

Brescia University College
Department of Sociology
Introduction to Sociology
Sociology 1020 (530)
Fall/Winter 2016/17

Instructor: Prof. Rebecca Collins-Nelsen **E-mail:** rcolli32@uwo.ca

Class Times: Thursdays 2:30 – 5:30 am in BR- ?

Office Hours: Thursdays 1:25 – 2:25 pm and by appointment **Office:** UH-352

Antirequisite(s): Sociology 1020W/X, 1021E

Course Description

This course is designed to teach you fundamental sociological theories and concepts to help you think critically about the social world around you. Sociology helps to explain social life by analysing the ways in which individual and societal problems, accomplishments, and power intersect in complex ways. Specifically we will discuss important sociological topics related to social class, deviance, gender, race and ethnicity, sexuality, family, education and so on. We will also discuss significant sociological processes such as socialization, stratification and social construction. Throughout the class you will be challenged to develop and apply your “sociological imagination” as you use these new skills and analytical abilities to think through contemporary societal issues.

Learning Outcomes

When you have completed this course you should be able to:

- Apply sociological theories and concepts to a variety of social phenomena (Critical Thinking; Inquiry & Analysis)
- Use the sociological imagination to think critically about the social world (Critical Thinking)
- Describe the core sociological research methods (Inquiry & Analysis; Problem Solving)
- Explain the intersections between micro and macro social processes (Critical Thinking; Valuing)

- Critically reflect and discuss scholarly sociological literature and perspectives (Social Awareness & Engagement)
- Demonstrate effective communication skills through verbal and written work (Communication; Self-awareness and Development)

Required Reading Materials

Macionis, John J. and Linda M. Gerber. 2014. *Sociology*. Eighth Canadian Edition. Toronto: Pearson Prentice Hall.

* The 3 additional articles will be posted on OWL

1. McIntosh, Peggy. 1988. "White Privilege: Unpacking the Invisible Knapsack." Pp 11-17 in *Feminist Frontiers. 9th Edition*, edited by Verta Taylor, Nancy Whittier, and Leila J. Rupp. New York: McGraw Hill.
2. Banks, Ingrid. 2004. "Hair Still Matters." Pp.142 - 150 in *Feminist Frontiers. 9th Edition*, edited by Verta Taylor, Nancy Whittier, and Leila J. Rupp. New York: McGraw Hill.
3. Johnston, Josée and Judith Taylor. 2008. "Feminist Consumerism and Fat Activists: A Comparative Study of Grassroots Activism and the Dove Real Beauty Campaign." Pp. 115 – 128 in *Feminist Frontiers. 9th Edition*, edited by Verta Taylor, Nancy Whittier, and Leila J. Rupp. New York: McGraw Hill.

It is essential that readings are done prior to class as the lectures and class discussions are designed under the assumption that students have read the required material.

Grading Scheme

Attendance/Participation	15%
Mid Term Exam I	20%
Mid Term Exam II	20%
Final Exam	30%
Presentation	15%

Examinations

There will be three exams throughout this course. The first mid-term exam will take place during class time on **Thursday, November 10th**. The second mid-term exam will take place during class time on **Thursday, February 2nd**. The final exam will happen during the final exam period; therefore the date and location will be set by the registrar's office. All exams will be based on a combination of the required readings and anything that has been covered up until that time during class. This can include information that was learned through class discussion, a video shown in class, other students' presentations and so on. It should be evident that consistently coming to class, paying close attention, and taking effective notes will be extremely important for success in this class. If you must miss a class I would highly recommend acquiring the notes from a fellow class member or you risk missing information that may be on an exam. The exam may contain multiple choice, short answer and/or essay questions. More information will be given at least two classes before each scheduled exam.

In-Class Work

The final hour of each class will involve group work and discussion or student presentations. There are 3 additional readings posted on OWL for **October 6th**, **January 12th**, and **March 23rd**. Please ensure that you come to class on those dates prepared to discuss the content of the articles. The in-class work on these days will make up a significant part of your participation grades. Each article deals with themes of social inequality and the expectation is that students will come to class that day ready to critically reflect on the themes of the article by making use of theories and concepts learned in class. The content of these articles will also appear on exams.

