



**Sociology 1020 (572)**  
**Introduction to Sociology**  
**Fall/ Winter 2025-2026**

**Instructor: N. Cushing**  
**Email: [ncushin@uwo.ca](mailto:ncushin@uwo.ca)**

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## **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.

## **General Course Outline**

### **INTRODUCTION TO SOCIOLOGY 1020 (572)**

King's University College at Western University  
Fall/Winter 2025-26

**Instructor:** Professor Neisha Cushing

**Email:** ncushin@uwo.ca

**NOTE: Please put Soc 1020 (572) in the subject line of all emails.**

**NOTE:** I may take up to 24hrs to respond.

**When:** Thursday's: Lecture: 6:30 pm – 8:30 pm.  
Tutorial: 8:30 pm – 9:30 pm

**Office Hours:** By appointment via Zoom

**Teaching Assistant:** TBA

#### **Course 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.

This course will introduce you to the dynamic discipline of sociology! Sociology invites us to examine the relationship between societal structures and the individual. In other words, the discipline of sociology, and the objective of this course, is to help students develop their **Sociological Imagination!** The focus of this course will be on developing and utilizing a critical perspective to enhance your understanding of the social world. You will be engaging with a multitude of theoretical foundations and concepts that will enable you to penetrate commonly held assumptions in your daily interactions with peers, the media, the government and in your daily life.

## **Structure of the Course:**

This class will meet once a week for 3 hours. The first 2 hours will be a formal lecture and the 3<sup>rd</sup> hour will be dedicated to tutorial where there will be a focus on learning how to write, research and reference academically. This hour of the course will be facilitated by a writing consultant. The class will be divided into 3 groups and each group will be required to attend 6 tutorials on the weeks outlined on a tutorial schedule. More information will be provided on the first day of the class. NOTE: there will be no switching of tutorial groups.

## **Attendance (15%):**

Attendance will be taken at the beginning of each lecture and at the beginning of each tutorial.

How do you earn 15%?

5% of this component of the course will be based on **full attendance at lectures each week**. If you attend every lecture, you get the full 5%.

10% will be based on **attending all of your scheduled tutorial hours and your participation in them**. (NOTE: participation will be determined by the writing instructor)

**NOTE:** Students who do not attend class, or do not attend regularly, are at risk of being denied writing the final exam in this course. I will warn any student who is at risk of this in advance so they have time to start attending before being denied writing the final exam and therefore not passing the course.

## **Testing (55%):**

This course will have two midterm test (worth 15% each) and a final examination (worth 25%). Both the midterm and the final will be multiple choice. They will be based on lecture material and chapter readings. The midterm will cover all of the material covered during lecture portion of the class up until the week before the test. The final examination will cover the entire years material, with a focus on the material you have not yet been tested on. **NOTE:** students must write the final exam in order to pass this course. Formal documentation will be required in order for students to write a make-up final assessment.

## **Writing Assignments (30%):**

There will be two writing assignments in this course worth 15% each. One will be based on applying the Sociological Imagination, and the second one will be an exercise in summarizing academic research articles. **NOTE:** Within this course, use of generative artificial intelligence (AI) tools (such as ChatGPT) is not permitted for written work submitted for evaluation. Unauthorized use of AI will be subject to academic discipline.

## Assessment:

Writing Assignment #1	15%	(October 30 <sup>th</sup> , 2025)
Midterm #1	15%	(November 13 <sup>th</sup> , 2025)
Midterm #2	15%	(January 29 <sup>th</sup> , 2026)
Writing Assignment #2	15%	(February 12 <sup>th</sup> , 2026)
Attendance/Tutorials/Participation	15%	(calculated throughout the year)
Final Exam	25%	(Date to be determined by the University)
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	100%	

## Required Text:

*Sociology: Compass for a new social world, 8<sup>th</sup> edition*, by Robert Brym, Lisa Strohschein, & Karen Kampen. Published by Cengage.

