

Brescia University College
Department of Sociology
Introduction to Sociology
Sociology 1020 (532)
Fall/Winter 2014/15

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

Class Times: Wednesdays, 3:30 – 6:30 pm in BR-19

Office Hours: Wednesdays 2:00 – 3:00 pm or by appointment **Office:** BR-40

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
- Use the sociological imagination to think critically about the social world
- Describe the core sociological research methods
- Explain the intersections between micro and macro social processes
- Compare research findings found in scholarly sociological literature
- Demonstrate effective communication skills through verbal and written work

Required Reading Materials

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

It is essential that chapter 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

Mid Term Exam I	20%
Mid Term Exam II	20%
Final Exam	30%
Assignment	20%
Presentation	10%

Examinations

There will be three exams throughout this course. The first mid-term exam will take place during class time on **Wednesday, October 29th**. The second mid-term exam will take place during class time on **Wednesday, January 28th**. 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.

Assignment

The assignment will consist of choosing one of the sociological topics discussed in the course. The assignments need to make use of theories and concepts used in class and cite at least three

pertinent academic sources. This is by no means an opinion paper and you will need to engage with relevant debates in sociology. Your paper should be 5 pages in length. All assignments must be submitted in the form of a hardcopy and are due **February 11th**. You must also upload a copy of your paper to Turnitin on the course OWL site. Turnitin is used to scan papers for issues with plagiarism. Further details about the assignment will be provided in class.

Presentation

Presentations will be done in groups of three or four students and will take place during the last hour of class starting on **January 14th** and ending on **April 1st**. 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 must hand in a breakdown of what each group member did to contribute to the presentation and it must be signed by all members so that each group member feels 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 10 th	Intro to the Sociological Perspective	Ch. 1
September 17 th	Sociological Investigation	Ch. 2
September 24 th	Culture	Ch. 3
October 1 st	Society	Ch. 4
October 8 th	Socialization	Ch. 5
October 15 th	Social Interaction	Ch. 6
October 22 nd	Groups and Organizations	Ch. 7
October 29th	Mid Term Exam I	STUDY
November 5 th	Sexuality and Society	Ch. 8
November 12 th	Deviance	Ch. 9
November 19 th	Social Stratification	Ch. 10
November 26 th	Social Class in Canada	Ch. 11
December 3 rd	Global Stratification	Ch. 12

Winter Semester		
Day	Topic	Chapter
January 7 th	Gender Stratification	Ch. 13
January 14 th	Race and Ethnicity	Ch. 14 (presentations)
January 21 st	Aging and the Elderly	Ch. 15 (presentations)
January 28th	Mid-Term Exam II	STUDY
February 4 th	The Economy and Work	Ch. 16 (presentations)
February 11 th	Politics and Government	Ch. 17 (presentations) ASSIGNMENT DUE
February 18 th	READING WEEK (no classes)	
February 25 th	Sociology of Technology	Readings will be posted
March 4 th	Family	Ch. 18 (presentations)
March 11 th	Religion	Ch. 19 (presentations)
March 18 th	Education	Ch. 20 (presentations)
March 25 th	Health and Medicine	Ch. 21 (presentations)
April 1 st	Population, Urbanization, and Environment	Ch. 22 (presentations)
April 8 th	Collective Behaviour and Social Movements	Ch. 23 (presentations)
Final Exam during final exam period – Date and Location set by 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/2014/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

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.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/scholastic_discipline_undergrad.pdf.

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.