

BRESCIA UNIVERSITY COLLEGE

DEPARTMENT OF SOCIOLOGY

SOCIOLOGY 0010a Section 530

Understanding Society: Social Life and Social Inequality

Fall 2021

Instructor: Professor Gale Cassidy
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Lectures: Mondays 9:30 am to 12:30 pm
Office hours: After class or by appointment on Zoom

Online Learning Courses

Welcome to Preliminary Sociology 0010a 530! I have taught this course for many years at Brescia. I have tried to make this online course every bit as successful as my in-class courses. Online courses are probably a new way of learning for most of you. Virtual learning offers accessibility to learning at Western with flexibility to plan your studies around work and family commitments; online courses are accessible 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. Through access to OWL, you are expected to complete activities, assignments, and discussions by the scheduled due dates. Students should be prepared to commit 6 to 8 hours per week on this course. Some students may find virtual learning more challenging, compared to learning in on-campus classrooms. There are numerous strategies that can help students succeed in online learning. I will be posting them on OWL. I hope you enjoy this course!

This is a synchronous online course, so there will be no in-person 'lectures'. We will have our 'lectures' on Zoom every Monday morning.

Class Time: Mondays 9:30 am to 12:30 pm

Zoom Lectures: <https://westernuniversity.zoom.us/j/98060264259> Passcode: will be posted on OWL.

Course Description

In this basic introduction to Sociology, students will learn how the sociological imagination helps us understand how personal experiences connect to a broader social context and how the larger social forces impact our lives. After introducing students to the sociological perspectives and sociological methods, students will develop tools to critically evaluate 'common-sense' assumptions of society, which are often rooted in myth. The reality of social differentiation will also be examined through discussions on social inequality with topics such as socioeconomic status, race, gender, and sexual orientation. The topics also covered include sociological theory, research methodology, culture, socialization, and deviance.

Required Readings

1. Cumming, Sara. 2020. *Sociology Unlocked*. Oxford University Press: Don Mills, ON.
2. Additional readings may be assigned. Students will be notified in class and on OWL.

Learning Outcomes

Upon completion of this course, students will

- develop an understanding of theoretical approaches to study society and social life. (Brescia Competencies: Inquiry & Analysis, Problem Solving)
- grasp connections between small-scale issues and larger structural social processes. (Brescia Competencies: Critical Thinking, Valuing, Social Awareness & Engagement)
- understand the relationship between individuals and society, both locally and globally. (Brescia Competencies: Critical Thinking, Valuing, Communication, Inquiry & Analysis, Problem Solving)
- appreciate how social relations shape human behaviour. (Brescia Competencies: Critical Thinking, Communication, Valuing)
- develop an appreciation of how diversity impacts an individual's position in society. (Brescia Competencies: Social Awareness & Engagement)

Course Prerequisites

Enrolment in the Preliminary Year Program. Unless you have either the prerequisites for this course or written special permission from your Dean to enroll in it, you will 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.

Course Antirequisites

Sociology 0012

How to Contact Me

You are welcome to communicate with me through messages on OWL. I will receive your messages in this course site. Please do NOT email me. I will respond to messages on OWL within 48 hours Monday to Friday between 9 and 5. Please refrain from messaging me with questions that have already been addressed in OWL or in the course outline. I will be also available to meet with you in scheduled Zoom sessions or individual meetings if requested.

Class Attendance

Good class attendance is critical to getting the most out of this course. There is a direct correlation between attendance in class and marks achieved by students. While readings and class lectures fit together, some material will only be covered in class. You are responsible for everything that occurs during class time including discussions, videos, guest speakers, etc. You are also responsible for any announcements made during class. It is a good idea to "buddy up" with a classmate, in order to exchange notes if you must miss a class, since class notes will not be supplied to students. Assigned videos shown in class are not available for private viewing if they are not in the library. Please don't ask to borrow them.

