



**Sociology 1020 (570)
Introduction to Sociology
Fall/ Winter 2025-2026**

Instructor: J. Fairbairn
Email: jfairba4@uwo.ca

Course Information

Calendar Description:

An examination of the major theoretical perspectives in the field of Sociology, methods of empirical investigation of social phenomena, socialization, group structure, principles of social organization, community structure, population and social change.

Antirequisite(s): [Sociology 1020W/X](#), [Sociology 1021E](#), [Sociology 1025A/B](#), [Sociology 1026F/G](#), [Sociology 1027A/B](#).

Extra Information: 2 lecture hours, 1 tutorial hour.

Course Weight: 1.00
Breadth: Category A
Subject Code: SOCIOLOG

Notice: Unless you have either the requisites for this course (fulfilment of pre-requisites, no anti-requisite conflicts), or special permission from your Dean to enrol in it, you may 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.

King's University College
SOC1020 570 – Introduction to Sociology
Fall/Winter 2025-26

Instructor: Dr. Jordan Fairbairn (she/her)

Email: jfairba4@uwo.ca

Office Hours (Zoom): Monday, 10-11 am on Zoom or by appointment

<https://westernuniversity.zoom.us/my/jordanfairbairn>

Course Description:

In this course, students will be introduced to the sociological study of society and the social world. Sociology examines the relationship between social structures and individuals. We will engage with sociology as a practice: what does it mean to do sociology, and how can we develop this practice throughout our daily lives? Analyses of power and inequality will inform our inquiry as we engage the tension between social structures and the agency of individuals as subjects. The goal of this course is to challenge students to think critically about society and to introduce students to the ways in which sociologists scientifically explore a variety of important social issues.

Course Objectives:

Upon the completion of this course, you will:

- Use sociological concepts and vocabulary effectively to explain social events and practices.
- Situate everyday lived experiences within sociological frameworks.
- Understand and discuss the role that race, gender, sexuality, and social class play in various social systems.
- Engage a range of sociological lenses on specific topics and understand that there are multiple ways of understanding a single issue.
- Demonstrate knowledge of key methodological tools used in sociology.
- Begin to engage directly with peer-reviewed scholarship.
- Develop, enhance, and apply critical thinking, reading, and writing skills.

Mode of Instruction: In-person

Course textbooks/materials:

Required text: *Seasonal Sociology*, second edition (2025). Eds. Tonya Davidson and Ondine Park. University of Toronto Press; available at Western bookstore.

https://bookstore.uwo.ca/textbook-search?campus=KC&term=W2025&courses%5B0%5D=570_KC/SOC1020

Textbook cost: Ebook \$65, paperback \$65

Additional course readings, as well as links to podcasts and videos will be available on Brightspace or through King's library resources. Students are welcome to purchase the earlier edition of this textbook but should consult the library reference copy for new chapters in the second edition.

Drop Date: December 1 is the last day to drop this course without academic penalty.

Methods of Evaluation:

The overall course grade will be calculated as listed below:

- In-class activities (10%, ongoing)
- Tutorial Attendance and Tutorial Assignments (10%, ongoing)
- Written Assignments
 - Sociological Research Reflection (Dec 3): 5%
 - Research Assignment (April 9): 20%
- Tests/Examinations
 - Fall Test (Oct 29): 15%
 - Winter Test (Feb 4): 15%
 - Final Exam (April Exam Period): 25%

Assignment Descriptions – See Course Brightspace page for detailed instructions:

In-class activities (10%)

- Involves class participation and submitting in-class activities. Further details will be provided in class.

Tutorial

There are two grades associated with tutorial:

- **Tutorial Attendance and Assignments (10%):** Tutorials will take place during the third hour of class. You will be required to attend tutorials on selected classes and attend 6 tutorials throughout the year. Tutorial assignments will focus on developing skills for academic reading, writing, and research. Small assignments will be assigned by your tutorial leader during tutorial and will focus on the skill taught during that week. To receive a grade and complete the tutorial assignment, you must attend your assigned tutorial. More details will be posted on Brightspace.

