



**Sociology 1020 (578)**  
**Introduction to Sociology**  
**Fall/ Winter 2025-2026**

**Instructor: D. Silva**  
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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.

**King's University College**  
**Department of Sociology**  
**Course Number SOC1020 SEC 578**

**Instructor Information**

The instructor for this course is **Dr. Derek Silva**. This course is offered during the **2025–2026 academic year**.

[dsilva28@uwo.ca](mailto:dsilva28@uwo.ca)

Office hours are available by appointment and will be held virtually via Zoom or Skype.

**Course Information**

**Mandatory Texts and Materials**

Quan-Haase, Anabel and Lorne Tepperman. 2021. *Real-Life Sociology: A Canadian Approach* (Second Edition). Don Mills, ON: Oxford University Press. (\$125.99 MSRP; \$64.61CAD 1-year rental). Available here:

[https://bookstore.uwo.ca/textbook-search?campus=KC&term=W2025&courses%5B0%5D=578\\_KC/SOC1020](https://bookstore.uwo.ca/textbook-search?campus=KC&term=W2025&courses%5B0%5D=578_KC/SOC1020)

**Course Overview**

This course will introduce students to the systematic study of society. It will help students understand the most important theoretical and empirical developments in the discipline of sociology and the study of the social world. Through the use of lectures, discussions, tutorials, and various forms of visual media, we will discuss major sociological concepts and ideas and their usefulness for the study of a variety of social issues. This course will provide a thorough introduction to the discipline of sociology in the following areas: (1) Introduction to sociology; (2) discussions of thematic socialization & culture; (3) social inequality; and (4) social problems and institutions. The first section will introduce students to elements of sociological theory, methods, and dominant concepts. The second will focus on culture and socialization. The third section of the course will show how these theories are applied to topics such as gender, race, class, religion, deviance, law, family, education, labour and health. The third component of this course is designed to introduce students to contemporary debates within various sub-disciplines of sociology. The fourth will explore the social problems and institutions that are relevant to the field of sociology. 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 completion of this course, students will be able to understand the manner in which sociologists study their unit of analysis. They should also be able to:

- 1) Understand and discuss the role that race, gender, sexuality, and social class play in various social systems.
- 2) Critically analyze contemporary social issues and understand the role sociology plays in the knowledge production process.
- 3) Demonstrate knowledge of key methodological tools used in sociology.
- 4) Systematically apply key concepts, ideas, and theoretical paradigms within sociology.
- 5) Develop, enhance, and apply critical thinking skills.
- 6) Develop, enhance, and apply critical writing skills.
- 7) Develop, enhance, and apply professional and communication skills.

**Evaluation and Assessment**

**Grading Scale**

- A+ is awarded for grades **90 percent or higher**
- A is awarded for grades between **80 and 89.99 percent**
- B is awarded for grades between **70 and 79.99 percent**
- C is awarded for grades between **60 and 69.99 percent**
- D is awarded for grades between **50 and 59.99 percent**
- F is assigned for grades **49.99 percent or lower**

Grades in the A+ range represent performance that is **above and beyond expectations, excellence with distinction**. I wish I produced work in the A+ range. Excellence refers to the combined results and not simply effort. While there is merit to hard work and long hours, it does not always guarantee success. Grades in the A range represent **very good work at this level – work superior to peers**. Grades in the B range represent performance that **meets expectations and is considered good work at the level**. Grades in the C range represent performance that is **satisfactory at this level**. Grades in the D range represent performance that is **unsatisfactory, but effort has been thoroughly demonstrated**. Grades in the F range represent performance that is **absolutely unsatisfactory for this level of university**. Grades will not be up for negotiation. Grades of A and A+ are **very** difficult to earn and would mean your work is superior to your peers.

## Assignment Breakdown and Due Dates

### Critical Reflections

You are required to complete two critical reflections. Each is worth 100 points, for a total of 200 points.

- Critical Reflection 1 is due on January 29, 2026
- Critical Reflection 2 is due on February 26, 2026

### Library Research Assignments

You must complete two library research assignments. Each is worth 100 points, for a total of 200 points.

