



**Sociology 2279b
Unequal Cities
Fall/ Winter 2025-2026**

Instructor: K. Lozanski
Email: klozansk@uwo.ca

Course Information

Calendar Description:

This course examines inequality by exploring how it occurs across cities and how different social groups experience cities unequally by examining class, race, ethnicity, immigration status, gender, and sexuality. It also examines how urban social problems, such as poverty, homelessness or gentrification reflect and generate urban inequality.

Extra Information: 3 lecture hours.

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.

Sociology 2279 (570B): Unequal Cities 2026

Dr. Kristin Lozanski

Email: kristin.lozanski@uwo.ca

Drop Date:

March 30 is the last day to drop this course without academic penalty

Course Description

Cities are material spaces. Cities are also social and cultural spaces. They entrench systemic forms of exclusion through social interactions and physical infrastructure, but also offer possibilities to change the way we live our everyday lives. In this course, we use sociological thinking to consider cities as both social practices and physical spaces, with attention to the ways these practices and spaces have uneven consequences for inclusion and exclusion. Through exploration of London, Ontario and through discussion of other cities, we will consider similarities and dissimilarities in the social inequality that is embedded in city spaces.

Course Learning Outcomes:

Sociology

- Use sociological concepts and vocabulary effectively to explain urban phenomenon
- Situate everyday lived experiences within sociological frameworks
- Engage a range of sociological lenses to consider the same topic and understand that there are multiple ways of understanding a single issue

Academic Skills

- Apply disciplinary knowledge to everyday practices and significant events
- Identify connections between concepts that are not obviously related
- Write effectively using sources, planning, outlines, peer review, and development of drafts
- Begin to engage directly with peer-reviewed scholarship

Students' Responsibilities

- Ask questions if you don't know; ask for help if you need help
- Read/watch/listen to and reflect on the assigned material before each class so that you are ready to work within the classroom to engage more deeply with the material
- Participate with curiosity in group discussions and group assignments
- Take seriously the arguments of other people with whom you disagree
- Arrange to get information from other students if you miss class
- Communicate respectfully with other students and your professor

Professor's Responsibilities

- Support students who are developing new academic (and possibly adulting) skills
- Curate readings, podcasts, films, etc. related to course objectives
- Provide constructive feedback on assignments so that students can improve their work
- Be available outside of class times to discuss course material or other academic issues

Unequal Cities as In-class and Experiential Learning

Unequal Cities is a course about... cities. As such, it does not make sense to have a campus-centric approach to the course. This course is organized to expose you to both theoretical discussions about (in)equality within cities generally *and* to engage with issues of inequality and efforts to address them within the city of London. In addition to the on-campus lectures, there will be several lectures/activities hosted off-campus during our Tuesday timeslot, along two independent field projects. You are expected to attend these off-campus lectures/activities as you would an on-campus class. I will provide instructions for access by transit and I will provide bus tickets, as necessary, to part-time students. All full-time students have transit access via their student cards.

Prior to participation off-campus, you are required to complete an Off-Campus Experiential Waiver.

If there is any reason why you cannot participate in off-campus activities, you must meet with me in-person as soon as possible so I can determine whether or not it will be possible for you to complete the course successfully.

Course materials:

Articles and other materials used in this course will be publicly available or available through Western libraries. There are no required texts to be purchased.

Evaluation

Off-campus reflections (2 @ 12.5%)	25% (Sunday after relevant class)
Independent field projects (2 @ 12.5%)	25% (Mar. 6; Apr. 5)
Active & respectful engagement (8/12 classes)	20% (ongoing)
Final exam	30% (Scheduled by Registrar)

Off-campus reflections – As an experiential learning course, we will be spending time off-campus. For two such classes, you will complete a reflection based on guiding questions to learn more about these urban spaces and to consider your experience of the spaces in the context of course material.

Independent field projects – You will complete two field projects on your own time. I will provide a list of possible activities, as well as an overall assignment structure that parallels ethnographic fieldnotes (observation, imputed meaning, connection to course content). Alternate activities are possible with permission (in advance).

Active & respectful engagement – My expectation is that you are prepared for class and that you engage lectures and in-class discussions. Use of electronics that is unrelated to the class is distracting for you, your peers, and for anyone addressing the class. Each class attended is worth 2/20; I will assign a default grade of 80% (16/20) per class to all students. This grade will be increased or decreased based on your participation.

