



**Sociology 1020 (574), (575)
Introduction to Sociology
Fall/ Winter 2026-2027**

Instructor: N. Cushing
Email: ncushin@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.

General Course Outline

INTRODUCTION TO SOCIOLOGY 1020 (574)

King's University College at Western University
Fall/Winter 2026-27

Instructor: Professor Neisha Cushing

Email: ncushin@uwo.ca

Please put Soc 1020 (572) in the subject line of all emails.

NOTE: I may take up to 24hrs to respond.

Office Hours: By appointment via Zoom

Teaching Assistant: Rouvin Fernandes

Writing Consultant: TBA

Course 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.

This course will introduce you to the dynamic discipline of sociology! Sociology invites us to examine the relationship between societal structures and the individual. In other words, the discipline of sociology, and the objective of this course, is to help students develop their **Sociological Imagination!** The focus of this course will be on developing and utilizing a critical perspective to enhance your understanding of the social world. You will be engaging with a multitude of theoretical foundations and concepts that will enable you to penetrate commonly held assumptions in your daily interactions with peers, the media, the government and in your daily life.

Structure of the Course:

This class will meet once a week for 3 hours. The first 2 hours will be a formal lecture and the 3rd hour will be dedicated to tutorial where there will be a focus on learning how to write, research and reference academically. This hour of the course will be facilitated by a writing consultant. The class will be divided into 2 groups and each group will be required to attend 9 tutorials on the weeks outlined on a tutorial schedule. More information will be provided on the first day of the class. NOTE: there will be no switching of tutorial groups. This has proven to create a lot of confusion for keeping track of attendance and assignments.

Student Expectations: Students are expected to attend all scheduled lectures and tutorials. Students are expected to submit all course assignments and evaluations, including participating and submitting the exercises in all scheduled tutorials. **NOTE: Failure to maintain attendance and satisfactory academic standing in the course throughout the term may result in debarment from writing the final exam and thus receiving a failing grade in the course.**

Attendance (15%):

Attendance will be taken at the beginning of each lecture and at the beginning of each tutorial.

How do you earn 15%?

5% of this component of the course will be based on **full attendance at lectures each week**. If you attend every lecture, you get the full 5%.

10% will be based on **attending all of your scheduled tutorial hours, completing and submitting all exercises assigned, and your participation**. (NOTE: participation will be determined by the writing instructor)

NOTE: It is worth repeating here that students who do not attend class (or do not attend regularly) and/or fail to maintain academic standing throughout the term, are at risk of being denied writing the final exam in this course. I will warn any student who is at risk of this in advance so they have an opportunity to start attending before being denied writing the final exam and therefore not passing the course.

Testing (55%):

This course will have two midterm test (worth 15% each) and a final examination (worth 25%). Both the midterm and the final will be multiple choice. They will be based on lecture material and chapter readings. The midterms will cover all of the material covered during the lecture portion of the class up until the week before the test. Note, midterms are not cumulative; the second midterm will cover the material since the first midterm. The final examination is cumulative and will cover the entire years material, with a focus on the material you have not yet been tested on. **NOTE:** students must write the final exam in order to pass this course. Formal documentation will be required in order for students to write a make-up final assessment.

Writing Assignments (30%):

There will be two writing assignments in this course worth 15% each. One will be based on applying the Sociological Imagination, and the second one will be an exercise in summarizing academic research articles. **NOTE:** Within this course, use of generative artificial intelligence tools (such as ChatGPT, Claude, Gemini, co-pilot, translation tools, and grammar-checking tools) is not permitted for written work submitted for evaluation. Unauthorized use of AI will be subject to academic discipline and/or a “0” on the assignment. Detailed outlines will be provided for each assignment and posted to Brightspace

Missed Midterms and Assignments: Should a student miss a midterm due to illness or unforeseen circumstances, the opportunity to write a make-up midterm will be provided as long as supporting documentation for the reason is provided or a self-reported absence is used.

Failure to submit a Writing Assignment will result in a penalty of 5% per day for a maximum of 7 days, after which the student will receive “0” on the report.

Should a student be unable to join their group for tutorial due to illness or unforeseen circumstances, they may be given an opportunity to submit the missed assignment at the discretion of the writing consultant.

Students who miss the final exam must seek approved academic accommodation with supporting documentation in order to write a makeup test.

