



**Sociology 1020 (576), (577)
Introduction to Sociology
Fall/ Winter 2026-2027**

Instructor: D. Silva
Email: dsilva28@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
Department of Sociology
Course Number SOC1020 SEC 576

Instructor Information

The instructor for this course is **Dr. Derek Silva**. This course is offered during the **2026–2027 academic year**.

Dr. Silva's email is dsilva28@uwo.ca.

Office hours are Mondays from 1:45-2:45PM

Course Information

Prerequisites

None.

Antirequisites

None.

Mandatory Texts and Materials

Quan-Haase, Anabel and Lorne Tepperman. 2021. *Real-Life Sociology: A Canadian Approach* (Second Edition). Don Mills, ON: Oxford University Press. (\$123.45 MSRP; \$88.00CAD permanent E-book). Available here:

https://bookstore.uwo.ca/textbook-search?campus=KC&term=W2026&courses%5B0%5D=576_KC/SOC1020.

Students are welcome to purchase second-hand or earlier editions of this textbook, but are responsible for any missed information.

Course Overview

This course will introduce students to the systematic study of society. It will help students understand the most important theoretical and empirical developments in the discipline of sociology and the study of the social world. Through the use of lectures, discussions, tutorials, and various forms of visual media, we will discuss major sociological concepts and ideas and their usefulness for the study of a variety of social issues. This course will provide a thorough introduction to the discipline of sociology in the following areas: (1) Introduction to sociology; (2) discussions of thematic socialization & culture; (3) social inequality; and (4) social problems and institutions. The first section will introduce students to elements of sociological theory, methods, and dominant concepts. The second will focus on culture and socialization. The third section of the course will show how these theories are applied to topics such as gender, race, class, religion, deviance, law, family, education, labour and health. The third component of this course is designed to introduce students to contemporary debates within various sub-disciplines of sociology. The fourth will explore the social problems and institutions that are relevant to the field of sociology. 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 completion of this course, students will be able to understand the manner in which sociologists study their unit of analysis. They should also be able to:

- 1) Understand and discuss the role that race, gender, sexuality, and social class play in various social systems.
- 2) Critically analyze contemporary social issues and understand the role sociology plays in the knowledge production process.
- 3) Demonstrate knowledge of key methodological tools used in sociology.
- 4) Systematically apply key concepts, ideas, and theoretical paradigms within sociology.
- 5) Develop, enhance, and apply critical thinking skills.
- 6) Develop, enhance, and apply critical writing skills.
- 7) Develop, enhance, and apply professional and communication skills.

Evaluation and Assessment

Grading Scale

- A+ is awarded for grades **90 percent or higher**
- A is awarded for grades between **80 and 89.99 percent**
- B is awarded for grades between **70 and 79.99 percent**
- C is awarded for grades between **60 and 69.99 percent**
- D is awarded for grades between **50 and 59.99 percent**
- F is assigned for grades **49.99 percent or lower**

Grades in the A+ range represent performance that is **above and beyond expectations, excellence with distinction**. I wish I produced work in the A+ range. Excellence refers to the combined results and not simply effort. While there is merit to hard work and long hours, it does not always guarantee success. Grades in the A range represent **very good work at this level – work superior to peers**. Grades in the B range represent performance that **meets expectations and is considered good work at the level**. Grades in the C range represent performance that is **satisfactory at this level**. Grades in the D range represent performance that is **unsatisfactory, but effort has been thoroughly demonstrated**. Grades in the F range represent performance that is **absolutely unsatisfactory for this level of university**. Grades will not be up for negotiation. Grades of A and A+ are **very** difficult to earn and would mean your work is superior to your peers.

Assignment Breakdown and Due Dates

Critical Reflections (200 points total; 20% of final grade)

You are required to complete two critical reflections. Each is worth 100 points, for a total of 200 points.

- Critical Reflection 1 is due on January 29, 2026
- Critical Reflection 2 is due on February 26, 2026

Library Research Assignments (200 points total; 20% of final grade)

You must complete two library research assignments. Each is worth 100 points, for a total of 200 points.

- Library Research Assignment 1 is due on October 26, 2025
- Library Research Assignment 2 is due on November 23, 2025

Tutorial Participation (100 points; 10% of final grade)

Participation in tutorials is worth 100 points. Attendance and engagement are assessed throughout the year during your assigned tutorial group sessions:

- Last names beginning with A to L: Tutorial Group A
- Last names beginning M to Z: Tutorial Group B

Midterm and Final Exams (midterm is 200 points or 20% of final grade; final is 300 points or 30% of final grade)

- The Midterm Exam is worth 200 points and will take place during the Winter Exam Period (exact date to be announced)
- The Final Exam is worth 300 points and will be scheduled during the Final Exam Period (exact date to be announced)

Total Grade Value

All components together total 1000 points. All assignments are due by 11:55 PM EST on their respective due dates.

Late Penalty: Late assignments will be given a 10% deduction per day (inclusive of weekends) up to 5 days (50% deduction). Assignments will not be accepted on the 6th day past due.

Course Calendar / Topic Breakdown

NOTE: Tutorial Schedule TBD

Part I – Introduction to Sociology

- **September 14:** Introduction to Sociology
Reading: Syllabus
Tutorial: None – No tutorial this week
- **September 21:** Decolonizing Social Science – Theory and Practice
Reading: Chapter 1
- **September 28:** Sociological Methods
Reading: Chapter 2
- **October 5:** Cultures and Social Reality
Reading: Chapter 3

October 10-19: Fall Reading Week (No class or tutorials)

Part II – Culture and Socialization

- **October 19:** Workshop Class – **No class meeting**
Activity: Work on Library Assignment #1
- **October 26:** Socialization
Reading: Chapter 4
- **November 2:** Family
Reading: Chapter 10

Part III – Social Inequality

- **November 9:** Workshop Class – **No class meeting**
Activity: Work on Library Assignment #2
- **November 16:** Social Stratification
Reading: Chapter 6
- **November 23:** Social Inequality and Global Conflict
Reading: Chapter 9
- **November 30:** Gender and Sexuality
Reading: Chapter 7
- **December 7:** Midterm Review
Materials: Posted to Brightspace

MIDTERM DURING MID-TERM EXAMINATION PERIOD TBD

Part IV – Social Problems and Institutions

- **January 4:** Race and Racism
Reading: Chapter 8
- **January 11:** Crime and Deviance
Reading: Chapter 5
- **January 18:** Workshop Class – **No class meeting**
Activity: Work on Critical Reflection #1
- **January 25:** Media
Reading: Chapter 14
- **February 1:** Education
Reading: Chapter 11
- **February 8:** Workshop Class – **No class meeting**
Activity: Work on Critical Reflection #2

February 13–21: Winter Break (No class or tutorials)

- **February 22:** Work and Labour
Reading: Chapter 12
- **March 1:** Religion and Religious Institutions
Reading: Chapter 13
- **March 8:** Populations and Environment
Reading: Chapter 15
- **March 15:** Social Movements and Collective Action
Reading: Chapter 16
- **March 22:** Overflow Class
Activity: Any missed material
- **March 29:** Overflow Class
Activity: Any missed material
- **April 5:** Final Exam Review
Materials: Posted to Brightspace

Final Exam: Date To Be Announced

**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.