



**Sociology 4405g (570)  
Seminar in Sociological Theory  
Fall/ Winter 2025-2026**

**Instructor:** C. Lavrence  
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**Course Information**

**Calendar Description:**

This course will consist of an in-depth analysis of selected schools of thought in modern sociological theory.

**Prerequisite(s):** [Sociology 4404F/G](#) or [Sociology 3404F/G](#) and enrolment in fourth year of an Honours Specialization or Honours Double Major module offered through the Department of Sociology.

**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.

King's College at the University of Western Ontario  
Sociology 4405G  
Winter 2026

**Course Information:**

Dr. Christine Lavrence

[clavrenc@uwo.ca](mailto:clavrenc@uwo.ca)

Lectures: Mondays 8:30-11:30

Office Hours: Thursday 1-2 in-person or on Zoom by appointment.

**Course Description:**

This course builds on Sociology 4404F, continuing to explore a range of sociological theorists who continue to revisit and rethink key sociological texts, ideas and questions in relationship to the social phenomena of our times. Course texts will be examined in relation to the everyday social relations, power differentials and practices that animate them.

**Method of Evaluation:**

Attendance/Participation: 10%

Critical Reflection written in class February 2<sup>h</sup>: 25%: 4 -5 page written assignment (double-spaced) based on course readings that 1) explores key questions and arguments of the text 2) assesses the text critically and 3) considers future directions of research

In-class critical reflection assignments March 9<sup>th</sup>: 20%. An in-class critical reflection exercise with both oral and written components. Students will be asked to discuss an assigned text and hand in a written component.

Presentation: 15%. Presentation based on an assigned reading with the purpose of generating class discussion on key ideas

Final Assignment due by April 9<sup>th</sup> end of day: 30%

**Course Learning Outcomes:**

- Critically assess, interpret and compare a range of classical and contemporary theoretical orientations within the discipline of Sociology
- Make connections between different theorists and schools of thought
- Employ these theoretical frameworks to think through social issues and practices.
- Develop a decolonial lens for social theory and social issues
- Enhanced ability to engage complex theoretical ideas both orally and through conversation with others, as well as in written form.

**Mode of Instruction:** In-person

**Course Requirements:**

Prerequisite(s): Sociology 270a/b and 271a/b or 230, 240E and enrolment in fourth year of the Honors program (old) or one of the Honors Specializations (new) offered in Sociology.

**Course textbook/readings:**

Available online through library course reserves and linked through Brightspace course site, at no extra cost.

**Academic Considerations:**

Students will have 72-hour window after deadlines for the Critical reflection (due October 21) and the Final Essay (due December 6) before late marks are taken off

**Course Readings and Schedule:**

**Week 1:** January 5

Introduction

**Week 2:** January 12

Arendt, H. *Eichmann in Jerusalem* (excerpts)

Butler, J. "Hannah Arendt's Challenge to Adolf Eichmann"

<https://www.theguardian.com/commentisfree/2011/aug/29/hannah-arendt-adolf-eichmann-banality-of-evil>

**Week 3:** January 19:

Butler, J. "Violence, Mourning, Politics" \*

"Judith Butler wants us to reshape our rage"

<https://www.newyorker.com/culture/the-new-yorker-interview/judith-butler-wants-us-to-reshape-our-rage>

**Week 4:** January 26

van Kriekan, R. "The Age of Anger and Social Media: Elias, Technology,

Civilizing/Decivilizing Process”

**Week 5:** February 2

In class Reflection # 1

**Week 6:** February 9

Seyfert, R. “I trust (you) therefore I am! From trust to post-trust: Transforming social paradigms”

**Week 7:** February 23

Ibled, C. The ‘Optimistic Cruelty’ of Hayek’s Market Order: Neoliberalism, Pain and Social Selection

**Week 8:** March 2

Elder, Vass, D. “Free gifts and positional gifts: Beyond exchangeism”

**Week 9:** March 9

Assignment # 2 : In- class discussion assignment

Turner, B. “Does the university have a future?”

**Week 10:** March 16

Rose, N. Against Posthumanism: Notes towards an Ethopolitics of Personhood”

Hobden, S. “Posthumanism” in *Critical Environmental Politics*, ed. by C. Death.

Vandenberghe, R “Human-Animal Relations: The Ontological Turn and the Return of Humanism”

**Week 11** March 23

Van Dooren, T, Chrulew, M., Rooke, D. Animal Cultures at the Edge of Extinction

Jerolmack, G. “The Interactional Zoo: Lessons for Sociology from Erving Goffman’s Engagement with Animal Ethology

Koop-Monteiro, Y. “Including animals in sociology”

**Week 12:** March 30

Simmel, G. "On Flirtation"

**Week 13:** April 6: Wrap Up

# 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.