The University of Western Ontario
Department of Sociology

Sociology 4471F-200
Fall 2025

Delivery Method – Blended

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

Course Description:

This course will explore the root causes of anthropogenic climate change. Topics include environmental ethics and activist movements, conceptualizing human/nature relations, cultural perceptions of climate change, and transitioning to a post-carbon society.

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): Sociology 4485F/G taught in 2020/2021

Course Objectives and Learning Outcomes:

* Demonstrate an understanding of the social dimensions of climate change from a sociological perspective.
* Critically evaluate theoretical arguments and current research related to society's role in climate change and other environmental issues.
* Analyze the relationships between social forces, social institutions and climate change
* Develop critical and creative thinking & writing skills
* Develop presentation skills (clearly express ideas and arguments orally & lead discussions)
* Develop the ability to present and discuss ideas clearly and articulately through effective oral and written communication.

Course Material:

Technical Requirements: Stable internet connection, computer with working microphone and webcam.

Required Text(s): Articles and other materials used in this course will be publicly available, available through Western libraries, and/or through OWL Brightspace.

Communication:

Contact me directly via email at kshuey@uwo.ca

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.

Evaluation Breakdown:
Class participation	15%
Reflections papers (3 x 10%)	30%
Class presentation and discussion leader	15%
Final project, due December 2nd, 11:59pm	40%

1. Class participation (15%)

This course is organized as a seminar. Class periods will include a mix of lecture and student-led discussion. It is critical that everyone read the assigned readings each week and come to class ready to actively participate in the discussion. The more you participate, the more you will get from the class and the more interesting it will be for all of us. Participation will be evaluated on both the quality and frequency of contribution.

2. Reflections (30% = 3 x 10%), uploaded to Brightspace by class time on the relevant week. TWO OF THE SUBMISSIONS NEED TO OCCUR BEFORE THE READING WEEK BREAK.

Over the course of the semester, students will submit 3 written reflection papers linking and applying that week's assigned articles and topic to a current issue in the news (eg. current event, debate or policy). How does what you are learning and reading in class help you to understand these issues? How does the current event illustrate class material? Each reflection should be approximately 2-3 double-spaced pages. Grades will be based on the relevance of the chosen news article and the critical application and connections drawn to course readings and concepts. In order to be graded, papers need to include a citation and working link to the chosen news article. Incorporated class readings used in the reflection need to be properly referenced and

cited. Current events and reflections will be incorporated into class discussions on the day they are due. See policy on use of AI, below.

NOTE: Please note that flexibility is built into the reflection assignments. If submission is not possible one week due to illness or extenuating circumstances, students can choose to instead write and submit a reflection on another upcoming weeks. Because of this flexibility, and that reflections are tied to weekly class discussions, *due dates and times listed are firm* and additional requests for academic consideration will not be granted.

3. Class presentation and discussion leader (15%)

Each student will be required to present orally on one of the readings assigned in a given week. The purpose of the presentation is <u>not</u> to provide simply a summary of the reading to the class, but to also raise questions for class discussion through a critical analysis. *Students will submit their notes/slides following their presentation, under the Assignments tab in OWL Brightspace*.

NOTE: Instructors are permitted to designate one assessment per course per term as requiring supporting documentation to receive academic consideration. For this course, the <u>class presentation and discussion leader component</u> has been designated as **requiring supporting documentation**. This is an important component of the class, and an absence will impact the learning of the other students in the class. Presentation dates are chosen by students at the beginning of the term, and as a result, this assignment cannot be rescheduled. Those with approved medical accommodation for absence will be required to present to the instructor at a later time scheduled outside of class meeting in order to make-up this assignment.

4. Final project (40%) – Due December 2nd, 11:59 pm

The final paper should be approximately 3500 words in length, double-spaced, 12-point Times New Roman font, including references (10-12 pages). The assignment will be submitted to the OWL course site, including Turnitin.com for plagiarism checking. References should follow [ASA or APA formatting](#). In-text citations are needed to indicate the source of any information or statement that is not common knowledge. Reference lists need to be complete and accurate, with working links to the referenced items provided. See policy on use of AI, below.

NOTE: Students are expected to submit the assignment by the deadline listed. Should illness or extenuating circumstances arise, or if students have accommodation for flexible deadlines through Accessible Education, students are permitted to submit their assignment up to 72 hours past the deadline without academic penalty. Should students submit their assessment beyond 72 hours past the deadline, a late penalty of 5% per day will be subtracted from the assessed grade. As flexible deadlines are used in this course, requests for academic consideration will not be granted.

Student Absences:

If you are unable to meet a course requirement due to illness or other serious circumstances, please follow the [Academic Consideration Policy](#) regarding student absence requests and flexible deadlines.

Students with academic consideration for an examination will either be provided a make-up examination date or will have their grade re-weighed to the final (i.e. 100% cumulative final), at Professor Shuey's discretion.

Copyright:

Students may not record or distribute lectures or any class activity, including conversations during office hours, without written permission from the instructor, except as part of approved accommodations for students with disabilities. Any approved recordings may only be used for the student's own private use.

Use of Generative Artificial Intelligence (AI):

Students are expected to write their essays in their own words. Students are permitted to use AI tools only for information gathering and as a starting point for exploring a topic. Students are **not permitted** to include AI generated text in their essays and present it as their own writing. In-text citations are needed to indicate the source of any information or statements that are not common knowledge. Reference lists need to be complete and accurate, and the referenced items need to be locatable. Written assignments must reflect the student's own thoughts and independent written work.

Emerging research suggests that AI is reshaping our ability to think and the way we process information and make decisions, often diminishing our reliance on our own cognitive abilities. In addition, the use of AI introduces an increased risk of misinformation, including errors, outdated information, or biased responses, as well as reduced diversity in thought that risks overlooking marginalized voices.

- Retain control of your work and develop your critical thinking skills, which are a key part of a university education. Do not use AI as a crutch or as an outsourcing of your brain.
- Critically evaluate the obtained information, exercise independent thinking, and engage in original research to synthesize and develop their own ideas, arguments and perspectives.
- Appropriately attribute all sources of information to avoid plagiarism.
- Written assignments should reflect the student's own thoughts and independent written work.

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