

**Brescia University College
Western University
2013-2014**

**SOCIOLOGY 2140 (530)
SOCIAL PROBLEMS**

Dr. Helene A. Cummins

Phone: 519 432-8353 X28055

Office: Room 7 Portable

OfficeHours: Mon9:00-10:00

Lecture Time: Thursday 8:30-10:30 in Room 18

Course Description

This full credit course focuses on contemporary social life and the challenges of everyday living. Social concerns such as drug and alcohol addiction, global inequality, environmental threats in urban and rural settings, sexual challenges, crime and violence, war and terrorism are explored. Students will come to understand the diverse range of disparity in the world and its impact on their life and the lives of others.

Learning Objectives

On successful completion of the course students will:

- understand the diversity of human life and the integral challenges created in society
- familiarize themselves with cultures and social issues that expand beyond their everyday experiences
- understand the complexity of social life around differences of class, sex, gender, education, race and ethnicity
- evaluate ways to solve social problems
- learn to become and be a better human with greater compassion for the dynamics of social life

Course Textbook

You will be required to purchase the text and maintain the required reading.

Kendall, Diana; Nygaard, Vicki L., and Thompson, Edward G. Social Problems. 2011. Third Canadian Edition. Toronto: Pearson Canada.

The book comes with Mysockit with on-line practice tests.

Course Evaluation

Midterm Examination 1 30%
Midterm Examination 2 30%
Final Examination 40%

Classroom Protocol

There will be no makeup examinations, nor extra work for the purpose of improving grades. Plan to study hard and well in advance for examination preparation. The course involves student participation presentation. Missing of either of these components is the responsibility of the student. You are responsible for the materials that you miss should you be away from class. We do not supply lecture notes for these purposes.

The classroom is a place where we respect the views of others as we discuss sociology. Many sensitive issues arise during these discussions. It is incumbent that each student respects their classmates at all times. Discussion may be limited or curtailed due to time constraints. Our classroom is a place where order is maintained and respect is paramount for all those within its walls.

Cell phones are not to be used in class and turned off. They should not ring in class or disturb the class in any way. Texting is also not to be undertaken, in addition to checking one's messages. Computers used in class are strictly for the purpose of taking notes and should not be used for any other purpose.

Marks will not be given via email. We love to interact with our students with face to face interaction and/or telephone conversations. For this reason we prefer this method and will refrain from emails for the most part. Feel free to approach us for matters related to the course and our wonderful discipline of sociology.

Topic and Reading Outline

<u>WEEK OF</u>	<u>TOPIC</u>	<u>READINGS</u>
Sept. 12	General Introduction	
Sept. 19	Examining Social Problems	Chapt. 1
Sept. 26	Poverty	Chapt. 2
Oct. 3	Racism and Ethnic Inequality	Chapt. 3
Oct. 10	Gender Inequality	Chapt. 4
Oct. 17	Gender Inequality	
Oct. 24	Inequality Based on Age	Chapt. 5
Oct. 31	Study Day	

Nov. 7	Midterm	
Nov. 14	Inequality Based on Sex	Chapt. 6
Nov. 21	Sex Trade in Canada	Chapt. 7
Nov. 28	Addictions	Chapt. 8
Dec. 5	Rural Crisis	
Jan. 9	Rural Crisis	
Jan. 16	Crime and Criminal Justice	Chapt. 9
Jan. 23	Health, Illness and Healthcare	Chapt. 10
Jan. 30	Midterm	
Feb. 6	The Changing Family	Chapt. 11
Feb. 13	Problems in Education	Chapt. 12
Feb. 20	Conference Week	
Feb. 27	Global Economy	Chapt. 13
Mar. 6	Media Problems	Chapt. 14
Mar. 13	Population and Urbanization	Chapt. 15
Mar. 20	Environmental Crisis	
Mar. 27	Global Social Problems	Chapt. 16

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.