Evaluation Breakdown – Further details will be provided at the beginning of the course on OWL.

| | Worth | Due Dates |
|--------------------------------|--------------|---|
| Participation | 10% | Throughout the Course |
| Paper Outline Written Paper | 10% | November 8 th November 22 nd |
| Quizzes | 25% | September 27 th October 4 th October 18 th November 8 th November 15 th November 22 nd |
| Midterm Exam | 25% | October 25 th |
| Final Exam | 30% | During December Exam Period |

Participation

Students will have the opportunity to obtain 10% of their grade by engaging in the course, for example, by responding to discussion questions, polls, activities, etc.

Paper

Students will submit a written paper – 800 to 1,000 words – on a topic from the course. An outline of the proposed paper is required as well. Students will be given a number of topics to choose from. Papers must be backed up with researched evidence. More details will be given on OWL. A late penalty of 5% per day including weekends will be applied.

Quizzes

Quizzes will be written on OWL at the beginning of class on the scheduled dates. They will consist of multiple choice questions. The best 5 out of 6 quizzes will be counted. Since you are able to miss a quiz, there will be no makeups for the quizzes.

Midterm & Final Examinations

The midterm and final examinations will be done online in OWL and proctored on Zoom. The exams are NOT cumulative and will cover all course material, including PP slides, recordings, assigned readings, videos, guest presenters, etc. for the weeks outlined on the Schedule of Classes. It could include multiple choice or short answer questions, definitions, and true/false questions.

Copyright and Intellectual Property

PowerPoint lecture slides and notes, lists of readings, in-class activities, assignment guidelines, and other components of the course materials are typically the intellectual property of the instructor. Unauthorized reproduction through audio-recording, video-recording, photographing, sharing on social media, or posting on course-sharing websites is an infringement of copyright and is prohibited. Such action may be considered a Code of Conduct violation and lead to sanctions

Grades

All components of the course must be completed in order to receive a grade in the course. Due to privacy regulations, I am unable to send marks or discuss issues regarding grades by email. Please see me during my office hours. Midterm exam grades will be posted to the OWL site when they become available (within one week of the exam). Final exam grades will not be available until approved by the department.

PLEASE NOTE: There will be NO extra work assigned for the purpose of improving grades. It is unfair to other students in the class who are not given the same opportunity. Also, I am unable to increase marks unless warranted.

SCHEDULE OF CLASSES, READINGS, AND QUIZZES

| Date | Topics | Readings | Quizzes |
|-------------|--|-----------------|--------------------|
| Sept. 13 | Overview and Introduction to Sociology | Cumming, Ch. 1 | |
| Sept. 20 | How Sociology Works: Theories and Approaches | Cumming, Ch. 2 | |
| Sept. 27 | Social Research Methods | Cumming, Ch. 2 | Quiz on Chapter #2 |
| Oct. 4 | Culture | Cumming, Ch. 3 | Quiz on Chapter #3 |
| Oct. 11 | THANKSGIVING DAY | | |
| Oct. 18 | MIDTERM EXAM | | |
| Oct. 25 | Socialization | Cumming, Ch. 4 | Quiz on Chapter #4 |
| Nov. 1 | FALL BREAK | | |
| Nov. 8 | Class Inequality | Cumming, Ch. 6 | Quiz on Chapter #6 |
| Nov. 15 | Gender | Cumming, Ch. 7 | Quiz on Chapter #7 |
| Nov. 22 | “Race” and Racialization | Cumming, Ch. 9 | Quiz on Chapter #9 |
| Nov. 29 | Deviance and Crime | Cumming, Ch. 10 | |
| Dec. 6 | Wrap Up | | |

FINAL EXAM

2021-22 BRESCIA UNIVERSITY COLLEGE ACADEMIC POLICIES AND REGULATIONS

1. POLICY REGARDING ACADEMIC ACCOMMODATION

The complete policy regarding [Accommodation for Illness - Undergraduate Students](https://www.westerncalendar.uwo.ca/PolicyPages.cfm?Command=showCategory&PolicyCategoryID=1&SelectedCalendar=Live&ArchiveID=#Page_12) can be found at https://www.westerncalendar.uwo.ca/PolicyPages.cfm?Command=showCategory&PolicyCategoryID=1&SelectedCalendar=Live&ArchiveID=#Page_12 .