Written Assignments

There are two written assignments in this course:

- **Sociological Research Reflection (Dec 3) 5%:** On Dec 3 you will come to class with ideas for a research topic and two potential peer-reviewed articles retrieved through the Library. You will complete a two-page research reflection during class time by answering a series of questions about your research topic and how you will explore this sociologically in your final assignment. More details will be posted on Brightspace and discussed in class.

- **Research Assignment (Apr 9) 20%:** Building on the Sociological Research Reflection, students will have the opportunity to explore and extend some of the ideas/theories addressed in lecture throughout the year. Details about the research essay will be posted on Brightspace, discussed in lecture, and will employ the skills learned in tutorial.

Tests/Examinations

There are two tests and one final exam in this course:

- **Fall Test (Oct 29) 15%:** The Fall Test will be held during class time and will cover weeks 1-7 and consist of multiple choice questions and short/long answer questions. The test will cover lecture material, readings, and class discussions. Further details will be posted on Brightspace and discussed in class before the test.
- **Winter Test (Feb 4) 15%:** The Winter test will be held during class time, will cover weeks 9-16 and consist of multiple choice and short/long answer questions. While the winter test is not cumulative, concepts, theories, and information that run throughout the course and were taught in earlier chapters will be tested on. The test will cover lecture material, readings, and class discussions. Further details will be posted on Brightspace and discussed in class before the test.
- **Final Exam (April Exam Period) 25%:** The final exam will be held during the April exam period. The exam will consist of multiple choice, and may contain short/long answer question and/or an essay question. The final exam will be cumulative and will cover lecture material, readings, and class discussions from weeks 1 to week 24. More details on the format will be posted on Brightspace.

Academic Considerations:

- Final assignment (due April 9 at 11:55pm) may be submitted without late penalty or academic accommodation until Thursday April 10 at 11:55pm.

Academic Integrity:

- Scholastic offences are taken seriously and students are directed to read the appropriate policy, specifically, the definition of what constitutes a Scholastic Offence: http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/scholastic_discipline_undergrad.pdf
- **AI tools:** Within this course, it is expected that students have conceptualized and created their own assignments. Assignments produced by generative AI tools such as ChatGPT are not permitted to be submitted as part of work for evaluation. Grammar checking and translation tools are permitted. Coursework submitted with the unauthorized use of AI will be subject to academic discipline. As with all aspects of the course, students are encouraged to reach out to me if you have any questions or concerns at all.
- **Turnitin:** All required assignments will be submitted for textual similarity review to the commercial plagiarism detection software under license to the University for the detection of plagiarism.

Course Content & Reading Schedule:

Week 1 – Sept 10

- Introduction to the Course & What is Sociology?
- No assigned reading, attend class and review Brightspace & syllabus

Week 2 – Sep 17

- Read: Seasonal Sociology (SS) – Introduction

Week 3 – Sept 24

- Read SS Chapter 2

Week 4 – Oct 1

- Read SS Chapter 3

Week 5 – Oct 8

- Read SS Chapter 4

Week 6 – Oct 15

- Read SS Chapter 5

Week 7 – Oct 22

- Reading TBD

Week 8 – Oct 29

- Fall Test (15%)

Fall Reading Week – Nov 5

Week 9 – Nov 12

- Read SS Chapter 6

Week 10 – Nov 19

- Read SS Chapter 7

Week 11 – Nov 26

- Reading TBD

Week 12 – Dec 3

- No assigned reading, Sociological Reflection due by 11:55pm (may be submitted without late penalty or academic accommodation until Thursday Dec 4 at 11:55pm)

December Exam Period - No Exam. Good luck on your exams and see you in January!