Final Exam – This fill-in-the-blank, short answer, and paragraph answer exam will assess your overall learning in the course. This exam will cover assigned materials to prepare for class, as well as your own two independent field projects and our in-class lectures & discussions.

Academic Accommodation

Given the multiple opportunities for off-campus reflections and the calculation of your engagement grade out of fewer classes/activities than will be held, there is no academic accommodation for assessments. I do not offer additional assignments to make up missed coursework.

Date	Topic - <i>Subject to Change, updates on OWL</i>	Key Concepts	Pre-class Preparation
Jan 6	Intro	What is a city? Cities as sociological; material culture	Syllabus & Brightspace “Urban Space & City Living”
Jan 13	Studying Cities (Covent Garden Market)	Ethnography; visual sociology; intersectionality	“If it’s not Intersectional,…” “Criminalization of Walking”
Jan 20	Mental Health in Cities	Risk; surveillance; abolition	“Policing and Mental Health” “Sometimes I think this city is trying to kill me”
Jan 27	Mixed Communities (DoughEV, 621 Dundas St.)	Economic insecurity; Mixed communities	“Social Infrastructure & the public life of cities”
Feb 3	Public space, public exclusion (Central Library)	Public space; Right to leisure	“Have to go [...] in DT Ldn” “Urination Equality” “Somebody’s street…”
Feb 10	Cities as racialized spaces (Museum London)	Curating (in a time of) inequality	“An International Incident” and “Trafficking in Hate”
Feb 17	Reading Week; also Community & Protective Services Committee Meeting	City Hall 1 p.m.	
Feb 24	Mobilities in Cities (Squeaky Wheel)	Zoning; Transit; Mobilities	“Findings from the City of Grand Rapids’…”
Mar 3	Gentrification	Displacement; Heritable wealth	“The New Detroit”
Mar 10	Suburbs & Car-Centricity	Economic distribution of cities; Automobility	“Urban sprawl is not the answer…” “Intro” & “Embedded Values”
Mar 17	Climate change in urban spaces (City Hall)	Climate adaptation; rethinking cities	“Climate Action & Vulnerable Urban Groups”
Mar 24	Nature in Cities (Antler River Rally)	Nature vs. Cities?	“A river runs through it” “Paradox of Waste”
Mar 31	City Council Mtg – 1 p.m.		
Apr 7	Review		

Appealing your Grade

You may appeal your overall grade or the grade of any specific assignment. To appeal a grade, you must first have an informal discussion with me, the professor. If you find my explanation of your grade unsatisfactory, the next step is to write a letter outlining the grade you believe you deserve for your work and providing evidence of the ways your work met the requirements for this grade. Please note that the onus is upon you to demonstrate that you deserve a better grade, not for me to defend the mark I assessed.

The following are not relevant grounds for appealing grades & will result in an **immediate dismissal** of your appeal:

- Previous grades in this course were higher
- Grades in other courses are higher
- A lot of effort was put into the assignment
- Other students/family/friends/etc. are of the opinion that you should have a higher grade
- You didn't understand the assignment
- You need a higher mark to maintain a certain average or to get into a certain program

You must begin the appeal process (i.e. schedule an informal meeting) within **2 weeks** of receiving your grade. No grade change will be considered without submitting a formal appeal to the professor. The formal appeal process may result in your grade going up or going down.

Academic Integrity

Generative AI is not permitted in this course, even for preliminary elements of writing, such as generating questions and drafting outlines. Students are responsible for ensuring that their essays and assignments are properly cited using parenthetical citations or quotation marks where appropriate.

Academic misconduct includes, but is not limited to:

- Presenting the work of others (including generative AI, friends, professional essay writers, and scholars) as your own
- Submitting the same work in two or more courses
- Failing to use appropriate referencing
- Not providing specific references for ideas or material that you encounter through the course instructor or classmates

Academic misconduct is not tolerated at King's University College and it makes me especially grumpy.

If I suspect academic conduct related to any of your assignments, you will be required to meet with me in-person before I will assign any grade. If I remain unsatisfied that you were responsible for the completion of your assignment in its entirety, I will report my suspicion of your academic office to my Department Chair, who will make a determination on whether an offense has been committed. Punitive measures will be assigned by the Academic Dean and recorded on your student file.

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.