NOTE: *see the new policy for makeup tests that are scheduled and proctored by The Exam Office.*

Assessment:

Writing Assignment #1	15%	(November 5 th , 2026)
Midterm #1	15%	(November 12 th , 2026)
Midterm #2	15%	(January 28 th , 2027)
Writing Assignment #2	15%	(February 11 th , 2027)
Attendance/Tutorials/Participation	15%	(calculated throughout the year)
Final Exam	25%	(Date to be determined by the University)
		100%

Required Text:

Sociology: Compass for a new social world, 8th edition, by Robert Brym, Lisa Strohschein, & Karen Kampen. Published by Cengage.

NOTE: The 7th edition of this textbook is also very acceptable. Try to find used copies of this edition on Amazon, Abe books, or biblio.com

Last year's prices for the 8th edition: eBook: \$80.00

Print copies: \$142.75

Use of Electronics in the Classroom: The use of electronic devices by students during lectures and tutorials 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. Inappropriate use of electronics (e.g., laptops, tablets, smartphones) during lectures and tutorials creates a significant disruption. As a consequence of repeated offenses to this rule, I may choose to limit the use of electronic devices in this class.

Recording of Lectures: Students in this course are not permitted to record lectures, except where recording is an approved accommodation. Unauthorized recording and/or sharing of class content is subject to academic discipline. Students who are granted this accommodation by the ADO will be required to sign an agreement outlining the restrictions for sharing recorded material and the deletion of the material at the end of the course **prior** to recording any lecture material.

Keeping in Contact: Please make it a habit to check the announcements before attending class each week. This is where I will post all important information that I need you to know (ie: in the event of a class cancellations, any changes to the weekly lecture schedule, etc). If you are in the habit of checking your email on a regular basis, all announcements will be directed to your UWO email account.

Use Of AI: Within this course, use of generative artificial intelligence (AI) tools (such as ChatGPT, Claude, Gemini, co-pilot, translation tools, and grammar-checking tools) is not permitted for written work submitted for evaluation. **Unauthorized use of AI will be subject to academic discipline and/or receiving “0” on the assignment.**

Use of Turnitin.com: 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. Use of the service is subject to the licensing agreement, currently between The University of Western Ontario and Turnitin.com (<http://www.turnitin.com>).

Weekly Schedule: below is the weekly schedule for the course. I will add a tutorial schedule after coordinating with the writing consultant for this course.

SPECIFIC COURSE OUTLINE 2025-26

(NOTE: With the exception of test days & holidays, this is subject to change)

DATE	LECTURE	READING
Sept 10 th	Introduction to the course	No reading
Sept 17 th	Foundations of the Discipline What is the Sociology Imagination?	Chapter 1
Sept. 24 th	Foundations of the Discipline cont. How do sociologists do research?	Chapter 1 cont Chapter 2
Oct. 1 st	Culture: Sociology and the Media	Chapter 3
Oct. 8 th	Socialization: How does it work?	Chapter 4
Oct. 15 th	READING WEEK – no class	
October 22 nd	Social Interaction: History, the development of the Self & various perspectives	Chapter 5
Oct. 29 th	The Sociological Imagination	Reading on Brightspace
Oct. 23 rd	Networks, Groups, Bureaucracies, & Societies	Chapter 6
Nov. 5 th	WORK DAY for Writing Assignment #1 NO IN PERSON CLASS	Submit Assignment by 11:59 pm
Nov. 12 th	IN CLASS MIDTERM #1	
Nov. 19 th	Murder City	No Reading
Nov. 26 th	Deviance & Crime	Chapter 7

Dec. 3 th	Deviance & Social Control	Chapter 7 cont.
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HOLIDAYS! NO EXAM DURING THIS PERIOD

Jan. 7 th	Globalization, Inequality, & Development	Chapter 9
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Jan. 14 th	Race and Ethnicity	Chapter 10
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Jan. 21 st	Sexualities & Gender Stratification	Chapter 11
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Jan. 28 th	IN CLASS MIDTERM #2	
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Feb. 4 th	The Body & Health	Chapter 12
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Feb. 11 th	WORK DAY for Writing Assignment #2 NO LECTURE	Submit Assignment by 11:59 pm
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Feb. 18 th	READING WEEK – NO CLASS	
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Feb. 25 th	Political Economy	Chapter 13
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March 4 th	Families	Chapter 14
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March 11 th	Religion	Chapter 15
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Mar. 18 th	Mass & Social Media	Chapter 17
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Mar. 25 th	Collective Action & Social Movements	Chapter 18
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April 1 st	FINAL EXAM REVIEW	
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**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.