



Sociology 3342g (570)
Power and Resistance: Disrupting Research
Fall/ Winter 2025-2026

Instructor: J. Notwell
Email: jnotwell@uwo.ca

Course Information

Calendar Description:

Students will examine the ways in which imperialism and colonialism are embedded in disciplines of knowledge, and examine the implications of research for its participants and their communities, as well as the institution of research itself, its claims, values, practices, and relationships to power and the academic industrial complex.

Antirequisite(s): The former Political Science 3342F/G, the former Political Science 4422F/G.

Prerequisite(s): Enrolment in third or fourth year of a module in Political Science, Social Justice and Peace Studies or Sociology; or enrolment in the Certificate in Critical Security Studies; or permission of the department.

Extra Information: 3 seminar 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.

SOC 3342G Disrupting Research: Power and Resistance

Winter 2026

Mode of Instruction: In-person

Instructor: Jess Notwell

Contact Information: The best way to reach Jess is via email at jnotwell@uwo.ca.

Course Description:

ᑕᐱᐃᐃᐃ tawâw (welcome)! My name is Jess and I am a Two Spirit nehiyaw/Métis/settler prof here at King's. My Elders are nehiyaw, Anishinaabe, and Haudenosaunee, so the Teachings I carry are from different Nations. I love teaching and learning, and can't wait to sit in Circle and share our truth and wisdom together in class!!

In this course, we will identify why and how colonialism and imperialism have shaped the majority of academic research with Indigenous people, learn from Elders and Knowledge Keepers who are disrupting and reclaiming research through Indigenous ways of knowing and being, and apply Indigenous and decolonizing methodologies in our class research with Elder Mary Lou Smoke (Anishinaabe Kwe, Batchewana First Nation). ALL students are welcome!

The CARE Collective is a student-led, community-engaged component of this course focused on caring, (un)learning, and taking action within relationships of respect and reciprocity. **Based on priorities and course materials identified during two student and community Sharing Circles in January 2026, we will plan and implement a collective action that concretely enacts anti-racist, anti-colonial "world-building as revolution".**

This is *your* education; *your* learning space. Being student-centred means ensuring space for students to choose learning priorities. There is space in our collective learning journey to reflect and shift together.

This course will include student-involved Action Research about co-creating the course itself. Together, we will build on the wisdom of last year's students to elaborate what a course on 'Race' and Racism looks/feels like and map key knowledges/praxis, learnings and questions. Participation in the research is voluntary, your choice will be respected, and students who choose not to participate in the research will be part of all class activities but your information will not be incorporated into the research. A Consent Form/further information about the research will be provided during the second class.

We can't wait to meet you/see you again!!!! ᑕᐱᐃᐃᐃ ka-wapahmitinâwâw (see you)! 😊

Prerequisite(s): 1.0 from Sociology courses at the 1000 level. Please contact us at jnotwell@uwo.ca to inquire about special permission to enroll in this course if you do not have the prerequisites. **We want to welcome as many students as possible!!** Please know that the university stipulates that unless you have either the prerequisites for a course or written special permission from the Dean to enroll in it, you will be removed from the 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 prerequisite(s).

Course Learning Outcomes:

- Understand and explain relationships between the nehiyaw, Anishinaabe and Haudenosaunee Teachings shared in this course and academic research, Indigenous research, Indigenous documentary film-making, and Indigenous journalism
- Understand and explain power as related to defining, conducting, disrupting, regulating the 'ethics' of, and 'owning' research, as well as to conducting research as resistance
- Explain and enact reciprocity with Indigenous researchers and community(ies) through the CARE Collective

Required Resources and Experiential Learning Costs:

There is no text required for this course. A course schedule with a list of materials will be provided on Brightspace. These may include readings, videos, podcasts, websites, social media links and so on. This is an Experiential Learning Course. There is no cost to participate in the experiential learning activities listed in the Course Schedule.

Assessment/Assignments: (To be discussed further, including guidance from Elder Mary Lou, and finalized in class) *Please note: This course requires attendance and active participation because Indigenous ways of knowing and being include respect and reciprocity. Attendance and active participation in **at least 75%** of classes throughout the semester is required. If you have barriers for this requirement, for example due to family care responsibilities or disability accommodations/access needs, please let me know asap.*

Assignment 1: Film Screening with the CARE Collective – 20% – As a class, we will work with Elder Cliff Summers (Onyata’a:ka, Oneida Nation of the Thames) and the CARE Collective to screen a film to honor Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women, Girls, and Two-Spirit people (MMIWG2S+) and stand against the ongoing genocide (**date outside of class time TBD** together with Elder Cliff and Elder Mary Lou). This Film Screening will raise funds for the “Memorial Garden” that the Prison for Women’s Collective is creating on the grounds of the former Prison for Women. Each student will create a short reflection. Further details will be provided in class. **Tentative Due Date:** Mar. 2nd (TBC when we schedule the film)

Assignment 2: Collective Action: Reciprocity in Action, Learning with Elders & Course Participation – Part A: 24% + Part B 26% + Part C 30% – Throughout the course, Elder Mary Lou Smoke will share Teachings and wisdom. As a class, we will enact reciprocity by working with Elder Mary Lou to continue the digitization of the Indigenous journalism that she and Elder Dan Baa conducted over 40 years. We will decide with Elder Mary Lou which articles/videos/etc. we digitize as well as the format in which we will share their digitized work. This process will honour and document the wisdom shared by Elder Mary Lou and Elder Dan Baa as an act of reciprocity with them, future students, community, and the seven generations before us and seven generations ahead.

- Part A: Weekly Reflections: Each student will complete a **WEEKLY** reflection (one page for each of 8 weeks) on your participation in the course, your learning from Elder Mary Lou, Elder Dan Baa and Elder Cliff, and your engagement with the course materials and learning outcomes. Further details will be discussed in class. Due: Weekly (each reflection is due at 2:00pm just before the class following the one you reflected on)
- Part B: Zine: Each student will use these reflections to create a Zine about disrupting research as “a set of ideas, practices and privileges...embedded in imperial expansionism and colonization and institutionalized in academic disciplines, schools, curricula, universities and power” (Linda Tuhiwai Smith, 2012[1999]: L139). Zines will be shared with the class on March 30th. We will also discuss sharing the Zines during King’s Research Week. Further details will be discussed in class. Due: Zine Topic Due: Feb. 9th or 23rd, Zine Due: March 16th
- Part C: Collective Action: Together we will gather the journalism of Elder Mary Lou and Elder Dan Baa that we digitize and collate it into a document or presentation or other format (TBD with Elder Mary Lou) to gift back to Elder Mary Lou. (See last year’s student project, “Smoke Signals Magazine,” on Brightspace as an example). Due: March 30th (To be shared with Elder Mary Lou on April 6th)

Course Schedule:

Please Note: We are doing this work together with Elders and community, which means that we may make changes during the semester based on their guidance, changes in their availability, and our work together.

Week	Date	Learning & Resources	Activities & Due Dates
1	Jan. 5 th	Opening with Elder Mary Smoke <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Learning with Elder Mary Lou Smoke, Tobacco• “Traditionally, research has been conducted to seek, counsel and consult; to learn about medicines, plants and animals; to scout and scan the land; to educate and pass on knowledge; and to inquire into cosmology” (Kathleen Absolon, 2011: 29).	ACTIVITY: Opening Circle

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.