



Sociology 1020 (570), (571)
Introduction to Sociology
Fall/ Winter 2026-2027

Instructor: L. Bikos
Email: levans8@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): [Sociology 1020W/X](#), [Sociology 1021E](#), [Sociology 1025A/B](#), [Sociology 1026F/G](#), [Sociology 1027A/B](#).

Extra Information: 3 lecture hours (Main campus); 2 lecture hours, 1 tutorial hour (Huron, King's).

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.

**Department of Sociology
Kings University College
Introduction to Sociology, Soc 1020, Section 570**

Instructor: Dr. L. Bikos

Email: levans8@uwo.ca

Location: In person

Office Hours: Monday 10:30-11:20 or Wed 11:30am -12:30pm

Course Description: What is the social world? What does it mean to ‘do’ Sociology? What does Sociology offer the human and natural world? Sociology is a discipline focused on individuals’ and groups’ interactions with other individuals, groups, institutions, systems, structures, and environments. Together we will explore a complex and nuanced understanding of the social world, including interrogating systems of power and their impacts. In this course, we will engage with sociology as a practice through the application of various Sociological theory, concepts, methods, and ways of knowing to real world examples.

Course Learning Outcomes:

By the end of this course, you should be able to:

1. Identify and apply various systems of knowledge (e.g. empirical, theoretical, decolonial/anti-colonial, anti-oppression/liberatory) to the social world.
2. Interrogate ‘common-sense’ assumptions of the social world and identify the connections between individual and structural and systemic systems as they relate to social problems.
3. Demonstrate an ability to identify and reflect on various factors of complex social issues.
4. Identify the intersections between different structural dimensions such as age, genders, race and/or ethnicity, Indigeneity, class, ability/disability, and sexuality in enabling or constraining individual experiences
5. Communicate sociological analyses in relevant formats, including written, oral, visual, and/or digital, applying relevant course materials to real world examples.

Required Texts and Readings: *Seasonal Sociology*, 2nd edition. eds. Tonya Davidson and Ondine Park. UTP (\$64.95). Used copies can be found online. Available at Western bookstore with access to physical or e-book version. Additional weekly course readings/materials, such as links to podcasts/videos will be available on Brightspace.

Contact Information: The best way to reach me is via email at levans8@uwo.ca. I will respond within 48 business hours.

Method of Evaluation:

- | | |
|---|-----|
| • Tutorial Assignments (ongoing) | 10% |
| • Midterm (Nov. 13) | 20% |
| • Critical Reflection (Feb. 26) | 15% |
| • Research Paper (Apr. 2) | 20% |
| ○ Research Paper Proposal (Jan. 8) | 5% |
| • Final Exam* (TBD, Apr exam period). | 30% |

* Students must achieve a passing grade on the final exam in order to pass the course.

Attendance Requirement: This course requires consistent attendance in class and tutorials to do well and support its learning style and outcomes. If you have barriers for this requirement, for example due to family care responsibilities or disability accommodations/access needs, please contact me. Attendance will be taken weekly and students who miss more than 5 classes throughout the year, without formal accommodation from the ADO, may be debarred from writing the final exam. *Frequently missed classes and/or tutorials without prior or timely, after class arrangements (exceptional circumstances only), will require a meeting to discuss your progress.*

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

If there are questions related to academic misconduct, you will be required to meet with me in-person before I will assign an assignment grade. You are accountable for all content submitted. If after our meeting I remain unsatisfied that you completed your assignment in its entirety, I will connect with my Department Chair who will determine if academic misconduct has occurred.

Assessments:

Detailed descriptions of assignments will be posted on Brightspace.

Tutorials (10%): Students will be split into two groups and will meet every second week. Students must participate in their assigned tutorial week. Through the tutorial assignments, you will develop academic skills necessary across disciplines such as locating, evaluating, and citing sources; reading with purpose; integrating research into writing; drafting; grammar, sentence structure, and paragraphing; thesis and argumentation; revision & editing; issues and ethics of AI use; and annotated bibliography/lit reviews. The schedule and information for tutorials will be posted to Brightspace.

