



**Sociology 1020x (670)
Introduction to Sociology
Fall/ Winter 2025-2026**

Instructor: T. Bruno
Email: tfidler3@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) at Main Campus: [Sociology 1021E](#), [Sociology 1020](#). Antirequisite(s) at King's Campus: [Sociology 1021E](#), [Sociology 1020](#), [Sociology 1025A/B](#), [Sociology 1026F/G](#), [Sociology 1027A/B](#).

Extra Information: 4 lecture hours, 2 tutorial hours. This is a 1.0 unit condensed course, meeting for 3.0 hours, twice weekly, for a total of 6.0 hours/week.

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.

Soc1020X (670):
INTRODUCTION TO SOCIOLOGY
ONLINE WINTER 2026

Instructor:
Tara Bruno
tara.bruno@uwo.ca

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

"Depending on who they are, where they work, and how they think about society, sociologists are engaged in trying to 'understand,' 'change' and/or 'appreciate' their own lives and the ideas and behaviour of others in human groups. Sociologists work in universities, in government agencies, in statistical laboratories, on computers, in corporations, in churches or on the streets and in villages, in foreign or in familiar societies, distributing questionnaires, interviewing people, observing them, working with them, teaching them, repressing them, or trying to liberate them and themselves. Sociology can be and has been any and all of these things."

~Professor Emeritus Dr. Joseph Lella, 2001~

Course Learning Objectives:

- Describe what sociology is and explain key concepts such as culture, socialization, norms, and institutions.
- Understand how individuals and groups are shaped by (and actively shape) society
- Apply sociological thinking to everyday topics like media, health, and crime.
- Examine how social differences such as social class, gender, sexuality, race, ethnicity, and age impact people's experiences and opportunities in life.
- Explore how social institutions like family, education, religion, and media influence our lives, values, and identities.
- Develop a critical sociological lens to better understand the world, drawing on sociological perspectives, various methods and applications.
- Practice scholarly writing in a clear and concise manner.

Required Readings/Materials:

We will be using Top Hat to access the following Top Hat Interactive Textbook - **Sociology: Think Outside the Book**

Please follow these steps to purchase the digital textbook:

If you already have a Top Hat account, you can access the below link to be taken directly to our digital textbook.

Course Link: <https://app-ca.tophat.com/e/784273/content/course-work>

If you are new to Top Hat:

Go to <https://app-ca.tophat.com/register/student>

Search for our course textbook with the following join code.

Join Code: 784273

From here, you will receive the following purchase options:

- 1) Sign up for a 14 day free trial account**
- 2) Pay using your credit card**
- 3) Redeem the access code that you received when you purchased through the bookstore**

The cost of the textbook is **\$69.00** (plus tax) and will be applied at checkout when signing up.

Your Top Hat textbook is not only easy to use, but also it is fully mobile too! For more information about the interactive features in the textbook, click here: <https://success.tophat.com/s/article/Student-Using-Your-Textbook>.

Should you require assistance with Top Hat at any time please contact their Support Team directly by way of email (support@tophat.com), the **in-app support button**, or by calling **1-888-663-5491**. Specific user information may be required by their technical support team when troubleshooting issues.

You may also be required to access additional readings and materials on OWL Brightspace.

OWL Brightspace and Pulse App:

All course materials will be available through [OWL Brightspace](#) and Top Hat. 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, and all additional course materials on OWL Brightspace. Please take some time to familiarize yourself with the format and layout of our OWL Brightspace course and the Top Hat platform. 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 notifications.

Course Evaluation Components:

Top Hat Participation and Activities (ongoing):	10%
Writing Tutorial Engagement/Assignments (8 lessons/activities ongoing):	10%
Writing Assignment #1	15%
Writing Assignment #2	15%
Online Practice Test:	5%
Online Midterm Test (using PROCTORTRACK):	15%
Online Final Exam (using PROCTORTRACK):	30%

Top Hat Participation and Activities (ongoing—weekly) [10% combined]

Part of the learning expectations for this course are to regularly and actively engage with the course material. Your active engagement and participation with the readings and other course material will be assessed based on questions assigned weekly from the textbook readings on Top Hat. Note: These questions are embedded in the readings.

Writing Tutorial Engagement/Assignments (ongoing—starting January 12th to the Week of March 9th) [10% combined]

In addition to regular coursework (readings, participation on Top Hat, assignments, and tests), you will be required to review eight tutorial lessons (PPT slides with voiceover) throughout the term. Tutorial assignments will focus on developing skills for academic reading, writing, and research. To receive a grade for the tutorial assignments, you must complete the task assigned by the designated weeks noted below. More details will be posted on OWL Brightspace.

Writing Assignment #1: The Sociological Imagination & Paradigm Application (Week of February 2nd) [15%]

In a brief 500-word analytical paper, students will select a current social issue (a list will be available on Brightspace) and analyze it using the sociological imagination and two of the classical sociological paradigms (functionalism, conflict theory, symbolic interactionism, and/or feminism). Students will explain the issue as both a personal trouble and a public issue, then apply two paradigms using at least one key concept from each. Papers must include in-text citations and full references from **two scholarly sources** plus the course readings, using ASA or APA format. Additional details will be posted on OWL Brightspace.

Writing Assignment #2: Summarizing and Synthesizing Scholarly Sources (Week of March 16th) [15%]

Students will practice reading, summarizing, synthesizing, and citing key information in peer reviewed journal articles. Three topically related articles will be posted on Brightspace that you **MUST** use for this assignment. Papers should include in-text citations and full references for the **three peer reviewed articles** that are provided, using ASA or APA format. Additional details will be posted on OWL Brightspace.

