



**Sociology 2105a (570)
The Sociology of Youth
Fall/ Winter 2025-2026**

Instructor: Tara Bruno
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Course Information

Calendar Description:

A general coverage of the literature and issues related to the sociological study of adolescence and youth. Major theories are related to the settings in which young people currently spend their time. The focus is on the practical problems of day-to-day life and the transition to adulthood.

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

Extra Information: 3 lecture hours (Main); 2 lecture hours (King's).

Course Weight: 0.50
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.

SOC2105A (570): SOCIOLOGY OF YOUTH

IN-PERSON FALL 2025

Instructor:

Tara Bruno

tara.bruno@uwo.ca

Office hours may also be held via zoom. If you would like to arrange a meeting, please email the instructor.

Course Overview:

This course will examine youths' individual and collective identities and experiences, with an emphasis on the Canadian context. Students will be introduced to the historical and conceptual dimensions of understanding the sociology of youth. How do we define youth? How do we study youth? Are these methods effective? After critically examining the historical and methodological debates, various social institutions will be examined as they relate to youth. We will explore the sociology of youth as it relates to families, schools, the law, and employment, as well as the various dimensions of inequality and intersectionality experienced by youth. The second half of the course will examine contemporary issues and debates involving young people in society including peers, leisure, substance use, mental health, social media, music, and crime.

Learning Objectives:

Upon completion of this course, students will be able to:

- Critically engage with the historical and contemporary debates around youth.
- Identify various dimensions of difference and inequalities experienced by youth.
- Understand the role of various social institutions in the lives of youth.
- Refine collaboration, problem solving, and communication skills.
- Examine the sociological relevance of contemporary issues and activities engaged in by youth
- Refine critical analysis skills through the application of course concepts to popular culture in young peoples' lives

Required Readings:

The following text is required reading:

France, Alan, Roberts, Steven, Coffey, Julia, and Waite, Catherine. (2020). Youth Sociology. London, UK: Red Globe Press.

The text is available from multiple sources online in both hardcopy and digital formats. Some suggested sources for purchasing (\$67.30) or renting (\$40.34) the text include the [UWO bookstore](#) or [Vital Source](#). Any additional readings and materials will be made available on OWL Brightspace.

OWL Brightspace and Pulse App:

All course materials will be available through [OWL Brightspace](#). You will need to use your WesternID and password to access the system and our course. Be sure to check for messages and updates regularly on OWL Brightspace AND through your email notifications. I will post grades, class messages, slides, and all additional course materials on OWL Brightspace. Please take some time to familiarize yourself with the new format on OWL Brightspace. If there is anything missing or things are unclear, please let me know. We will work on making this a good experience together. I encourage you to download the Pulse app for Brightspace to keep up to date on all messages and course related activities.

Course Evaluation Components:

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| ○ In-class Activities/Participation (4 x 5% each) | 20% |
| ○ Online Quizzes (2 X 10% each) | 20% |
| ○ Midterm Assignment: Group Elevator Pitch | 30% |
| ○ Final Assignment: Your Sociological Playlist | 30% |

In-class Activities/Participation:

Throughout the course, in-class activities will be assigned to help students make connections for their midterm and final assignments. The in-class activities will be evaluated on a pass/fail grading scheme. If you attend class and submit your work from that day/activity, you will be given credit. If you do not attend class and complete the activities, you will not be given any credit.

Quizzes:

There will be two online quizzes held throughout the course. Each quiz will contain 20 multiple choice questions drawn from random pools of questions (no two quizzes will be the same). Each quiz is worth 10% of the final grade. The purpose of these quizzes is to give the instructor the opportunity to see if you are grasping the key concepts and research contributions covered in the readings and class. Quizzes will open at 12AM on the Monday noted on OWL (EST) and close automatically at 11:55PM (EST) on the Friday noted on OWL. It is important that you ensure you give yourself enough time to complete it and submit in one sitting and before the quiz is set to close. Quizzes will range in length from 20-30 minutes. All approved accommodations will be added to OWL Brightspace when the quiz is set-up. Quizzes will be available under ASSESSMENTS then QUIZZES. **Note:** Quizzes cannot be missed or excused through the self-reported absence online reporting tool, as they are open for five days.

Midterm Assignment—Elevator Pitch on a Socio-Environmental Intervention:

In the second week of class, students will be divided into small groups (3-5 students) assigned around four main domains in youth lives: families, peers, school, and leisure. Building on two in-class activities in the first half of the course and the existing research evidence, students will come up with an “elevator pitch” for an evidence-informed intervention for their assigned domain that is intended to *improve the well-being of young people*. This group assignment will be completed mostly in class and will be worth 30% for the final submission plus the additional 10% for the in-class activities. Additional expectations for these course requirements will be posted on OWL Brightspace under ASSESSMENTS then ASSIGNMENTS.

