



**Sociology 2240e (571)**  
**Survey of Sociological Theory**  
**Fall/ Winter 2025-2026**

**Instructor:** A. Piekosz

**Email:** [apiekos2@uwo.ca](mailto:apiekos2@uwo.ca)

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### **Course Information**

#### **Calendar Description:**

A survey of sociological theory from the historical roots of social science to the present.

**Antirequisite(s):** [Sociology 2270A/B](#) and [Sociology 2271A/B](#).

**Prerequisite(s):** At least 60% in 1.0 from Sociology courses at the 1000 level.

**Extra Information:** 3 lecture hours. Note for Main campus: [Sociology 2240E](#) or [Sociology 2270A/B](#) and [Sociology 2271A/B](#) are mandatory for students registered in Yr 2 of an Honours Specialization offered through the Dept. of Sociology.

**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.

## Survey of Sociological Theory

SOC2240E (571)

2025

September - April

Professor: Dr. Agata Piękosz

Email: [apiekos2@uwo.ca](mailto:apiekos2@uwo.ca)

Office hours: Online by Appointment

Lectures: Tuesday 11:30-1:30pm Tutorials: Tuesday 1:30-2:30pm

*Course Description:* Sociological theory provides a toolkit of ideas that allows us to apply and expand our sociological imagination. As students will learn, there is never one overarching paradigm that is able to fully explain all social complexity. The most interesting thing about theory is that it is *flexible*. In this course we touch upon some of the leading classical *and* contemporary theories in sociology. This course is designed to guide students through various sociological positions and critiques, allowing students to broaden their understanding of social theory. The final paper of the course guides student in reading “The Sociological Imagination” (Mills 1959) to assess, apply, and critique central concepts and themes.

### Learning Goals & Outcomes

#### Lectures:

- Provide guidance through the core concepts and key theories in sociology.
- Focus on understanding the logic behind dominant sociological frameworks.

#### Tutorials:

- Reinforce central themes from lectures and required readings.
- Help you prepare to engage critically with the course material.
- Support preparation for tests, exams, and the final paper by developing your analytical and writing skills.

#### Tests & Exams:

- Assess student understanding of sociological (classical & contemporary) theories.
- Encourage independent, critical thinking about the material.

#### Final Paper:

- Focuses on reading and interpreting a classical sociological text.
- Aims to deepen student understanding of a central concept.
- Encourages application of theoretical ideas to real-world social contexts.

**Required Textbook:** Ritzer, George, and Jeffrey N. Stepnisky. 2021. *Sociological Theory*. 11th ed. Thousand Oaks, CA: SAGE Publications.

**Required Readings:** All required readings for lectures and tests will be from the required textbook (see above). The textbook may be purchased online (<https://uk.sagepub.com/en-gb/eur/sociological-theory/book259059>) or from the Western bookstore. Students may use the e-copy or the hard copy for their preparation. Please note, the 11<sup>th</sup> edition (published in 2021) is available as a digital copy. However, other hardcopies like the 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> editions are also suitable for this course.

**Required Reading of Mills (1959):** For the final paper students will require access to “The Sociological Imagination” (Mills 1959), this book is accessible online in different versions. The hard copies are often available online or at bookstores.

Link to “The Sociological Imagination”: <https://ratical.org/ratville/AoS/TheSociologicalImagination.pdf>

**Evaluation:** a) two in-class tests (during lecture hours); b) interpretation & analysis of classic text; c) assessment and application of central concepts in “Final Paper”; and d) attendance and participation

Evaluation	% Of Grade	Deadline
Test #1 (in class)	30%	November 25, 2025
Test #2 (in class)	30%	February 24, 2026
Theory Text Interpretation & Analysis	10%	March 10, 2026
Final Theory Paper	20%	March 31, 2026
Attendance & Participation	10%	<i>Ongoing</i>

#### LECTURE SCHEDULE & READING LIST

Week	Date	Topics & Readings
1	09.09	Introduction to the Course  *Read Syllabus a. Course Expectations and Deadlines b. Introduction (re-introduction) to classical theory
2	09.16	The Relevance of Sociological Theory  Required Reading: Chapter 1 (History)
3	09.23	The Development of German Sociology  Required Reading: Chapter 1 (History)
4	<b>09.30</b>	<b><i>Truth and Reconciliation – No Lecture</i></b>
5	10.07	Conflict Theory and the Critique of Society: The Marxist Tradition  Required Reading: Chapter 2 (Marx)
6	10.14	The Structures of Capitalist Society: Marx’s Critique  Required Reading: Chapter 2 (Marx)
7	10.21	Social Facts and Social Order: The Legacy of Durkheim Required Reading: Chapter 3 (Durkheim)
8	10.28	Early and Late Durkheim  Required Reading: Chapter 3 (Durkheim)

9	<b>11.03 – 11.09</b>	<b><i>Reading Week November 3 to November 9, 2025</i></b>
10	11.11	Conflict and Analysis: The Legacy of Weber Required Reading: Chapter 4 (Weber)
11	11.18	Substantive Sociology: Weber's Contributions Required Reading: Chapter 4 (Weber)
12	11.25	<b>Test #1 (30%)(8Lectures)(4Chapters)</b>
13	12.02	Social Interaction: The Legacy of Georg Simmel Required Reading: Chapter 5 (Simmel)
14	12.09	Simmel's Sociology Required Reading: Chapter 5 (Simmel)
<b>15</b>	<b><i>Exams</i></b>	<b><i>December 11 – 22, 2025 – Winter Exam Period</i></b>
16	01.06	Introduction <i>What is 'modern' about 'modern' theory?</i> Chapter 6
17	01.13	Varieties of Neo-Marxian Theory Chapter 8
18	01.20	Structural Functionalism / Conflict Theory Chapter 7
19	01.27	Feminist Theory Chapter 12(Feminist Theory)
20	02.03	Symbolic Interaction Chapter 9
21	02.10	Ethnomethodology Chapter 10
22	<i>Reading Week</i>	<i>February 16 – 20, 2025 – Reading Week – No Classes</i>
23	<b>02.24</b>	<b>Test #2 (30%) (8lectures) (6Chapters)</b>

