

**Brescia University College**

**Western University**

**2017-2018**

**Sociology 2140 (530)**

**SOCIAL PROBLEMS**

**Dr. Helene A. Cummins**

**Phone: 519 432-8353 x 28055**

**Office: Room 7 Portable hcummins@uwo.ca**

**Office Hours: Mondays 10:30-11:20, or by appointment**

**Professor Darlene Balandin**

**Email: dbalandi@uwo.ca**

**Office / Office hours: TBA**

**Lecture: Wednesdays 12:30-2:20 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, violence, war and terrorism are explored.

Students will come to understand the diverse range of disparity in Canada and the world and how it impacts their life and the lives of others.

**Learning Outcomes**

On successful completion of the course students will:

- \* understand the diversity of human life and the integral challenges created in society (Brescia Competencies: Inquiry & Analysis, Problem Solving)
- \* familiarize themselves with cultures and social issues that expand beyond their everyday experiences (Brescia Competencies: Critical Thinking, Valuing)
- \* understand the complexity of social life around the intersectionality of class, sex, gender, education, race, and ethnicity (Brescia Competencies: Critical Thinking, Communication, Social Awareness & Engagement)
- \* be able to evaluate ways to solve social problems (Brescia Competencies: Inquiry & Analysis, Problem Solving, Social Awareness and Engagement)
- \* learn to be and become a better human with greater compassion for the dynamics and diversity of social life (Brescia Competencies: Social Awareness and Engagement)

## Course Textbook

**This is a required textbook.**

Kendall, Diana; Thompson, Edward and Nygaard, Vicki L. 2016. Social Problems in a Diverse Society.

Fourth Canadian Edition. Toronto: Pearson Canada Inc.

*Additional supplemental readings may be assigned. These readings will be uploaded on OWL.*

## Course Evaluation

Midterm Exam 1	30%
Midterm Exam 2	30%
Course Attendance and Participation	10%
Final Exam	30%

**Final Exam:** is cumulative and you are responsible for all the material in the assigned chapters of the textbook, even if this material is not discussed in lecture. Additionally, it will address the lecture and classroom discussion material from January 31<sup>st</sup> up to and including April 4th. It will be multiple choice. Due to the challenge of a cumulative exam, students are well advised to actively review course material throughout the school year. The final exam will be held during the final examination period; the date and time will be determined by the Registrar's Office. Although an early date has been requested, the final schedule is established by the Registrar and therefore, **you should not finalize your travel plans until the exam schedule has been posted and you are certain about the date and time of your final exam.** Exam dates, once posted by the Registrar's Office, are firm and will not be changed.

**Software designed to detect cheating will be utilized on every exam. Cheating is a grave academic offence and will not be tolerated.** Any class member(s) caught cheating will receive an F on the exam and may fail the course.

## Classroom Protocol

There will be no makeup exams, or extra work for the purpose of improving grades. Plan to study hard and well in advance for exams. The course involves student participation, audio visual presentations, and guest speakers. Missing any of these components is the responsibility of the student. You are responsible for the materials that you miss should you be absent. I do not supply lecture notes for students.

The classroom is a place where we respect each other's opinions as we discuss the course content. Many sensitive issues may arise during these discussions. It is incumbent that each student respects their classmates at all times. Discussions may be limited or curtailed due to time constraints. This classroom is a place where we have respect for each other.

Cell phones are not to be used in class and turned off. They should not ring or disturb the class in any way. Texting is not allowed, nor should you check messages during the class. Computers used in the class are for the purpose of taking notes and not for any other purpose.

Marks will not be given via email. We love to interact with our students with face-to-face interaction, or telephone conversations. For this reason we prefer this method and will refrain from emails for the most part. Feel free to meet us in our office hours to discuss this course or any matter related.

## Topic and Reading Outline

<u>WEEK OF</u>	<u>TOPIC</u>	<u>READING</u>
Sept. 13	General Introduction	
Sept. 20	Examining Social Problems	Chapt. 1
Sept. 27	Wealth & Poverty	Chapt. 2
Oct. 4	Race & Ethnic Inequality	Chapt. 3
Oct. 11	Fall Reading Week	
Oct. 18	Gender Inequality	Chapt. 4
Oct. 25	Gender Inequality	Chapt. 4
Nov. 1	Age Inequality	Chapt. 5
Nov. 8	<b>Midterm Exam</b>	
Nov. 15	Inequality Based on Sexual Orientation	Chapt. 6
Nov. 22	Sex Trade in Canada	Chapt. 7
Nov. 29	Addictions	Chapt. 8
Dec. 6	Addictions	Chapt. 8
Jan. 10	Crime	Chapt. 9
Jan. 17	Crime	Chapt. 9
Jan 24	<b>Midterm</b>	
Jan. 31	Health & Illness	Chapt. 10
Feb. 7	The Culture of Therapy	
Feb. 14	Family	Chapt. 11
Feb. 21	<b>Conference Week</b>	
Feb. 28	Education	Chapt. 12
Mar. 7	Education	Chapt. 12
Mar. 14	Global Economy	Chapt. 13
Mar. 21	Media Problems	Chapt. 14
Mar. 28	Population & Urbanization	Chapt. 15
Apr. 4	Global Social Problems	Chapt. 16
Apr 11	Conclusions	

## 2017-18 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 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 her academic responsibilities. Minor ailments typically treated by over-the-counter medications will not normally be accommodated. Documentation shall be submitted as soon as possible to the student's Academic Advisor indicating the period of illness and when the student should be able to resume academic responsibilities. Students must submit their documentation 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. 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 from: [http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic\\_policies/appeals/medicalform.pdf](http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/medicalform.pdf). 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.

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 policy on requesting accommodation due to illness can be viewed at:

<http://westerncalendar.uwo.ca/2017/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, <http://brescia.uwo.ca/academics/registrar-services/> or the list of official dates <http://westerncalendar.uwo.ca/2017/pg7.html> ). 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 (<http://westerncalendar.uwo.ca/2017/pg130.html> )

### 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](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 (<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 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 Student Academic Appeals under Academic Rights and Responsibilities in the Western Academic Calendar (<http://westerncalendar.uwo.ca/2017/pg112.html>).

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 ([http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic\\_policies/exam/evaluation\\_undergrad.pdf](http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/exam/evaluation_undergrad.pdf) and [http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic\\_policies/exam/finalgrades.pdf](http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/exam/finalgrades.pdf)).

## **6. PREREQUISITES**

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 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/>. The website for the Student Development Centre at Western is <http://www.sdc.uwo.ca/>.

### **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 learn more about mental health and wellness at Brescia at <http://brescia.uwo.ca/life/mental-health-wellness/>. 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.

### **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 <http://brescia.uwo.ca/life/sexual-violence/>.

---

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.