Final Assignment—Your Sociological Playlist:

Building on two in-class activities in the second half of the course, students will select 5-7 songs to critically analyze using a sociological lens and drawing on the course themes and concepts. This final assignment will not exceed 750 words (excluding the title page, song lyrics, and course references in APA or ASA format). This written assignment is worth 30% of the final grade plus the additional 10% for the in-class activities and will be in lieu of a final exam. The specific expectations for these course requirements will be posted on OWL under the ASSIGNMENTS tab.

Evaluation and Assessment:

In-Class Evaluations:

A pass/fail grading system will be used for all in-class activities and participation evaluations. If you attend class and complete the activities, you will pass (1). If you do not attend class and do not complete the activities, you will receive a fail (0).

Grading Scale for All Other Assessments (Western’s university-wide expectations):

A+	90 percent or higher	One could scarcely expect better from a student at this level
A	80 and 89.99 percent	Superior work which is clearly above average
B	70 and 79.99 percent	Good work, meeting all requirements, and eminently satisfactory
C	60 and 69.99 percent	Competent work, meeting requirements
D	50 and 59.99 percent	Fair work, minimally acceptable
F	49.99 percent or lower	Fail

Extensions/Late Policy/Academic Considerations:

If for some reason you are unable to write a quiz during the scheduled times, attend class and participate, or complete your assignments on time, it is your responsibility to notify the instructor prior to the deadline. In the case of any unforeseen circumstances, you will need to submit your request through the extranet within 48 hours of the missed assessment deadline. Students are permitted to have one self-reported absence without requiring formal documentation. The Final Assignment is exempt from this and will require documentation. Otherwise, it is expected that you will attend all classes and submit all of your work on time. In the case of any other unforeseen circumstances, it will be up to the discretion of instructor and/or the Academic Dean’s Office to determine if there are legitimate grounds for compassionate consideration or accommodations. You must be in-class to receive credit for in-person attendance and participation activities. Re-weighting of grades for missed coursework will be considered on a case-by-case basis. A late penalty of 10% per day will be in effect for the midterm and final assignments including weekends (after 5 days, assignments will no longer be accepted without formal documentation from the Academic Dean’s Office).

Communication:

My primary objective is to make this course an enjoyable learning experience, where students feel comfortable learning and growing as sociologists. It is important that students understand that I am here to help you with whatever difficulties you may have or foresee happening. Email is usually the best way to get in touch with me. While I will try my best to respond to emailed questions and concerns within 24-48 hours, there are some circumstances where this cannot always be fulfilled (especially over the weekends). If for some reason you are having difficulty with the course material, the instructor, or any other problem for that matter, do not hesitate to address these concerns. There are many resources to help support you at King’s and beyond.

Course Policy on AI Use and Turnitin:

The use of generative artificial intelligence (AI) tools including but not limited to ChatGPT, translation tools, grammar-checking tools, are not permitted for work that is submitted for evaluation. There may be instances during in-class activities where these tools are used to demonstrate a lesson or explore ideas. However, if AI tools are used at any point, students must acknowledge use and state how the tool was used. Any unauthorized and undeclared use of AI in course work will be subject to academic discipline.

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 UWO and Turnitin.com (<http://www.turnitin.com>).

Course Outline for Fall 2025:

Dates, Topics, Required Readings, Scheduled Due Dates

YS=Youth Sociology (main text for readings)

September 8: Historical Overview of Adolescence

- *Readings:* Review Brightspace & Course Outline

September 15: Defining 'Youth': Core Concepts and Debates

- *Readings:* YS Chapter 1
- *Tasks/Due:* Establishing a Foundation for Interventions

September 22: Youth and Difference

- *Readings:* YS Chapters 2 & 7

September 29: Youth and Education

- *Readings:* YS Chapter 3

October 6-10: Youth and Families

- *Readings:* See OWL
- *Tasks/Due:* ONLINE QUIZ #1 (OPENS Monday and CLOSSES Friday)

October 13: Thanksgiving Holiday--Enjoy your time and be thankful!

October 20: Peers, Youth Culture & Leisure

- *Readings:* YS Chapters 5 & 7

October 27: Youth and Work

- *Readings:* YS=Chapter 4
- *Tasks/Due:* Midterm Socio-Environmental Interventions Assignment DUE no later than October 31st

November 3-9: Reading Week--No Readings/Catch-Up

November 10: Music, Popular Culture, Social Media & Technologies

- *Readings:* YS Chapter 6 PLUS See OWL for readings

November 17: NO CLASS/INDEPENDENT RESEARCH DAY-- Conduct Research for Final Playlist Assignment

November 24-28: Youth Substance Use

- *Readings:* YS Chapter 8 PLUS OSDUHS Report
- *Tasks/Due:* ONLINE QUIZ #2 (OPENS Monday and CLOSSES Friday)

December 1: Youth Health & Well-Being

- *Readings:* YS Chapter 10

December 8: Building Youth Resilience Through Policy

- *Readings:* YS=Chapter 11 PLUS See OWL for readings
- *Tasks/Due:* Final Sociological Music Playlist Assignment DUE no later than December 10th

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.