



**Sociology 1020 (572), (573)
Introduction to Sociology
Fall/ Winter 2026-2027**

Instructor: J. Fairbairn

Email: jfairba4@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.

King's University College
SOC1020 572 – Introduction to Sociology
Fall/Winter 2026-27

Instructor: Dr. Jordan Fairbairn (she/her)

Email: jfairba4@uwo.ca

Office Hours (Zoom): Wednesday 10-11am on Zoom or by appointment

<https://westernuniversity.zoom.us/my/jordanfairbairn>

Course Description:

In this course, students will be introduced to the sociological study of society and the social world. Sociology examines the relationship between social structures and individuals. Analyses of power and inequality will inform our inquiry as we engage the tension between social structures and the agency of individuals as subjects. The goal of this course is to challenge students to think critically about society and to introduce students to the ways in which sociologists scientifically explore a variety of important social issues.

Course Objectives:

Upon the completion of this course, you will have begun to:

- Interrogate common-sense assumptions about local and global narratives of the social world and identify the connections between personal and societal issues.
- Identify the intersections between different structural dimensions such as age, gender, race, class, and sexuality in enabling or constraining individual experiences.
- Engage directly with sociological analyses in relevant formats, including written, oral, visual, and/or digital, using appropriate theoretical, scholarly, and/or empirical sources
- Develop, enhance, and apply critical thinking, reading, and writing skills

Mode of Instruction: In-person

Course textbooks/materials:

Required text: *Seasonal Sociology*, second edition (2025). Eds. Tonya Davidson and Ondine Park. University of Toronto Press; available at Western bookstore.

https://bookstore.uwo.ca/textbook-search?campus=KC&term=W2025&courses%5B0%5D=570_KC/SOC1020

Textbook cost: Ebook \$65, paperback \$65

PLEASE NOTE: There are several chapters that are new to the second edition of the textbook. Students are welcome to purchase the first edition of this textbook but will need to consult the library reserve readings for new chapters in the second edition.

A copy of the course textbook can be found on reserve at King's Library.

Additional course readings, as well as links to podcasts and videos will be available on Brightspace or through King's library resources.

Drop Date: November 30 is the last day to drop this course without academic penalty.

Methods of Evaluation:

The overall course grade will be calculated as listed below:

- In-Class Responses - 10%, based on short in-class responses (multiple choice and/or written) throughout the year.
- Tutorial Attendance and Tutorial Assignments - 10%, ongoing.
- Written Assignments
 - o Research Proposal – 5%, due Friday, Dec 4
 - o Research Assignment – 15%, due Friday, March 5
- Tests/Examinations
 - o Test 1 – 15%, Week 7/November 3 (covers Weeks 1 – 6)
 - o Test 2 – 20%, Week 16/January 19 (covers Weeks 8 – 15)
 - o Final Exam – 25%, TBD - April Exam Period (emphasis on Weeks 1 – 2 and 17 – 24).

Assignment Descriptions – See Course Brightspace page for detailed instructions.

Academic Considerations:

- There is a 48-hour grace period for both the research proposal and final assignment – no late penalty or academic accommodation request needed. A late penalty of 5% per day applies beyond this point and assignments will not be accepted more than 1 week after the deadline. Extensions beyond the 48-hour grace period require formal academic accommodation with supporting documentation.

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:
http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/scholastic_discipline_undergrad.pdf
- AI tools: Developing critical sociological thinking, reading, and writing skills are key learning objectives of this course. As such, within this course, it is expected that students have conceptualized and created their own assignments. Assignments produced by generative AI tools such as ChatGPT are not permitted to be submitted as part of work for evaluation. Grammar checking and translation tools are permitted - *the use of these tools must be disclosed in a statement at the beginning of the assignment*. Coursework submitted with the unauthorized use of AI will be subject to academic discipline. As with all aspects of the course, students are encouraged to reach out to me if you have any questions or concerns.
- Turnitin: All required assignments will be submitted for textual similarity review to the commercial plagiarism detection software under license to the University for the detection of plagiarism.

Course Content & Reading Schedule:

Week 1, Sept 15 – Introduction to the Course & What is Sociology?

