

Introduction to Sociology

School of Behavioural and Social Sciences

General Information

Course #:	Sociology 1020
Section #:	530
Term:	Fall-Winter
Year:	2019-2020
Course Day and Time:	Mondays 11:30 to 12:30 & Wednesdays 11:30 to 1:30
Course Location:	BR-303

Instructor Information

Name:	Dr. Steven Kleinknecht
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Office location:	BR-UH323

Course Description

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)

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.

Antirequisites: Sociology 1020W/X, 1021E, 1025A/B, 1026F/G, and 1027A/B.

Required Course Materials

Schaefer, Richard T., Jana Grekul, and Bonnie Haaland. 2017. *Sociology: A Brief Introduction*. Sixth Canadian Edition. Toronto: McGraw-Hill Ryerson.

Electronic readings found on our OWL site.

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.

Learning Outcomes

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

1. Recall the fundamental aspects of core sociological theories and research methods and be able to identify their relative strengths and weaknesses;
2. Apply key sociological concepts;
3. Examine various features of society (e.g., deviance, work, family, gender, education, social interaction) from a sociological viewpoint;
4. Compose a sociological research paper; and,
5. Interpret society from a new perspective that challenges your assumptions about human group life.

Along with these outcomes, 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? How does this course fit into your learning objectives?

Brescia Competencies

You will develop the Brescia competencies at an introductory level in this course. The Brescia competencies include:

Communication

The ability to exchange information and meaning effectively across cultures, space and time through appropriate modes of communication. Includes oral, written, and interpersonal or group communicate, as well as the ability to use current or innovative media.

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.

Inquiry and Analysis

The ability to reach informed decisions by breaking down complex issues, exploring evidence, demonstrating information literacy, and describing relationships among persons, things, or events.

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.

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.

Social Awareness and Engagement

The ability to respect and be open to diversity (e.g. cultural, religious, political). Students take personal responsibility to actively engage in and contribute to creating positive change in local, regional, national, or global communities and societies.

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.

Expectations of Students

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; and, (6) Staying organized, and developing and executing good study habits (e.g., reviewing your material on a regular basis).

Copyright and Intellectual Property

PowerPoint lecture slides and notes, lists of readings, in-class activities, assignment guidelines, and other components of the course materials are typically the intellectual property of the instructor. Unauthorized reproduction through audio-recording, video-recording, photographing, sharing on social media, or posting on course-sharing websites is an infringement of copyright and is prohibited. Such action may be considered a Code of Conduct violation and lead to sanctions.

Evaluation

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 an Academic Advisor, not your professor.
- **Course Learning Outcomes:** 1, 2, 3, and 5
- **Brescia Competencies:** All
- Counts for **10%** of your final mark

Fall Mid-term Exam

- Multiple choice questions
- Written in-class **Wednesday, October 30th**
- Covers the material up to and including October 28th
- **Course Learning Outcomes:** 1, 2, 3, and 5
- **Brescia Competencies:** Critical Thinking, Problem Solving, Social Awareness
- Counts for **20%** of your final mark

Winter Mid-term Exam

- Multiple choice questions
- Written in-class **Wednesday, January 29th**
- Covers the material from November 11th up to and including January 27th
- **Course Learning Outcomes:** 1, 2, 3, and 5
- **Brescia Competencies:** Critical Thinking, Problem Solving, Social Awareness
- Counts for **20%** of your final mark

Research Paper

- Instructions will be handed out and discussed in class
- Due on **Wednesday, March 11th** at the beginning of class
- The penalty for late papers is 5% per day
- **Course Learning Outcomes and Brescia Competencies:** All
- Counts for **15%** of your final mark

Final Exam

- Multiple choice questions
- Written during the Winter final exam period
- Covers all course material
- **Course Learning Outcomes:** 1, 2, 3, and 5
- **Brescia Competencies:** Critical Thinking, Problem Solving, Social Awareness
- Counts for **35%** of your final mark

Academic Accommodation

For course components worth 10% or more of the total course grade, please see the Academic Policies and Regulations section at the end of this course outline or consult the Academic Calendar.

For course components worth less than 10% of the total course grade, documentation will be required. Medical or other supporting documentation should be submitted to your Academic Advisor.

Course Content

<u>FALL SEMESTER</u>		
Day	Topic	Reading
September 9	Course Introduction	
Sept. 11 & 16	Sociological Theory	1 & A. Invitation to Sociology
Sept. 18, 23, 25	Research Methods	2
Sept. 30 & Oct. 2	Culture	3 & B. India's Sacred Cow
Oct. 7 & 9	Socialization	4
October 14	THANKSGIVING HOLIDAY	
Oct. 16 & 21	Social Interaction & Social Structure	5: 105-114, 122-127
Oct. 23 & 28	Groups & Organizations	5: 115-122, 127-136
Oct. 30	FALL MID-TERM (20%)	
Nov. 4 & 6	READING WEEK (no classes)	
Nov. 11 & 13	Stratification in Canada	6
Nov. 18 & 20	Global Inequality	7 & C. Nickel-and-Dimed
Nov. 25 & 27	Racial & Ethnic Inequality	8
December 2 & 4	Gender Relations	9
<u>WINTER SEMESTER</u>		
Day	Topic	Reading
January 6 & 8	The Mass Media	10
January 13 & 15	Deviance, Crime, & Social Control	11 & D. On the Run
January 20 & 22	Families & Intimate Relationships	12
January 27	Catch up & Review	
January 29	WINTER MID-TERM (20%)	
February 3 & 5	Religion	13: 327-345
February 10 & 12	Education	13: 345-358; E. Stubborn Disp.
February 17 & 19	READING WEEK (no classes)	
February 24 & 26	The Economy & Work	14: 361-371, 383-389
March 2 & 4	Government, Power, & Politics	14: 371-383
March 9 & 11 March 11	Population, Communities, & Urbanization RESEARCH PAPER DUE (15%)	15: 392-405, 414-425
March 16 & 18	Health & Medicine	15: 405-413, 425-427
March 23 & 25	Collective Behaviour & Social Change	16: 430-448, 453-456
Mar. 30 & Apr. 1	The Environment	16: 448-453; F. Supporting Indig.
FINAL EXAM (35%) – Written during the final exam period – Date & location set by the Registrar's Office		

2019-20 BRESCIA UNIVERSITY COLLEGE ACADEMIC POLICIES AND REGULATIONS

1. POLICY REGARDING ACADEMIC ACCOMMODATION

The complete policy regarding [Accommodation for Illness - Undergraduate Students](http://www.westerncalendar.uwo.ca/PolicyPages.cfm?Command=showCategory&PolicyCategoryID=1&SelectedCalendar=Live&ArchiveID=#Page_12) 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.
