

BRESCIA UNIVERSITY COLLEGE
Department of Sociology
Sociology 0011B
Understanding Society: Social Institutions and Social Change
Winter 2020

Course Director: Professor Julie Young
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Classroom: BR-UH26
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Class Time: Mondays 8:30-11:30am
Office Hours: After Class or by appointment.

Course Description:

In this course students will explore a range of topics studied by sociologists to better understand the social world and their place in it. After introducing students to the sociological perspectives and research methods, students will explore historic and current examples of social institutions in Canadian society. Students will explore the social dynamics in society and study collective behaviour undertaken by social movement organizations as they seek social change. The range of topics covered include sociological theory, research methods, families, education, religion, healthcare, mass media, aging, the economy and work, population, and urbanization

BRESCIA UNIVERSITY COLLEGE INSTITUTION-LEVEL COMPETENCIES

Brescia's overarching goals are to foster the development of leadership among our students and to provide an academically superior university education. The competencies articulated as central to a Brescia education provide to our students the tools they need to lead with wisdom, justice and compassion. As a university college we value academic excellence and the mastery of the scholarly knowledge in students' chosen areas of study.

1. **Communication:** The ability to exchange information and meaning across cultures, space and time through appropriate modes of communication. Includes oral, written, and interpersonal or group communication, as well as the ability to use current or innovative media.
2. **Critical Thinking:** The ability to engage in thinking characterized by the rational, informed, independent, and open-minded exploration of issues, ideas, and events before accepting or formulating a conclusion.
3. **Inquiry and Analysis:** The ability to reach informed decisions by breaking down complex issues, exploring evidence, and describing relationships among persons, things, or events.
4. **Problem Solving:** The ability to create and execute a strategy to answer a question or achieve a goal. Includes being able to anticipate the consequence of a potential solution, select a strategy among several alternatives, and decide when an acceptable outcome has been reached.
5. **Self Awareness and Development:** The ability to draw meaning, knowledge and value from honest and fair reflection and self-evaluation. Students are able to recognize their values and their impact on others, and make a commitment to personal growth.
6. **Social Awareness and Engagement:** The ability to respect and be open to diversity (e.g. cultural, religious, political) and social justice. Students take personal responsibility to actively engage in and contribute to creating positive change in local, regional, national, or global communities and societies.
7. **Valuing:** The ability to make decisions or choose actions based on the consistent application of moral principles and ethical codes. Students must also be able to understand the ideas informing one's beliefs

and be accountable for their actions.

Learning Outcomes and Brescia Competencies:

Upon completion of this course, students will be able to:

- use a sociological imagination to understand the relationship between individual experience and societal reality. (Brescia Competencies: Critical Thinking, Valuing, Social Awareness &Engagement)
- comprehend how social institutions work, how they structure our lives, and how they influence our understanding of societies. (Brescia Competencies: Critical Thinking, Valuing, Communication, Social Awareness & Engagement).
- understand how globalization and environmental issues impact society and individuals. (Brescia Competencies: Critical Thinking, Communication, Valuing)
- learn how and why societies change. (Brescia Competencies: Critical Thinking, Valuing, Communication, Social Awareness & Engagement)

Students may vary in their competency levels on these outcomes. They can expect to achieve these outcomes if they honour course policies, attend classes regularly, complete all assigned work in good faith and on time, and meet all other course expectations of them as students. (Linda Nilson, Teaching at its Best, 2010: 37).