Midterm (20%): may include multiple choice, definitions and examples, short answer questions, and/or the application of a case study to course materials, discussions, and activities. More details will be given closer to the exam date. Make up for the midterm quiz will be offered once only. Should you miss the midterm exam, please reach out within 24 hours to be considered for the make-up exam. Should you miss the make-up date, formal academic accommodations will be required to reweight your final exam.

Critical Reflection (15%): You will submit a critical reflection tied to course materials, discussions, and activities to reflect on your journey through the course. You will have choice how to demonstrate your learning e.g., written, podcast, infographic, arts-based, video and more. Further details will be posted on Brightspace under the content section. There is a 72-hour grace period after the due date, for any reason. For extensions past this date, please reach out within 24 hours of the due date.

Research Paper (25%): There are two components to this assignment. The first is a proposal worth 5% of the final grade that you will submit for assessment. *This step must be completed to submit the research paper for assessment.* The paper is an application assignment to demonstrate your knowledge and ability to formulate an academic argument through the application of course materials to a topic of your choice. Your paper must include course materials, your own sources and a real-life example as part of your analysis. There is a 72-hour grace period after the due date, for any reason. For extensions past this date, you will require formal academic accommodations.

Final Exam (30%): This exam covers the entire course, and may include multiple choice, definitions and examples, short answer question and/or long answer questions to assess students' understanding of all course material. More details will be given closer to the exam and a review session will be held the last day of class. Formal academic accommodations are required should you miss your final exam.

Course Outline: Please note, there will be additional weekly readings/materials posted on Brightspace in the content section under the corresponding week

Week	Date	Description	Assignments Due
1	Sept. 11	Course Introduction	Please plan to attend
2	Sept. 18	SS Chpt 18 – Burning Season: The (New) Conflagrations of Summer	
3	Sept. 25	Seasonal Sociology (SS), Chpt 20 – Summer's Gains & Losses	
4	Oct. 2	SS Chpt. 2 Labour Day Weekend	
5	Oct. 9	SS 5 – A Long Weekend of Rest and Labour: Thanksgiving...	
6	Oct. 16	Reading week – Enjoy!	
7	Oct. 23	SS Chpt 3 – Back to School Season: Schools and ... Crime	
8	Oct. 30	SS Chpt 4 – Pumpkin Spice Lattes: Making the Season with Brands	
9	Nov. 6	SS Chpt 1 – The Rideau Canal in the Fall: Understanding Ontology & Epistemology	
10	Nov. 13	Midterm Exam	
11	Nov. 20	SS Chpt 10 – “Cracked Ice”: Hockey, Whiteness, and Masculinity	
12	Nov. 27	SS Chpt 6 - Season Affective Disorder: The Medicalization of Winter Sadness	Nov. 30th Course Drop Date
13	Dec. 4	Research Paper Proposal Workshop	
		College Closed for Winter Break	
14	Jan. 8	Carceral Systems and the Public Safety Apparatus	Research Paper Proposal Due
15	Jan. 15	Community-led Safety: “We Keep Us Safe”	

16	Jan. 22	SS Chpt 19 – Social Movements Sizzle: Making Change	
17	Jan. 29	Critical Reflection workshop	
18	Feb. 5	SS Chpt 8 – Cupid’s Keyboard: Disabled People’s Experiences ... Online Dating	
19	Feb. 12	Research Paper Workshop	
20	Feb. 19	Reading Week	
21	Feb. 26	SS Chpt 13 – Alternative Spring Break: The Politics of Doing Good...	Critical Reflection Due
22	Mar. 5	SS Chpt 14 – Peach Blossoms & Precarious Work: Canada’s SAWP...	
23	Mar. 12	SS Chpt 11 – The Myth of the Sugar Shack: Identity, Nature and Maple Syrup	
24	Mar. 19	SS Chpt 15 – Rites of Spring...	
25	Mar. 26	No class, holiday	
26	Apr. 2	SS Chpt. 16 Wedding Season: The white wedding...	Research Paper Due
27	Apr. 9	Last class – Course Review	

**KING'S UNIVERSITY COLLEGE
GENERAL COURSE POLICIES
2026-27**

1. Academic Accommodations (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 at [Academic Accommodation for Students with Disabilities](#). Information on Accessibility Services at King's can be found [here](#).