Week 13 – Jan 7

- Read SS Chapter 8

Week 14 – Jan 14

- Read SS Chapter 9

Week 15 – Jan 21

- Read SS Chapter 10

Week 16 – Jan 28

- Read SS Chapter 12

Week 17 – Feb 4

- **Winter Test (15%)**

Week 18 – Feb 11

- Read SS Chapter 13

Winter Reading Week – Feb 18

Week 19 – Feb 25

- Read SS Chapter 14

Week 20 – Mar 4

- Read SS Chapter 15

Week 21 – Mar 11

- Read SS Chapter 16

Week 22 – Mar 18

- Read SS Chapter 17

Week 23 – Mar 25

- Read SS Chapter 19

Week 24 – Apr 2

- Overflow class to cover missed content/Course Wrap Up and Review

Week 25 – Apr 9

- Hold for course Wrap Up and Review (if not covered in Week 24)
- Final assignment due

April Exam Period – Final Exam (25%) – Date TBA

KING'S UNIVERSITY COLLEGE

GENERAL COURSE POLICIES

2025-2026

1. Academic Accommodations, Consideration for Absences

Academic Accommodation (Accessibility)

Accessibility Services works to ensure that academic programs are accessible to all students, and supports students who may have a condition related to, but not limited to, vision, hearing, mobility, different ways of learning, mental health, chronic illnesses, chronic pain, autism spectrum disorder, ADD/ADHD, and temporary conditions (beyond short-term academic consideration). Accessibility Services provides recommendations for accommodation based on medical documentation or psychological and cognitive assessment. The accommodation policy can be found here [Academic Accommodation for Students with Disabilities](#). Information on Accessibility Services at King's can be found [here](#).

Academic Consideration for Student Absence

If a student is unable to meet a course requirement due to substantial but temporary extenuating circumstances (medical or compassionate), they should follow the procedures below.

In some cases, where instructors have built flexibility into their assessments, this flexibility will already address consideration needs.

Requests for academic consideration should be directed to the Academic Advising Office of your faculty/college of registration. Requests must be made as soon as possible and no later than 48 hours after the missed assessment.

As a rule, documentation is required for academic consideration. For academic consideration requests on medical grounds, the Student Medical Certificate is available at https://www.kings.uwo.ca/kings/assets/File/currentStudents/courses_enrollment/exams_and_tests/SMC-Feb-2025.pdf.

Students are permitted one academic consideration request without supporting documentation per term per course.

Instructors may designate one assessment per half-course weight as requiring formal supporting documentation. Please refer to the course outline for each course.

For further information, please see:

https://uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/academic_consideration_Sep24.pdf

Absences from Final Examinations

If you miss the Final Exam, contact the Academic Advising Office of your faculty/college of registration as soon as you are able to do so. They will assess your eligibility to write the Special Examination (the name given by the University to a makeup Final Exam).

You may also be eligible to write the Special Exam if you are in a “Multiple Exam Situation” (e.g., more than 2 exams in 23-hour period, or more than 3 exams in a 47-hour period).

If a student fails to write a scheduled Special Examination, the date of the next Special Examination (if granted) normally will be the scheduled date for the final exam the next time this course is offered. The maximum course load for that term will be reduced by the credit of the course(s) for which the final examination has been deferred. See the Academic Calendar for details (under [Special Examinations](#)).

Religious Accommodation

Students should consult the University's list of recognized religious holidays, and should give notice in writing to the instructor and Academic Advising Office if a course requirement will be affected by a religious holiday/observance. Notice must be given as early as possible, and no later than two weeks prior to an examination, and one week prior to a midterm test date. It is the responsibility of such students to inform themselves concerning the work done in classes from which they are absent and to take appropriate action.

2. Support Services

Accessibility, Counselling and Student Development at King’s University College:

<https://www.kings.uwo.ca/current-students/student-services/>

Students experiencing emotional or mental health distress can access services at King’s University College: <http://www.kings.uwo.ca/current-students/campus-services/student-support-services/personal-counselling/>

Good2talk is a good online and phone 24/7 resource for students and is available in English, Mandarin, and French: <https://good2talk.ca>, 1-866-925-5454

MentalHealth@Western provides a complete list of options about how to obtain help:

https://www.uwo.ca/health/mental_wellbeing/

Academic Support Services at King’s University College:

<https://www.kings.uwo.ca/current-students/academic-resources/>

GBSV Support:

King’s is committed to reducing incidents of gender-based and sexual violence and providing compassionate support to anyone who has gone through these traumatic events. If you have experienced sexual or gender-based violence (either recently or in the past), you will find information about support services for survivors, including emergency contacts at:

<https://www.kings.uwo.ca/about-kings/safe-campus/gender-and-sexual-violence/>

You can reach someone supports at Kings by emailing Care@kings.uwo.ca or calling 519-930-4640 to reach a social worker who can offer help.

