyediting purposes only.
- The above statement about “information gathering and preliminary research purposes” applies to general inquiry only. Compilation of bibliographic sources and supporting evidence for the Paper Proposal and Research Paper assignments should be conducted without the use of AI tools.
- You may use library resources or AI tools to assist in formatting the References section of your work to ASA or APA style guidelines; however, all in-text citations—*especially page number references*—should be done by you. You are responsible for cross-checking the accuracy and completeness of any references you cite in your work (as well as links and DOIs).

- Students should be aware of the propensity of generative AI to produce “hallucinations” such as fabricated information and sources. Fabricating evidence in any course assignment constitutes a form of research falsification and will be subject to investigation for academic misconduct, per Senate policy. I reserve the right to request copies or direct links to any materials cited in the assignments you submit.
- If you have a reasonable purpose for incorporating AI-generated content in your Knowledge Mobilization project (e.g. AI-generated images for aesthetic purposes, auto-generated transcripts for accessibility) this is likely permissible, but please consult with me first.

Electronic Devices:

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

Per university policy, recording in-class proceedings is prohibited without special permission from the course professor.

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>