Presentation

Presentations will be done in groups of three students and will take place during the last hour of class starting on **January 19th** and ending on **April 6th**. If a group wishes to have 2 or 4 members rather than 3, please come talk to me in order to receive approval before commencing work together. There can be no more than three presentations per class and times will be decided through a first come first serve sign-up process. Each presentation should be approximately 10 minutes with 10 minutes of discussion to follow. Groups will be responsible for choosing a recent media story and analyzing it using sociological concepts and theories. The group will also

be responsible for creating discussion questions and facilitating a discussion after they present. Each group member must hand in a breakdown of what each group member (including themselves) did to contribute to the presentation and provide a grade for everyone out of 5. This is to ensure that all group members are accountable to the rest of their group. More details about the presentation expectations will be given during class.

Course Schedule

Note: This schedule is subject to minor changes

Fall Semester		
Day	Topic	Chapter
September 8th	Intro to the Sociological Perspective	Ch. 1
September 15th	Sociological Investigation	Ch. 2
September 22nd	Culture	Ch. 3
September 29th	Society	Ch. 4
October 6th	Socialization	Ch. 5 and Article 1
October 13th	Social Interaction	Ch. 6
October 20th	Groups and Organizations	Ch. 7
October 27th	Fall Study Break	No classes
November 3rd	Sexuality and Society	Ch. 8
November 10th	Mid-Term Exam I	STUDY
November 17th	Deviance	Ch. 9
November 24th	Social Stratification and Social Class in Canada	Ch. 10 and Ch. 11
December 1st	Global Stratification	Ch. 12

Winter Semester		
Day	Topic	Chapter
January 5th	Gender Stratification	Ch. 13
January 12th	Race and Ethnicity	Ch. 14 and Article 2
January 19th	Aging and the Elderly	Ch. 15 (presentations)
January 26th	The Economy and Work	Ch. 16 (presentations)
February 2nd	Mid Term Exam II	STUDY
February 9th	Politics and Government	Ch. 17 (presentations)
February 16th	Sociology of Technology	Readings will be posted (presentations)
February 23rd	READING WEEK	No classes
March 2nd	Family	Ch. 18 (presentations)
March 9th	Religion	Ch. 19 (presentations)
March 16th	Education	Ch. 20 (presentations)
March 23rd	Health and Medicine	Ch. 21 and Article 3

		(presentations)
March 30th	Population, Urbanization, and Environment	Ch. 22 (presentations)
April 6th	Collective Behaviour and Social Movements	Ch. 23 (presentations)
Date and location of final exam will be set by the Registrar's office		

2016-17 BRESCIA UNIVERSITY COLLEGE ACADEMIC POLICIES AND REGULATIONS

1. POLICY REGARDING MAKEUP EXAMS AND EXTENSIONS OF DEADLINES

When a student requests academic accommodation (e.g., extension of a deadline, a makeup exam) for work representing 10% or more of the student's overall grade in the course, it is the responsibility of the student to provide acceptable documentation to support a medical or compassionate claim. All such requests for academic accommodation **must** be made through an Academic Advisor and include supporting documentation. Academic accommodation for illness will be granted only if the documentation indicates that the onset, duration and severity of the illness are such that the student could not reasonably be expected to complete her academic responsibilities. Minor ailments typically treated by over-the-counter medications will not normally be accommodated. Documentation shall be submitted as soon as possible to the student's Academic Advisor indicating the period of illness and when the student should be able to resume academic responsibilities. Students must submit their documentation along with a request for relief specifying the nature of the accommodation being requested no later than two business days after the date specified for resuming responsibilities. Appropriate academic accommodation will be determined by the Dean's Office in consultation with the student's instructor(s). Please note that personal commitments (e.g., vacation flight bookings, work schedule) which conflict with a scheduled test, exam or course requirement are **not** grounds for academic accommodation.

A UWO Student Medical Certificate (SMC) is **required** if a student is seeking academic accommodation on medical grounds. This documentation should be obtained at the time of the initial consultation with the physician/nurse practitioner or walk-in clinic. A SMC can be downloaded from: <http://www.westerncalendar.uwo.ca/2016/pg117.html> The student must request documentation sufficient to demonstrate that her ability to meet academic responsibilities was seriously affected. Please note that under University Senate regulations documentation stating simply that the student "was seen for a medical reason" or "was ill" is **not** adequate to support a request for academic accommodation.

Whenever possible, requests for academic accommodation should be initiated in advance of due dates, examination dates, etc. Students must follow up with their professors and Academic Advisor in a timely manner.

The full policy on requesting accommodation due to illness can be viewed at: http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/accommodation_illness.pdf

2. ACADEMIC CONCERNS

If you feel that you have a medical or personal problem that is interfering with your work, contact your instructor and Academic Advisor as soon as possible. Problems may then be documented and possible arrangements to assist you can be discussed at the time of occurrence rather than on a retroactive basis.

