

Brescia University College
Department of Sociology
Social Inequality in Canada
Sociology 2228A
Fall 2021

In the event of a COVID-19 resurgence during the course that necessitates the course moving away from in-person delivery (when applicable), course content may be delivered online either synchronously (i.e., at the times indicated in the timetable) or asynchronously (e.g., posted on OWL for students to view at their convenience). There may also be changes to any remaining assessments at the discretion of the course instructor. In the event of a COVID-19 resurgence, detailed information about the impact on this course will be communicated by the Office of the Dean and by the course instructor.

Instructor: Dr. Rebecca Collins-Nelsen

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Class Times: Weds. 12:30 pm – 3:30pm online or in UC250

Office Hours: Weds 3:30 pm – 4:30 pm or by appointment **Office:** Online

Prerequisite(s): 1.0 from Sociology courses at the 1000 level

Antirequisite: Sociology 2239

Course Description

This course is designed to introduce you to theories and concepts related to social inequality in Canada. Patterns of privilege and inequality are all around us and this class will use an intersectional framework to highlight these patterns in the Canadian context. Specifically we will discuss inequality as it relates to the intersections of class, gender, race, ethnicity, sexualities, (dis) ability, age, and so on. We will also discuss how processes of inequality operate in relation to social institutions including education, health, work, and family. Throughout this course, you will be asked to critically think about the interplay of privilege and inequality in the social world around you.

Learning Outcomes

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

- Define and discuss varying sociological concepts and theories related to social inequality (Related to Brescia Competences: Critical Thinking; Inquiry & Analysis)

- Use an intersectional framework to think critically about social inequality (Related to Brescia Competences: Critical Thinking; Social Awareness and Engagement)
- Describe the relationship between inequality and a variety of axes of difference, including, class, race, ethnicity, age, gender, sexual orientation, and so on (Related to Brescia Competences: Inquiry & Analysis; Problem Solving)
- Understand the relationship between agency and structure in reinforcing social inequality in Canada (Related to Brescia Competences: Critical Thinking; Valuing)
- Critically reflect on and discuss scholarly literature and perspectives on social inequality (Related to Brescia Competences: Critical Thinking; Communication; Social Awareness & Engagement)
- Communicate sociological analyses about inequality in verbal and written form (Related to Brescia Competences: Communication; Critical Thinking)

Required Reading Materials

McMullin, Julie and Josh Curtis. 2017. *Understanding Social Inequality: Intersections of Class, Age, Gender, Ethnicity, and Race in Canada*. Don Mills, Ontario: Oxford University Press.

Articles and book chapters posted on OWL (See Course Schedule below for author names and OWL for a list with full citations)

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

		Applicable Brescia Competencies
Attendance/Participation	10%	Communication, Critical Thinking, Self-Awareness and Development, Social Awareness and Engagement, Valuing
Mid Term Exam	30%	Critical Thinking, Problem Solving, Social Awareness and Engagement, Communication, Inquiry and Analysis
Final Exam	35%	Critical Thinking, Problem Solving, Social Awareness and Engagement, Communication, Inquiry and Analysis
Critical Reflection	25%	Critical Thinking, Communication, Inquiry and Analysis, Self-Awareness and Development

Class Participation

Participation will be graded based on student contributions to class discussions and group work. One of the advantages of Brescia is smaller classroom sizes so it is important that we take advantage of this opportunity to engage with each other. There will be class discussion questions throughout lectures as well as activities that will require small group discussion. Participation grades will be based on a combination of your attendance and the frequency and quality of your participation in class and small group discussion.

Critical Reflection

The assignment will consist of writing a critical reflection based on one of the topics covered in class. Regardless of the topic you choose you should employ an intersectional analysis. The expectation is that you will engage with the material covered in class and use at least **5 academic and peer-reviewed** resources in your paper (2 can be from class readings). You are welcome to draw on your own experiences of inequality and/or privilege but this is by no means an opinion paper and you will need to engage with relevant debates discussed in class. Your paper should be **5 to 7 pages** in length. The assignment is due on **November 10th**. There will be a 5% late penalty per day if the assignment is handed in late. Further details about the assignment will be provided in class.

Exams

There will be two exams throughout this course. The mid-term exam will take place during class time on **October 13th**. 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, 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 course. 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.

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.

Course Schedule

Fall Semester			
Day	Place	Topic	Readings
Sept. 8 th	Online	Introduction	Ch. 1
Sept. 15 th	In-Class	Class and Inequality	Ch. 2 Nelsen (2017) Pp. 29-31
Sept. 22 nd	Online	Gender and Inequality	Ch. 3 Fleras (2017) Pp. 123-129, 139-144
Sept. 29 th	In-Class	Race, Ethnicity, and Inequality/ Sexualities and Inequality	Ch. 4 Giwa and Greensmith (2012) Pp.149-151, 155- 159, 163-179
Oct. 6 th	Online	Inequality related to Age and (Dis) Ability	Ch. 5 Shuey, Wilson, Bouchard (2007)
Oct. 13th	In-Class	Mid Term	STUDY
Oct. 20 th	Online	Actors and Agency	Ch. 6 and Ch. 7
Oct. 27 th	In-Class	Families, Domestic Labour, and Reproduction	Ch.8
Nov. 3rd	None	Fall Reading Week	No Readings
Nov. 10 th	Online	CAGE (s) Paid Work and Colonialism and Inequality	Ch. 9 and Menzies and Hwang (2017) Critical Reflection DUE
Nov. 17th	Online	CAGE (s) and Education	Ch. 10
Nov. 24 th	Online	CAGE (s) Health	Ch. 11
Dec. 1 st	Online	CAGE (s) and the State /Equality, Politics, Platforms and Policy Issues	Ch. 12 and 13
Dec. 8 th	None	No Class	STUDY
Final Exam during final exam period – Date and Location set by Registrar’s Office			

2021-22 BRESCIA UNIVERSITY COLLEGE ACADEMIC POLICIES AND REGULATIONS

1. **POLICY REGARDING ACADEMIC ACCOMMODATION** The complete policy regarding Accommodation for Illness - Undergraduate Students 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 may be 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.