You can also reach Western’s Gender-Based Violence & Survivor Support Case Manager by [email](#) or by calling 519-661-3568.

Further supports can be found on this website: <https://www.kings.uwo.ca/about-kings/safe-campus/gender-and-sexual-violence/>

See also https://www.uwo.ca/health/student_support/survivor_support/get-help.html

University Students' Council offers many valuable support services for students, including the health insurance plan: <http://westernusc.ca/services/>

3. Statement on Use of Electronic Devices

Use of Electronic Devices: Unless explicitly stated otherwise, you are not allowed to have a cell phone, or any other electronic device, with you during tests or examinations. Unauthorized possession of such a device during a test or examination constitutes an academic offence.

Use of Laptops, Tablets, and Smartphones in the Classroom: King's University College at Western University acknowledges the integration of new technologies and learning methods into the curriculum. The use of electronic devices such as laptop computers, tablets, or smartphones can contribute to student engagement and effective learning. At the same time, King's recognizes that instructors and students share jointly the responsibility to establish and maintain a respectful classroom environment conducive to learning.

The use of electronic devices by students during lectures, seminars, labs, etc., shall be for matters related to the course at hand only. Students found to be using electronic devices for purposes not directly related to the class may be subject to sanctions under the Student Code of Conduct; see <https://www.kings.uwo.ca/current-students/student-affairs/code-of-student-conduct1/>

Inappropriate use of electronics (e.g., laptops, tablets, smartphones) during lectures, seminars, labs, etc., creates a significant disruption. As a consequence, instructors may choose to limit the use of electronic devices in these settings. In addition, in order to provide a safe classroom environment, students attending in-person class sessions are strongly advised to operate laptops with batteries rather than power cords.

4. Statement on Academic Offences

King's is committed to academic integrity. Scholastic offences are taken seriously and students are directed to read the appropriate policy, specifically, the definition of what constitutes a Scholastic Offence, is posted at

http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/scholastic_discipline_undergrad.pdf

It is expected that students will submit work that is truly their own, completed without external assistance (human or artificial) except as explicitly permitted by the course instructor. Check with your instructor on what tools, including generative AI (ChatGPT, translation tools, grammar-checking tools) are permitted in the course. Because a tool is permitted in one course, that does not mean it is permitted in other courses.

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; see <https://elearningtoolkit.uwo.ca/tools/Originality Reports - TurnItIn.html>.

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.

5. Copyright of Course Material

Lectures and course materials, including PowerPoint presentations, tests, outlines, and similar materials are protected by copyright. Faculty members are the exclusive owner of copyright in those materials they create. Students may take notes and make copies for their own use. Students may not allow others to reproduce or distribute lecture notes and course materials publicly (whether or not a fee is charged) without the express written consent of a faculty member. Unauthorized sharing of class content is subject to academic discipline.

Similarly, students own copyright in their own original papers and exam essays. If a faculty member wishes to post a student's answers or papers on the course website, they should ask for the student's written permission.

6. Use of Recordings

Participants in this course are not permitted to record the sessions, except where recording is an approved accommodation and/or the participant has the prior written permission of the instructor. Unauthorized recording and/or sharing of class content is subject to academic discipline.

7. Policy on Attendance

Any student who, in the opinion of the instructor, is absent too frequently from class or laboratory periods in any course, will be reported to the Dean of the Faculty offering the course, after due warning has been given. On the recommendation of the department concerned, and with the permission of the Dean of that Faculty, the student will be debarred from taking the regular examination in the course.