Retroactive requests for academic accommodation on medical or compassionate grounds may not be considered.

If you think that you are too far behind to catch up or that your work load is not manageable, you should consult an Academic Advisor. If you consider reducing your workload by dropping one or more courses, this must be done by the appropriate deadlines (refer to the Registrar's website, www.registrar.uwo.ca, for official dates). You should consult with the course instructor and the Academic Advisor who can help you consider alternatives to dropping one or more courses. *Note that dropping a course may affect OSAP eligibility and/or Entrance Scholarship eligibility.*

The Dean may refuse permission to write the final examination in a course if the student has failed to maintain satisfactory academic standing throughout the year or for too frequent absence from the class or laboratory (<http://www.westerncalendar.uwo.ca/2016/pg130.html>)

3. ABSENCES

Short Absences: If you miss a class due to a minor illness or other problems, check your course outline for information regarding attendance requirements and make sure you are not missing a test or assignment. Cover any readings and arrange to borrow notes from a classmate. Contact the course instructor if you have any questions.

Extended Absences: If you have an extended absence, you should contact the course instructor and an Academic Advisor. Your course instructor and Academic Advisor can discuss ways for you to catch up on missed work and arrange academic accommodations, if appropriate.

4. POLICY ON CHEATING & ACADEMIC MISCONDUCT

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 Web site: <http://www.westerncalendar.uwo.ca/2016/pg113.html>

Students are responsible for understanding the nature of and avoiding the occurrence of plagiarism and other academic offences. Students are urged to read the section on Scholastic Offences in the Academic Calendar. Note that such offences include plagiarism, cheating on an examination, submitting false or fraudulent assignments or credentials, impersonating a candidate, or submitting for credit in any course without the knowledge and approval of the instructor to whom it is submitted, any academic work for which credit has previously been obtained or is being sought in another course in the University or elsewhere. Students are advised to consult the section on Academic Misconduct in the Western Academic Calendar.

If you are in doubt about whether what you are doing is inappropriate or not, consult your instructor, the Student Services Centre, or the Registrar. A claim that "you didn't know it was wrong" is not accepted as an excuse.

The penalties for a student guilty of a scholastic offence (including plagiarism) include refusal of a passing grade in the assignment, refusal of a passing grade in the course, suspension from the University, and expulsion from the University.

Plagiarism:

Students must write their essays and assignments in their own words. Whenever students take an idea or a passage 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 academic offence (see Scholastic Offence Policy in the Western Academic Calendar).

All required papers may be subject to submission for textual similarity review to the commercial plagiarism detection software under license to the University for the 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.

Computer-marked Tests/exams:

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. Software currently in use to score computer-marked multiple-choice tests and exams performs a similarity review as part of standard exam analysis.

5. PROCEDURES FOR APPEALING ACADEMIC EVALUATIONS

All appeals of a grade must be directed first to the course instructor. If the student is not satisfied with the decision of the course instructor, a written appeal signed by the student must be sent to the Department Chair. If the response of the department is considered unsatisfactory to the student, she may then submit a signed, written appeal to the Office of the Dean. Only after receiving a final decision from the Dean may a student appeal to the Senate Review Board Academic. A Guide to Appeals is available from the Ombudsperson's Office, or you can consult an Academic Advisor. Students are advised to consult the section on Student Academic Appeals under Academic Rights and Responsibilities in the Western Academic Calendar (<http://www.westerncalendar.uwo.ca/2016/pg112.html>)

6. PREREQUISITES AND ANTIREQUISITES

Unless you have either the prerequisites for a course or written special permission from your Dean to enroll in it, you will be removed from the 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 prerequisite(s).

Similarly, you will also be deleted from a class list if you have previously taken an antirequisite course unless this has the approval of the Dean. These decisions may not be appealed. You will receive no adjustment to your fees in the event that you are dropped from a course because you have taken an antirequisite course.

7. SUPPORT SERVICES

The Brescia University College Registrar's website, with a link to Academic Advisors, is at <http://brescia.uwo.ca/academics/registrar-services/> . The website for the Student Development Centre at Western is at <http://www.sdc.uwo.ca/> . Students who are in emotional/mental distress should refer to Mental Health @ Western http://uwo.ca/health/mental_wellbeing/ for information including a complete list of options about how to obtain help.

Portions of this document were taken from the Academic Calendar, the Handbook of Academic and Scholarship Policy and the Academic Handbook of Senate Regulations. This document is a summary of relevant regulations and does not supersede the academic policies and regulations of the Senate of the University of Western Ontario.