

Introduction to Sociology
Sociology 1020, Section 534
2013 - 2014

Department of Sociology
Brescia University College

Lectures: Wednesdays: 8:30 to 11:30 a.m. in BR-303

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Antirequisite: Sociology 1021e.

The fascination of sociology lies in the fact that its perspective makes us see in a new light the very world in which we have lived all our lives... It can be said that the first wisdom of sociology is this—things are not what they seem.

- Peter Berger, *Invitation to Sociology* (1963, pp. 21, 23)

COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course will introduce you to the fundamentals of sociology and encourage you to think critically about the world in which you live. Throughout the course you will be introduced to key sociological areas of interest such as culture, race, the environment, deviance, and gender, and asked to reflect on provocative questions such as “Why does poverty persist?” “Am I free?” “Is the institution of the family falling apart?” And, “What is social equality and how can it be achieved?” I hope that you will engage the material in a thoughtful way, ask questions, and share your ideas during class. Throughout the course I encourage you to develop and apply your sociological imagination. You can do this by opening your mind to different viewpoints presented in the text, during lectures and class exercises, and questioning your own taken-for-granted assumptions about how society works.

LEARNING OBJECTIVES

By the end of this course you will be able to:

- Understand the fundamental aspects of core sociological theories and research methods and be able to identify their relative strengths and weaknesses
- Define and apply key sociological concepts
- Examine various features of society (e.g., deviance, work, family, gender, education, social interaction) from a sociological viewpoint
- Appreciate society from a new perspective that challenges your assumptions about human group life.

Along with these objectives, *develop your own learning goals for this course* by answering the following questions: Why are you interested in sociology? What skills, knowledge, and attitudes do you hope to develop? Where does this course fit into your overall learning objectives?

REQUIRED TEXTS

Schaefer, R., Smith, E. & Grekul, J. (2009). *Sociology* (2nd Canadian Edition). Toronto: McGraw-Hill Ryerson.

It is **essential** that you keep up with the readings. Readings listed in the **Class Schedule** (see below) are to be completed **before** the classes for which they are assigned so that you can better follow along with the lectures and participate in discussions. You will be tested on your knowledge of this material and will be expected to discuss and work with the ideas from the readings in class.

E-MAIL

I will not be answering questions regarding course material (e.g., definitions of concepts, differences between theoretical perspectives, etc.) via e-mail. I find that these types of questions are best answered by meeting in person. I suggest that you use e-mail for addressing administrative issues about the course and arranging to meet with me. I will do my best to respond to e-mail messages within 24 hours. Please use "Sociology 1020" as the subject line. I also encourage people to use their UWO e-mail account for school business.

OFFICE HOURS

Do not hesitate to come to see me during my office hours. I am here to help with any questions you might have. This time not only serves as a great way to clarify understandings of the course material, but I also enjoy talking with people about sociology in general, educational pursuits, and career aspirations. If you are unable to make it to my office hours I will usually be around after class, or you can make an appointment to meet with me.

CLASSROOM ETIQUETTE

Please respect your classmates and your instructor during lecture. We only have a short amount of time each class to cover a lot of material. To help everyone stay focused keep cell phones turned off and put away, avoid whispering with your neighbours, and use computers only for class related activities. If there is a problem with classroom conduct you may be asked to leave for the duration of the lecture.

LEARNING RESOURCES

In my mind, **taking a vested interest in learning is the key to academic success**. Some of the specific things that you can do to help with learning in this course (and others), include: (1) Regularly attending class; (2) Staying on top of your readings; (3) Keeping good lecture and reading notes; (4) Meeting with your professor during office hours when you need extra help or would like to discuss the course material on a more sustained basis; (5) Participating in the applied learning exercises; (6) Using the study aids on the textbook's website (<http://www.mcgrawhill.ca/college/schaefer>) to help review course material; and, (7) Staying organized, and developing and executing good study habits (e.g., reviewing your material on a regular basis).

ASSESSMENT OF LEARNING

Applied Learning Exercises

- Working both individually and in groups you will carry-out brief in or out of class exercises designed to extend your knowledge of course material through direct application of sociological ideas
- **Preparation:** Reviewing your lecture notes and staying on top of your readings
- **The Goal:** By participating in the applied learning exercises you will obtain a more critical grasp of the various sociological perspectives on human behaviour
- **Missed exercises:** Given that you might miss a class for unforeseen reasons, you are permitted 1 missed exercise each semester without penalty. It is not necessary to approach me about the missed class. If additional accommodation is necessary, you should seek accommodation through the Dean's office, not your professor.
- Counts for **10%** of your final mark

Fall Mid-term Exam

- Multiple choice questions
- Written in-class **Wednesday, November 6th**
- Covers the material up to and including October 30th
- Counts for **25%** of your final mark

Winter Mid-term Exam

- Multiple choice questions
- Written in-class **Wednesday, January 29th**
- Covers the material from November 13th up to and including January 22nd
- Counts for **25%** of your final mark

Final Exam

- Multiple choice questions
- Written during the Winter final exam period
- Covers all course material
- Counts for **40%** of your final mark

CLASS SCHEDULE

<u>FALL SEMESTER</u>		
Day	Topic	Chapter
September 11	Course Introduction & The Sociological Imagination	
September 18	The Origins of Sociology & Sociological Theory	1
Sept. 25 & Oct. 2	Research Methods	2
October 9	Culture	3
October 16	Socialization	4
October 23	Social Interaction & Social Structure	5
October 30	Groups & Organizations	6
November 6	FALL MID-TERM (25%)	
November 13	Social Control, Crime & Deviance	8
November 20	Stratification in Canada	9
November 27	Global Inequality	10
December 4	Racial & Ethnic Inequality	11

<u>WINTER SEMESTER</u>		
Day	Topic	Chapter
January 8	Gender Relations	12
January 15	Aging & the Elderly	13
January 22	Families & Intimate Relationships	14
January 29	WINTER MID-TERM (25%)	
February 5	Religion	15
February 12	Education	16
February 19	CONFERENCE WEEK (no classes)	
February 26	Government, Power, & Politics	17
March 5	Economy & Work	18
March 12	Health & Medicine	19
March 19	Communities & Urbanization	20
March 26	Population & The Environment	21
April 2	Collective Behaviour & Social Change	22
<u>FINAL EXAM (40%)</u> – Written during the final exam period – Date & location set by the Registrar’s Office		

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 on medical grounds 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. 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 under the Medical Documentation heading of the following website: <https://studentservices.uwo.ca/secure/index.cfm> . If it is not possible to have an SMC completed by the attending physician/nurse practitioner, 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. All documentation is to be submitted to an Academic Advisor.

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 statement of University policy regarding extensions of deadlines or makeup exams can be found at <http://www.westerncalendar.uwo.ca/2013/pg117.html>

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.

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

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 Academic Rights and Responsibilities in the Western Academic Calendar.

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 prerequisites.

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://www.brescia.uwo.ca/academics/registrar_services/index.html . The Western Registrar's website is at <http://www.registrar.uwo.ca/index.cfm> . 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://www.uwo.ca/uwocom/mentalhealth/> for 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.