- No assigned reading, but we will have a full class with lecture content
- Attend class and review Brightspace & syllabus
- No tutorials in Week 1; check Tutorial group/schedule on Brightspace for Week 2.

Week 2, Sep 22 – Sociological Imagination and Sociological Research

- Read Seasonal Sociology (SS) – Introduction, pp. 1-19
- Read SS Chapter 1, “The Rideau Canal in Fall: Understanding Ontology and Epistemology with Indigenous Ways of Knowing.”

Week 3, Sept 29 – Social Groups and Inequality

- Read SS Chapter 2, “Labour Day Weekend: The Shifts and Cycles of Work.”

Week 4, Oct 6 – Culture and Consumption

- Read SS Chapter 4, “Pumpkin Spice Lattes: Marking the Seasons with Brands”.

Fall Reading Week, Oct 13 – Have a great break!

Week 5, Oct 20 – Bodies and Unpaid Labour

- Read SS Chapter 5, “A Long Weekend of Rest and Labour: Thanksgiving, Holiday Body Work, and the Holiday Body”.

Week 6, Oct 27 – Media and Communications Technology

- Slakoff, D., & Duran, D. (2025). A new media frontier, or more of the same? A descriptive analysis of the “missing white woman syndrome” in top true crime podcasts.

Week 7, Nov 3 – Test 1 (15%)

- No tutorials

Week 8, Nov 10 – Socialization and Social Interaction

- Read SS Chapter 16, “Wedding Season: The White Wedding as a Cultural Ritual of Heteronormativity.”

Week 9, Nov 17 – Race, Ethnicity, and Racialization

- Read Chapter 10, “Race, Ethnicity, and Racialization” from “Sociology in Our Times, 8th Edition” (available through Course Readings on Brightspace).

Week 10, Nov 24 – Gender and Sexuality

- Reading TBD

Week 11, Dec 1 – Social Class and Stratification

- Read SS Chapter 20, “Summer’s Gains and Losses: Children, Social Class, and Learning”

Week 12 – Dec 8 – Families & Intimate Relationships

- Read SS Chapter 8, “Cupid’s Keyboard: Disabled People’s Experiences with Online Dating.”

December Exam Period - No Exam. Good luck on your exams and see you in January!

Week 13, Jan 5 – Crime, Deviance, and Social Control

- Read SS Chapter 3, “Back to School Season: Schools and the Social Organization of Crime”.

Week 14, Jan 12 – Health

- Read SS Chapter 6, “Seasonal Affective Disorder (SAD): The Medicalization of Winter Sadness”.

Week 15, Jan 19 – Sport & Leisure

- Read SS Chapter 10, “Cracked Ice: Hockey, Whiteness, and Masculinity”.

Week 16, Jan 26 – Winter Test (20%)

- No tutorial

Week 17, Feb 2 – Identity

- Read SS Chapter 11, “The Myth of the Sugar Shack: Identity, Nature, & Maple Syrup.”

Week 18, Feb 9 – Global Stratification

- Read SS Chapter 13, “Alternative Spring Break: The Politics of Doing Good in a Globalized World”

Winter Reading Week, Feb 16 – Have a great break!

Week 19, Feb 23 – Work

- Read SS Chapter 14, “Peach Blossoms and Precarious Work: Canada’s Seasonal Agricultural Worker Program on the Niagara Peninsula”.

Week 20, Mar 2 – Population and Urbanization

- Read SS Chapter 12, “Spring Babies, Summer Weddings, Fall Divorces, and Winter Deaths: Seasons and Populations.
- Final assignment due Friday, March 5

Week 21, Mar 9 – Education

- Reading TBD

Week 22, Mar 16 – Environment

- Read SS Chapter 17, “Summer in Cottage Country: Expectations and Experiences of Canadian Nature”

Week 23, Mar 23 – Politics and Social Movements

- Read SS Chapter 19, “Social Movements Sizzle: Making Change through Collective Action”

Week 24, March 30 – Sociology and Criminology in Action and Beyond Intro

- No assigned reading

Week 25 – Apr 6

- Course wrap up and review

April Exam Period – Final Exam (25%) – Date TBA

**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.