Practice Test (Week of January 26th) [5%]

This practice test will be held online on Brightspace during the week of January 26th. This practice test is intended to be a low stakes opportunity for students to see what the testing is going to be like for the midterm test and final exam. Students will only be given one attempt to complete the midterm test. Given the flexibility with the completion, there are no make-ups permitted without formal documentation. This practice test will not use any online proctoring; however, it is expected that students will complete the test independently without the use of any aids.

Midterm Test (Week of February 23rd) [20%]

The midterm test will be held online on OWL Brightspace during the week of February 23rd. This test will use PROCTORTRACK* to ensure students are upholding academic integrity and not using external tools or resources, like AI, translators, or internet search engines while completing the test. Students will only be given one attempt to complete the midterm test during this time frame. Given the flexibility with the completion, there are no make-ups permitted without formal documentation.

Final Exam Online (TBD) [30%]

The final exam will be held online on OWL Brightspace during the April exam session with a 24-hour window of availability (exact date TBD by the Office of the Registrar). The final exam, like the midterm, will use PROCTORTRACK*. This exam is cumulative, meaning it will cover all material from the beginning to the end of the course. Students will only be given one attempt to complete this exam. There are no make-ups permitted without formal documentation.

**The midterm test and final exam in this course will be conducted using ProctorTrack remote proctoring service. By taking this course, you are consenting to the use of this software and acknowledge that you will be required to provide personal information (including some biometric data), and the session will be recorded. Completion of this course will require you to have a reliable internet connection and a device that meets the technical requirements for this service. More information about this remote proctoring service, including technical requirements, is available on Western's Remote Proctoring website at: <https://remoteproctoring.uwo.ca>.*

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 the course where these tools are used to monitor a test or exam, expand on a lesson, or to explore ideas. However, if AI tools are used at any point for coursework that is being submitted for evaluation, students must acknowledge use and state how the tool was used. Any unauthorized and undeclared use of AI in course work may 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>).

Late Policy/Extensions/Academic Considerations:

If for some reason you are unable to participate or engage with the content for the course, submit any of your assignments, or complete the exams, it is your responsibility to notify the instructor prior to the deadlines. In the case of any unforeseen circumstances or compassionate considerations, you will need to submit your request through the extranet (SRA) within 48 hours of the missed assessment deadline. Students are permitted to have one self-reported absence without requiring formal documentation. The final exam is exempt from this—formal documentation will be required if the deadline is missed. 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. Re-weighting of grades for missed coursework will only be considered on a case-by-case basis. A late penalty of 10% per day will be in effect for the writing and tutorial assignments once the submission window has closed. Since the submission deadlines for all assessments already include flexibility, the instructor reserves the right to deny academic consideration for any course components submitted past the deadlines.

Grading Scale for 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

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. You can find some of these resources in the attached policies and information, as well as in a folder on OWL Brightspace.

Course Outline for Winter 2026:

Dates, Topics, Required Readings, Scheduled Due Dates

S:TOB=Sociology: Think Outside the Book (main text for readings available through Top Hat)

Week of January 5: Introduction to Sociology

- *Readings:* Course Outline, S:TOB Chapter 1
- *Tasks/Due:* Explore Brightspace and Top Hat Platforms

Week of January 12: Culture

- *Readings:* S:TOB Chapter 3
- *Tasks/Due:* Tutorial #1

Week of January 19: Gender & Sexualities

- *Readings:* S:TOB Chapter 4
- *Tasks/Due:* Tutorial #2

Week of January 26: Social Stratification

- *Readings:* S:TOB Chapter 6
- *Tasks/Due:* Online Practice Test DUE; Tutorial #3

Week of February 2: Race & Ethnicity

- *Readings:* S:TOB Chapter 7
- *Tasks/Due:* Writing Assignment #1 DUE; Tutorial #4

Week of February 9: Health & Aging

- *Readings:* S:TOB Chapter 12
- *Tasks/Due:* Tutorial #5

Week of February 16: Reading Week

- *Readings:* NO CLASS and NO READINGS
- *Tasks/Due:* Catch-up and rejuvenate; Prepare for Online Midterm Test; Install, set-up, and test ProctorTrack;

Week of February 23: Deviance & Crime

- *Readings:* S:TOB Chapter 11
- *Tasks/Due:* Online Midterm Test DUE; Tutorial #6

Week of March 2: Mass & Social Media

- *Readings:* S:TOB Chapter 5
- *Tasks/Due:* Tutorial #7

Week of March 9: Families

- *Readings:* S:TOB Chapter 8
- *Tasks/Due:* Tutorial #8

Week of March 16: Education

- *Readings:* S:TOB Chapter 9
- *Tasks/Due:* Writing Assignment #2 DUE

Week of March 23: Religion

- *Readings:* S:TOB Chapter 10
- *Tasks/Due:* Start reviewing for Online Final Exam

Week of March 30: Social Change

- *Readings:* S:TOB Chapter 13
- *Tasks/Due:* Continue reviewing for Online Final Exam

Week of April 6: Research Methods

- *Readings:* S:TOB Chapter 2
- *Tasks/Due:* Prepare for the Cumulative Online Final Exam; This exam covers the entire course; Ensure ProctorTrack is installed and working properly.

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.