Students who have long-term or chronic medical conditions which may impede their ability to complete academic responsibilities should seek Academic Accommodation through Student Accessibility Services (https://www.westerncalendar.uwo.ca/PolicyPages.cfm?Command=showCategory&PolicyCategoryID=1&SelectedCalendar=Live&ArchiveID=#Page_10).

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.

Students who experience an illness or extenuating circumstance sufficiently severe to temporarily render them unable to meet academic requirements may submit a request for academic consideration through the following routes:

1. Submitting a **Self-Reported Absence** form provided that the conditions for submission are met;
2. For medical absences, submitting a **Student Medical Certificate (SMC)** signed by a licensed medical or mental health practitioner;
3. For non-medical absences, submitting **appropriate documentation** (e.g., obituary, police report, accident report, court order, etc.) to their Academic Advisor. Students are encouraged to contact their Academic Advisor to clarify what documentation is acceptable.

Requests for Academic Consideration Using the Self-Reported Absence Portal

Students who experience an unexpected illness or injury or an extenuating circumstance of 48 hours or less that is sufficiently severe to render them unable to meet academic requirements should self-declare using the online Self-Reported Absence portal. This option should be used in situations where the student expects to resume academic responsibilities within 48 hours. Note that the excused absence includes all courses and academic requirements within the up to 48 hours, it is not intended to provide an excused absence from a single course while students fulfill their academic responsibilities in other courses during that time.

The following conditions are in place for self-reporting of medical or extenuating circumstances:

1. Students will be allowed **a maximum of two self-reported absences** between September and April and one self-reported absence between May and August;
2. The duration of the absence will be for a maximum of 48 hours from the time the Self-Reported Absence form is completed through the online portal, or from 8:30 am the following morning if the form is submitted after 4:30 pm;
3. The excused absence will terminate prior to the end of the 48 hour period if the student undertakes significant academic responsibilities (writes a test, submits a paper) during that time;
4. Self-reported absences will **not** be allowed for scheduled final examinations; midterm examinations scheduled during the December examination period; or for final lab examinations scheduled during the final week of term;
5. Self-report absences may **not** be used for assessments worth more than 30% of any course;
6. Any absences in excess of 48 hours will require students to present a Student Medical Certificate (SMC), or appropriate documentation;
7. Students **must** communicate with their instructors **no later than 24** hours after the end of the period covered by the Self-Reported Absence form to clarify how they will fulfil the academic expectations they may have missed during the absence.

Request for Academic Consideration for a Medical Absence

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 their academic responsibilities. Minor ailments typically treated by over-the-counter medications will not normally be accommodated.

The following conditions apply for students seeking academic accommodation on medical grounds:

1. Students must submit their Student Medical Certificate (SMC) 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. An SMC can be downloaded from http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/medicalform.pdf ;
2. In cases where there might be an extended absence or serious issue, students should submit their documentation promptly and consult their Academic Advisor for advice during their recovery period;
3. Whenever possible, students who require academic accommodation should provide notification and documentation in advance of due dates, scheduled tests or examinations, and other academic requirements;
4. Students **must** communicate with their instructors **no later than 24 hours** after the end of the period covered by the SMC to clarify how they will fulfil the academic expectations they may have missed during the absence;
5. Appropriate academic accommodation will be determined by the Dean's Office/Academic Advisor in consultation with the course instructor(s). Academic accommodation may include extension of deadlines, waiver of attendance requirements, arranging Special Exams (make-ups), re-weighting course requirements, or granting late withdrawal without academic penalty.

The [full policy on requesting accommodation due to illness](#) can be viewed at:

http://www.westerncalendar.uwo.ca/PolicyPages.cfm?Command=showCategory&PolicyCategoryID=1&SelectedCalendar=Live&ArchiveID=#Page_12

2. ACADEMIC CONCERNS

If you feel that you have a medical or personal challenge 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 are not normally considered.