Course Prerequisites:

Enrolment in the Preliminary Year Program. Unless you have either the requisites for this course or written special permission from your Dean to enroll in it, you will be removed from this 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

Course Antirequisites

Sociology 0012

Grading and Assignment Structure:

1. Class Contribution20%
2. Midterm Exam (February 24.....)25%
3. Commit Sociology Assignment20%
4. Final Exam (TBA)35%

Detailed Course Outline

*Students, please note that the following course outline is subject to revision. That is, throughout the term, circumstances may arise that will alter the ordering of the topics, the pace at which we move through the material and so on. **It is your responsibility to do all required readings, and to attend class.** If, for whatever reason, you are unable to attend class, please consult your colleagues in order to catch up on any administrative details, or course content that you may have missed.*

CLASS DAYS	WEEKLY TOPICS AND IMPORTANT DATES	REQUIRED READINGS
Jan 6	Introduction (Day 1) Sign up for group project/Commit Sociology	n/a
Jan 13	Work	Chapter 17
Jan 20	Work Documentary: The Motherload Guest Speaker	Chapter 17
Jan 27	Education Weekly Summary Due	Chapter 16
Feb 3	Family / Religion	14, 15
Feb 10	Health /Media Guest Speaker	18, 19
Feb 17	Reading Week	No new readings
Feb 24	Midterm (25%)	No new readings
Mar 2	Globalization: Introduction / Fast Fashion Weekly Summary Due	20
Mar 9	Economic Globalization Neoliberalism, transnational corporations, international development Guest Speaker	20
Mar 16	Group Project Preparation Day	n/a
Mar 23	Group Presentations	n/a
Mar 30	The Environment Weekly Summary Due	21
Apr 6	Social Change	22
TBA	Final Exam (Cumulative/ 35%)	

Required Readings:

1. Steckley, John with Guy Letts. 2014. *Foundations of Sociology*. Oxford University Press: Don Mills, ON.
2. Additional readings may also be assigned. Students will be notified in class and on OWL.

DETAILED OUTLINE OF GRADING AND ASSIGNMENT STRUCTURE

1) Ongoing Preparation and class contribution- 20%

Good class attendance is critical to getting the most out of this course. There is a direct correlation between attendance in class and marks achieved by students. While readings and class lectures fit

together, some material will only be covered in class. You are responsible for everything that occurs during class time including discussions, videos, guest speakers, etc. You are also responsible for any announcements made during class. It is a good idea to “buddy up” with a classmate, in order to exchange notes if you must miss a class, since class notes will not be supplied to students. Videos shown in class are not available for private viewing if they are not in the library. Please don’t ask to borrow them.

Contribution by students is a cornerstone of an effective learning experience. Active involvement increases assimilation of material and stimulates the level of class discussion. Students are expected to contribute to the topic-at-hand by asking questions, volunteering answers, developing an argument, critiquing ideas constructively, and/or advancing the discussion to a new level.

Contribution will be graded by your professor based on attendance and classroom behaviours.

Additionally, students will be required to write a one page weekly summary and reflection. For a total of 3 weekly summaries. (January 27, March 2, March 30)

2) Midterm Exam (February 24) – 25%

The Midterm will cover all course material, including lectures, assigned readings, class discussions, films, guest presenters, etc . They may include multiple choice, short answer questions, definitions and true/false questions. No electronic devices are permitted in exams.

3) Commit Sociology Assignment – 20%

The Commit Sociology Assignment encourages students to take what they have learned in the course and apply it in the real world to make a difference.

The Purpose of this Assignment: To help you better understand the concepts learned through sociology such as inequality, poverty, injustice, as well as social institutions and social change. Our aim as sociologists and as members of communities is to foster the conditions for abundance.

According to McKnight and Block (2012: 83-84)

Gifts, association, and hospitality create the conditions or rules for what we call the capacities of a community. Capacities reside in individuals and can be nurtured to exist in the collective. They are core elements that need to be visible and manifest to create an abundant community....The capacities of an abundant community are kindness, generosity, cooperation, forgiveness, and acceptance of fallibility and mystery... An abundant community is one that values our capacities and assumes that they already reside within us... [An abundant community] takes what emerges and lets it become an asset for us all.

Specific Assignment Instructions:

1) Select, plan and put into action your group activity.

When choosing an activity, remember that it is designed to get you engaged in action that shifts the focus away from yourself and emphasizes giving, in some way, to a community in need. You will be placed in teams and asked to identify a community that is of interest to all members of your team: children, the elderly, animals, women, the homeless to name just a few possibilities.