2. Academic Consideration for Student Absences

Students must be approved to write a makeup exam or for an extension of the assignment deadline. If you need to miss an exam or the deadline for the assignment, please follow these instructions.

There are two ways to seek academic consideration:

(i) Academic consideration based on medical or compassionate grounds

If a student is unable to meet a course requirement due to substantial but temporary extenuating circumstances (medical or compassionate grounds), they should contact the Academic Advising Office. As a rule, documentation is required for academic consideration.

For academic consideration requests on medical grounds, the Student Medical Certificate (SMC) is the appropriate documentation. The SMC is available at <https://registrar.uwo.ca/academics/pdfs/student-medical-certificate.pdf>

- King's students: The Academic Advising Office website is located in DLH 104. The Academic Advising website is <https://mykings.ca/intranet/app/#/academics/academic-advising>.
- If your home faculty is Huron or at Western, please submit your documentation to your faculty's academic counselling office.
- Requests must be made as soon as possible, and no later than 48 hours after the missed assessment.

You may submit requests for academic consideration through the **Student Absence Portal**, linked on this website: <https://mykings.ca/intranet/app/#/academics/academic-advising/academic-consideration-requests-and-student-absence-portal>.

(ii) Academic consideration through an undocumented absence

Students are permitted one academic consideration request without supporting documentation per term per half-course (0.5) weight.

- Note that instructors may designate one assessment per half-course weight as requiring supporting documentation. Please refer to the course outline to confirm this which assessment has been designated as requiring documentation for consideration (that is, exempt from undocumented absences).
- Undocumented absences can not be used as the basis for academic consideration for December or April exams.

If an instructor has built flexibility into their assessments (e.g., “complete 8 of 10 quizzes”), this flexibility will already address consideration needs and thus academic consideration may be denied.

For further information on the academic consideration policy, please see

https://uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/academic_consideration_Sep24.pdf

c) Absences from Final Exams

If you miss the Final Exam, **contact your Academic Advising Office** 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 (i.e., you are scheduled to write 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](#)).

d) Religious Accommodations

Students should consult the University’s list of recognized religious holidays, and should give notice in writing to the instructor and their 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.

3. Support Services

Accessibility, Counselling and Student Development at King's University College:

<https://mykings.ca/intranet/app/#/student-supports-and-services/accessibility-services>

Students experiencing emotional or mental health distress can access services at King's University College: <https://kings.uwo.ca/campus-life/student-supports/>

Good2talk is an online and phone resource for students, available 24/7, with services in English, Mandarin, and French: <https://good2talk.ca>, 1-866-925-5454

MentalHealth@Western provides a complete list of options on how to obtain help:

<https://www.uwo.ca/health/mental-health/index.html>

Academic Support Services at King's University College: <https://kings.uwo.ca/academics/academic-supports/>

4. Statement on Gender-Based Sexual Violence

King's and Western are committed to reducing incidents of gender-based sexual violence (GBSV) and providing compassionate support to anyone who is going through or has gone through these traumatic events. If you are experiencing or have experienced GBSV (either recently or in the past), you will find information about support services for survivors, including emergency contacts at the following website: [Mental Health and Wellness at King's](#).

You can reach supports at King's 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 (health@uwo.ca) or by calling 519-661-3568. Additional support services can be found <https://www.uwo.ca/health/gbsv/support/index.html>

5. 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://kings.uwo.ca/sites/2025/assets/files/campus/Kings_Code_of_Student_Conduct.pdf

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.

6. 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 https://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/scholastic_offences.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 you instructor to check which tools, including generative AI (ChatGPT, translation tools, grammar-checking tools) are permitted in each course.** Note that although some courses may permit the use of such tools, it does not mean use of such tools 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.

7. 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.

8. 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.

9. 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.