NOTE: The 7<sup>th</sup> edition of this textbook is also acceptable as are used copies

eBook: \$80.00      Print copies: \$142.75

**Use of Electronics in the classroom:** During class time, you will be *required to turn off all of your electronic devices* (not including your laptop). You can check your phone, social media accounts, email, etc at the break. You are welcome to use your laptop to take lecture notes; however, any other use of your computer during lecture is strictly forbidden. It takes me a long time to put together a lecture and you pay a lot of money to hear what I have to say, so I suggest you wait until the break or after class to use your laptop for other purposes.

**Keeping in Contact:** Please make it a habit to check the announcements before attending class each week. This is where I will post all important information that I need you all to know (ie: in the event of a class cancelations, any changes to the weekly lecture schedule, etc). If you are in the habit of checking your email on a regular basis, all announcements will be directed to your uwo email account.

## SPECIFIC COURSE OUTLINE 2025-26

(NOTE: With the exception of test days & holidays, this is subject to change)

<u>DATE</u>	<u>LECTURE</u>	<u>READING</u>
Sept 4 <sup>th</sup>	Introduction to the course (no tutorial)	No reading
Sept 11 <sup>th</sup>	Foundations of the Discipline What is the Sociology Imagination? (no tutorial)	Chapter 1
Sept. 18 <sup>th</sup>	Foundations of the Discipline cont. How do sociologists do research? (Tutorial – Group 1)	Chapter 1 cont Chapter 2
Sept 25 <sup>th</sup>	Culture: Sociology and the Media (Tutorial – Group 2)	Chapter 3
Oct. 2 <sup>nd</sup>	Socialization: How does it work? (Tutorial – Group 3)	Chapter 4
Oct. 9 <sup>th</sup>	Social Interaction: History, the development of the Self & various perspectives (Tutorial – Group 1)	Chapter 5
Oct. 16 <sup>th</sup>	Networks, Groups, Bureaucracies, & Societies (Tutorial – Group 2)	Chapter 6
Oct. 23 <sup>rd</sup>	The Sociological Imagination (Tutorial – Group 3)	ADD READING
Oct. 30 <sup>th</sup>	<b>WORK DAY for Writing Assignment #1</b> <b>NO LECTURE</b> (Tutorial – Group 1)	<b>Submit Assignment</b>
Nov. 6 <sup>th</sup>	<b>READING WEEK (NO CLASS)</b>	
Nov. 13 <sup>th</sup>	<b>IN CLASS MIDTERM #1</b>	
Nov. 20 <sup>th</sup>	Murder City (Tutorial – Group 2)	No Reading
Nov. 27 <sup>th</sup>	Deviance & Crime (Tutorial – Group 3)	Chapter 7

Dec. 4 <sup>th</sup>	Deviance & Social Control (Tutorial- Group 1)	Chapter 7 cont.
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**HOLIDAYS! NO EXAM DURING THIS PERIOD**

Jan. 8 <sup>th</sup>	Globalization, Inequality, & Development (Tutorial – Group 2)	Chapter 9
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Jan. 15 <sup>th</sup>	Race and Ethnicity (Tutorial – Group 3)	Chapter 10
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Jan. 22 <sup>nd</sup>	Sexualities & Gender Stratification (Tutorial – Group 1)	Chapter 11
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Jan. 29 <sup>th</sup>	<b>IN CLASS MIDTERM #2</b>	
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Feb. 5 <sup>th</sup>	The Body & Health (Tutorial – Group 2)	Chapter 12
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Feb. 12 <sup>th</sup>	<b>WORK DAY for Writing Assignment #2</b> <b>NO LECTURE</b> (Tutorial – Group 3)	<b>Submit Assignment</b>
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Feb. 19 <sup>th</sup>	<b>READING WEEK – NO CLASS</b>	
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Feb. 26 <sup>th</sup>	Political Economy (Tutorial – Group 1)	Chapter 13
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March 5 <sup>th</sup>	Families (Tutorial – Group 2)	Chapter 14
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March 12 <sup>th</sup>	Religion (Tutorial – Group 3)	Chapter 15
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Mar. 19 <sup>th</sup>	Mass & Social Media	Chapter 17
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Mar. 26 <sup>th</sup>	Collective Action & Social Movements	Chapter 18
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April 2 <sup>nd</sup>	<b>IN CLASS FINAL EXAM REVIEW</b>	
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# 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](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](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/](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](mailto: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](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](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.