If you think that you are too far behind to catch up or that your work load is not manageable, you should consult your Academic Advisor (https://www.brescia.uwo.ca/enrolment_services/academic_advising/index.php). If you consider reducing your workload by dropping one or more courses, this must be done by the appropriate deadlines; please refer to <http://brescia.uwo.ca/academics/registrar-services/> or the list of official sessional dates in the Academic Calendar (<http://www.westerncalendar.uwo.ca/SessionalDates.cfm?SelectedCalendar=Live&ArchiveID=>).

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.*

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.

Please note that for asynchronous online courses, attendance or participation requirements maybe different than for synchronous or in-person courses.

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 and warranted.

It is important to note that the Academic 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/PolicyPages.cfm?Command=showCategory&PolicyCategoryID=5&SelectedCalendar=Live&ArchiveID=#SubHeading_68).

4. SCHOLASTIC 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: http://www.westerncalendar.uwo.ca/PolicyPages.cfm?Command=showCategory&PolicyCategoryID=1&SelectedCalendar=Live&ArchiveID=#Page_20.

Students are responsible for understanding the nature of and avoiding the occurrence of plagiarism and other academic offences. 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 Scholastic Discipline for Undergraduate Students in the Academic Calendar.

If you are in doubt about whether what you are doing is inappropriate or not, consult your instructor, the Academic Dean's Office, 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.

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 (<http://www.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 is to be sent to the School Chair. If the response of the Chair is considered unsatisfactory to the student, they may then submit a written appeal to the Office of the Dean. If the student is not satisfied with the decision of the Dean, they may appeal to the Senate Review Board Academic (SRBA), if there are sufficient grounds for the appeal and if the matter falls

within the jurisdiction of the SRBA. For information on academic appeals consult your Academic Advisor or see the Student Academic Appeals – Undergraduate in the Academic Calendar http://www.westerncalendar.uwo.ca/PolicyPages.cfm?Command=showCategory&PolicyCategoryID=1&SelectedCalendar=Live&ArchiveID=#Page_14.

Note that final course marks are not official until the Academic Dean has reviewed and signed the final grade report for the course. If course marks deviate from acceptable and appropriate standards, the Academic Dean may require grades to be adjusted to align them with accepted grading practices.

6. PREREQUISITES

Unless you have either the prerequisites for a course or written Special Permission from the 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).

7. SUPPORT

Support Services

The Brescia University College Registrar's website, with a link to Academic Advisors, is at <http://brescia.uwo.ca/academics/registrar-services/> . Students can access supports through Brescia's Student Life Centre (<http://brescia.uwo.ca/life/student-life/>) and Learning Skills Services at Western (<https://www.uwo.ca/sdc/learning/>)

Mental Health and Wellness

Students may experience a range of issues that can cause barriers to your learning, such as increased anxiety, feeling overwhelmed, feeling down or lost, difficulty concentrating and/or lack of motivation. Services are available to assist you with addressing these and other concerns you may be experiencing. You can obtain information about how to obtain help for yourself or others through **Health & Wellness at Brescia** (https://brescia.uwo.ca/student_life/health_and_wellness/index.php) and **Health and Wellness at Western**, http://uwo.ca/health/mental_wellbeing/index.html.

Sexual Violence

All members of the Brescia University College community have a right to work and study in an environment that is free from any form of sexual violence. Brescia University College recognizes that the prevention of, and response to, Sexual Violence is of particular importance in the university environment. Sexual Violence is strictly prohibited and unacceptable and will not be tolerated. Brescia is committed to preventing Sexual Violence and creating a safe space for anyone in the Brescia community who has experienced Sexual Violence.

If you or someone you know has experienced any form of Sexual Violence, you may access resources at https://brescia.uwo.ca/safe_campus/sexual_violence/index.php .

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.
