

BRESCIA UNIVERSITY COLLEGE
Department of Sociology
Sociology 0010A:
Understanding Society: Social Life and Social Inequality
Intersession 2018

Course Director: Professor Julie Young
Office: #360, UH

Class Time: Monday – Thursday 9:00am – 12:00pm
Office Hours: Wednesday 4:00pm – 5:00pm in the Mercato,
or by appointment.

Classroom: BR-UH26
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Course Description:

In this basic introduction to Sociology, students will learn how the sociological imagination helps us understand how personal experiences connect to a broader social context and how the larger social forces impact our lives. After introducing students to the sociological perspectives and sociological methods, students will develop tools to critically evaluate ‘common-sense’ assumptions of society, which are often rooted in myth. The reality of social differentiation will also be examined through discussions on social inequality with topics such as socioeconomic status, race, gender, and sexual orientation. The topics also covered include sociological theory, research methodology, culture, socialization, and deviance.

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:

- develop an understanding of theoretical approaches to study society, social life, and inequality.
- grasp the connections between small-scale issues and larger structural social processes.
- understand the relationship between individuals and society, both locally and globally.
- appreciate how social relations shape human behaviour
- develop an appreciation of how diversity impacts an individual’s position in society.

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 (Tuesday May 24)25%
- 3. Presentations (ongoing throughout the term)20%
- 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
May 14	Introduction (Day 1) Sign up for group presentations	Chapter 1
May 15	Theories / Methods Guest Speaker: TBA	Chapter 2 & chapter 3

May 16	Culture Presentation: "Trump's Muslim Ban"	Chapter 4
May 17	Socialization / Deviance Presentation: Paulo Freire Problem Posing Model of Education Weekly Summary Due	Chapter 5 & Chapter 6
May 21	Victoria Day (NO CLASS)	No readings
May 22	Inequality Poverty simulation; voices of the poor Video: "Made in Bangladesh" (Inequality and fast fashion)	Chapter 9
May 23	Inequality Presentation: Residential Schools Weekly Summary Due	No new readings
May 24	Midterm (25%)	No new readings
May 28	Race/ ethnicity Presentation: Black Lives Matter Movement	Chapter 10
May 29	Gender / sexuality Presentation: Violence Against Women OR #MeToo Movement	Chapter 11
May 30	Disability / aging Guest Speaker: TBA Video: "Doc Zone – Generation Jobless" (Youth)	Chapter 12 & chapter 13
May 31	How to become an architect of change Exam review Weekly Summary Due	No new readings
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. (May 17, May 23, May 31)

2) Midterm Exam (May 24) – 25%

The Midterm will cover all course material, including lectures, assigned readings, class discussions, films, guest presenters, etc from May 14 – May 23. They may include multiple choice, short answer questions, definitions and true/false questions. No electronic devices are permitted in exams.

3) Presentations (Ongoing throughout the term) – 20%

This presentation is part of your major assignment for this course. In groups (2-4) you will select 1 of the special topics listed in the weekly outline, research the topic, and present a 15 – 20 minute presentation of the content. Sign up for your presentation date on the first day of class.

4) 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 $\frac{1}{2}$ (.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 taking 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.

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. 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.

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 and 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/uwoacom/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