The activity will be associated with doing something to support your chosen community. For example, you may gather donations in support of that particular community. This might involve a coat drive (to donate gently used coats to the “Koats for Kids” program at the Boys’ and Girls’ Club); or, collecting stuffed animals to donate to the fire department or Salvation Army to distribute to children at Christmas; or a food drive to give donations to the Food Bank; or gathering large-print novels to donate to a nursing home; or teaching seniors how to use the internet (see CYBER-SENIORS website for more information <http://cyberseniorsdocumentary.com/>); or gathering pet food/supplies for an animal rescue organization (and/or hosting a Pet Therapy Day), funding raising for SOS Children’s Villages, Plan Canada or Wadeng Wings of Hope.

- 3) Connect your Commit Sociology activity to the concepts, themes or theories presented in your course textbook or additional readings. Identify at least 2 key ideas associated with the course and relate these to your “Commit Sociology” activity.
- 4) Share your experience in a class presentation on March 23 (15 minutes).

Final Exam (TBA) – 35%

The final examination is cumulative and will cover all course material, including lectures, assigned readings, class discussions, films, guest presenters, etc. They may include multiple choice, short answer questions, definitions and true/false questions. No electronic devices are permitted in exams.

COURSE-SPECIFIC POLICY STATEMENTS

1. Submission of Assignments

All assignment should be submitted in class or if outside of class time. Please do not submit assignments under my office door. All due dates are firm and subject to a late penalty, except when the professor recognizes that there are legitimate and documented exceptional circumstances (e.g. illness, death in the family). For each day the assignment is late, the student will lose ½ (.5) of a mark (.5% of the final course grade). Except for exceptional circumstances such as those noted above, assignments submitted 7 days or more past the due date will not be accepted.

2. Grades

Due to privacy regulations, I am unable to send marks or discuss issues regarding grades by email. Please see me during my office hours. Midterm exam grades will be posted to the OWL site when they become available and/ or communicated in person. Final exam grades will not be available until approved by the department. PLEASE NOTE: There will be NO extra work assigned for the purpose of improving grades. It is unfair to other students in the class who are not given the same opportunity. Also, I am unable to increase marks unless warranted. PLEASE DON’T ASK!

3. Cell Phones and Computers

Laptops must be used only for talking notes. Cell phones must be put away during lectures. Students using any electronic devices who are considered disruptive will be asked to leave.

4. A Note Regarding Email, Appointments and Privacy

Email is a useful tool for sharing news, setting up meetings or for a simple assignment clarification, but for more complex questions, a face to face meeting is best. Please make an appointment using email (I prioritize email over OWL messaging) to discuss any personal, academic, group work or controversial issues in person, especially any concerns that you might have about your grades. I will check email and our course site on OWL Monday through Friday during office hours; you can expect a response within 48 hours during the work week. Over weekends and holidays I will not be checking email or OWL, so plan accordingly.

Appointments

Students are welcome to meet with the professor during the designated weekly office hours or by arranging an appointment at a mutually convenient time through email correspondence. Make sure to be on time for your appointment, have an objective for the discussion and bring a copy of your paper or exam you wish to discuss.

Privacy

To respect privacy laws, all grades will be distributed on the course site on OWL only. If a student wishes to discuss a grade, or review a test or paper, she must make an appointment with the professor to do so in person. To protect student privacy, the professor may only discuss grades with the student in question. Please do not share or compare your grades. The professor cannot share information about another student's grades, so discussions about comparison of grades between students will not be entertained.

2019-20 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 http://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 (http://www.westerncalendar.uwo.ca/PolicyPages.cfm?PolicyCategoryID=1&Command=showCategory&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. If you consider reducing your workload by dropping one or more courses, this must be done by the appropriate deadlines; please refer to the Registrar's website, <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.

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 Mental Health & Wellness at Brescia (<http://brescia.uwo.ca/life/mental-health-wellness/>) 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 <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.