24	03.03	Mills “The Sociological Imagination” (1959) Structure / Agency: Integrative Sociological Theory Chapter 13
25	03.10	Mills “The Sociological Imagination” (1959) The Issue: Risk Society Contemporary Modern / Post-Modern Theory Chapter 14
26	03.17	Mills “The Sociological Imagination” (1959) The Issue: Race & Migration Chapter 16
27	03.24	Mills “The Sociological Imagination” (1959) The Issue: Globalization & Nationalism Chapter 17
28	<b>03.31</b>	<b>*Last Day of Lectures</b> <b>*Deadline for Final Paper</b>

*Tests & Exams:* There are a total of two (2) tests in this course each worth 30%. Both tests are structured in the same way. The tests are generally not cumulative; however, it is important to consider how some theories build from previous theoretical claims. The in-class tests will consist of *multiple choice, true & false* and *short answer questions*.

*How to Prepare:* All tests are based on material from the textbook and lecture. It is always good practice to a) to read in advance; b) attend lectures *and* tutorials; and c) be prepared that textbook and lecture material will be covered on the in-class tests. Most lectures end with a list of ‘key terms’ that will help guide your reading and study of lecture material.

“*Key Term*” questions: Students will be provided with a list of ‘key terms’ at the end of each lecture. These ‘key terms’ will be reviewed during the tutorials and re-appear on the tests and, subsequently, will set the foundation for the final theory paper. Beyond the tests/exams, students will have the opportunity to explore ‘key terms’ in-depth for the purpose of their final paper in the use and application of sociological concepts and theoretical language.

*Tutorials:* You are *required* to attend *at least* two tutorials before every test/exam. You may attend *any and all* tutorial sessions but are *required* to attend at least two before each of the tests and/or assignment. In the first part of all the tutorial sessions we review material covered in class. In the second part of the tutorial, we will work on how best to approach preparing to write the final theory paper, engaging themes, analyzing and approaching theoretical writing. Students are encouraged to raise questions about the material during the tutorial.

*Participation:* Participation is calculated based on the attendance in lecture, the required ‘question of the day’ answers, and tutorial sessions. Students are required to be present for *all* scheduled in-class *lectures* (and a portion of the tutorials) to receive the full participation grade (10%). Participation focuses on being present and taking an active part in discussions and in (independent & group) weekly tasks.

‘*Question of the Day*’: Each week, the professor posts a ‘question of the day’ after each lecture. The answer

must reflect the content of each lecture. Students are required to answer *at least* 10 questions on the Brightspace portal (students' choice throughout the term). Questions are posted at the end of each lecture and must be submitted no later than the end of the day of the lecture (answers will not be accepted after 11:55pm). Students should be able to keep track of the number of questions they have answered.

*Final Paper:* The Final Paper / Sociological Essay for this course is worth 30% of the total grade. The first part of the final paper (10%) requires a close reading of the central text. A close reading of the original text "The Sociological Imagination" (Mills 1959) allows students to interpret and understand how Mills – a social theorist – approaches the study of society. As students will learn, Mills (1959) argues that people often perceive their problems as purely personal, without realizing they may be rooted in larger social or historical forces. The sociological imagination allows individuals to see the connection between their personal experiences and broader societal patterns. The final paper is founded on the original text and each student's original application of the themes.

Original text link: <https://ratical.org/ratville/AoS/TheSociologicalImagination.pdf>

The paper is theoretical and philosophical and allows students to 'think on their own' using the language of the theory. Very detailed instructions will be provided during the term. The instructions will be discussed during class time and during tutorial sessions. There is a 48 hour submission window for both the 'text assessment' and 'final written paper'. Submissions received after this 48 hour period will be receive a 10% per day (including weekends) deduction. Assignment submissions will not be accepted after 5 days from the set deadline.

*Communication:* I encourage students to ask questions during class and in advance of upcoming tests or exams. Of course, you will find a lot of information about the organization of the course in the syllabus. I am happy to discuss any substantive questions you might have in person or over email. When it comes to more detailed help, the best time to chat is in person or request a formal virtual meeting. I do my best to respond as quickly as I can to your questions and concerns.

*Deadlines & Missed Tests:* You are required to attend all the scheduled in-class tests. For any missed test, you must submit the appropriate documentation in order to write a make-up test. Make sure to communicate with the instructor and the Academic Dean's Office. Requests for accommodations must be made well *in advance* of the due date. It is important to *follow King's policy* on all late or missed deadlines. Please make sure that you are aware of your options when it comes to special accommodations. Requests may be granted if there are legitimate medical or compassionate grounds only. In these cases, documentation must be submitted (\*see King's Policy).

*Academic Integrity / Remote Proctoring:*

Link to Western Scholastic Discipline policy:

[https://uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic\\_policies/appeals/scholastic\\_discipline\\_undergrad.pdf](https://uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/scholastic_discipline_undergrad.pdf)

Student use of generative AI tools (e.g., Chat GPT and others) or translation/grammar aids is **not** permitted for any work **submitted** in this course. Unauthorized use of AI 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.

# 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.