- Library Research Assignment 1 is due on October 2, 2025
- Library Research Assignment 2 is due on October 30, 2025

### Tutorial Participation

Participation in tutorials is worth 100 points. Attendance and engagement are assessed throughout the year during your assigned tutorial group sessions:

- Last names A to K: Tutorial Group 1
- Last names L to N: Tutorial Group 2
- Last names O to Z: Tutorial Group 3

### Midterm and Final Exams

- The Midterm Exam is worth 200 points and will take place during the Winter Exam Period (exact date to be announced)
- The Final Exam is worth 300 points and will be scheduled during the Final Exam Period (exact date to be announced)

### Total Grade Value

All components together total 1000 points. All assignments are due by 11:55 PM EST on their respective due dates.

*\*\*\*Late assignments will be given a 10% deduction per day (inclusive of weekends) up to 5 days (50% deduction). Assignments will not be accepted on the 6<sup>th</sup> day past due.*

### Course Calendar / Topic Breakdown

### **Part I – Introduction to Sociology**

- **September 4:** Introduction to Sociology  
*Reading:* Syllabus  
*Tutorial:* None – No tutorial this week
- **September 11:** Decolonizing Social Science – Theory and Practice  
*Reading:* Chapter 1  
*Tutorial:* Group 1
- **September 18:** Workshop Class – **No class meeting**  
*Activity:* Work on Library Assignment #1  
*Tutorial:* None
- **September 25:** Sociological Methods  
*Reading:* Chapter 2  
*Tutorial:* Group 2

### **Part II – Culture and Socialization**

- **October 2:** Cultures and Social Reality  
*Reading:* Chapter 3  
*Tutorial:* Group 3
- **October 9:** Socialization  
*Reading:* Chapter 4  
*Tutorial:* Group 1
- **October 16:** Family  
*Reading:* Chapter 10  
*Tutorial:* Group 2

### **Part III – Social Inequality**

- **October 23:** Workshop Class – **No class meeting**  
*Activity:* Work on Library Assignment #2  
*Tutorial:* None
- **October 30:** Social Stratification  
*Reading:* Chapter 6  
*Tutorial:* Group 3

**November 3–9:** Fall Reading Week (No class or tutorials)

- **November 13:** Social Inequality and Global Conflict  
*Reading:* Chapter 9  
*Tutorial:* Group 1
- **November 20:** Gender and Sexuality  
*Reading:* Chapter 7  
*Tutorial:* Group 2
- **November 27:** Overflow Class  
*Activity:* Any missed material  
*Tutorial:* Group 3
- **December 4:** Midterm Review  
*Materials:* Posted to Brightspace  
*Tutorial:* None

### **Part IV – Social Problems and Institutions**

- **January 8:** Race and Racism  
*Reading:* Chapter 8  
*Tutorial:* Group 1

- **January 15:** Crime and Deviance  
*Reading:* Chapter 5  
*Tutorial:* Group 2
- **January 22:** Workshop Class – **No class meeting**  
*Activity:* Work on Critical Reflection #1  
*Tutorial:* None
- **January 29:** Media  
*Reading:* Chapter 14  
*Tutorial:* Group 3
- **February 5:** Education  
*Reading:* Chapter 11  
*Tutorial:* Group 1
- **February 12:** Workshop Class – **No class meeting**  
*Activity:* Work on Critical Reflection #2  
*Tutorial:* None

**February 14–22:** Winter Break (No class or tutorials)

- **February 26:** Work and Labour  
*Reading:* Chapter 12  
*Tutorial:* Group 2
- **March 5:** Religion and Religious Institutions  
*Reading:* Chapter 13  
*Tutorial:* Group 3
- **March 12:** Populations and Environment  
*Reading:* Chapter 15  
*Tutorial:* Group 1
- **March 19:** Social Movements and Collective Action  
*Reading:* Chapter 16  
*Tutorial:* Group 2
- **March 26:** Overflow Class  
*Activity:* Any missed material  
*Tutorial:* Group 3
- **April 2:** Overflow Class  
*Activity:* Any missed material  
*Tutorial:* None
- **April 9:** Final Exam Review  
*Materials:* Posted to Brightspace  
*Tutorial:* None

**Final Exam:** Date To Be Announced

# 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.