



Sociology 2108f (570)
Decolonizing Social Science
Fall/ Winter 2026-2027

Instructor: S. Chitty

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Course Information

Calendar Description:

The social sciences are complicit in the oppression long experienced by Indigenous communities. This course situates universities, including the social sciences, as sites of colonization and seeks to disrupt this role through the introduction of Indigenous frameworks for understanding the social world. Antirequisites: [Sociology 2190F/G](#)

Extra Information: 3 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 University College
SOC 2108: Decolonizing Social Science

Course information:

SOC 2108: Decolonizing Social Science

Instructor: Sara Mai Chitty

Course Dates: September 14, 2026 - December 7, 2026

Contact Information: saramai.chitty@uwo.ca

Office hours: Tuesday 4pm - 5pm, by appointment

Course description:

The social sciences are complicit in the oppression long experienced by Indigenous communities. This course situates universities, including the social sciences, as sites of colonization and seeks to disrupt this role through the introduction of Indigenous frameworks for understanding the social world.

Course Learning Outcomes:

By the end of the course students will:

1. Understand the foundational concepts of decolonial theory and methodologies.
2. Critically analyze the historical and ongoing complicity of the social sciences in settler colonialism.
3. Engage with Indigenous epistemologies and frameworks as legitimate, foundational ways of understanding the social world.
4. Reflect on the university's role as an institution of colonization and explore avenues for disruption and systemic change.

Mode of Instruction:

In person instruction. Class may occasionally be outside and/or online. An alternative class start and/or end time may be required on specific field days, or guest lectures. The Instructor will communicate any changes far in advance, give you time to prepare and create alternative arrangements in the event this is not feasible for your schedule.

What to expect in this class:

- Non-traditional lecture-style
- Place-based learning (ie being outside on occasion or at the Wampum Learning Lodge)
- Discussion and reflection-based learning
- Collaborative knowledge construction
- Learning with Indigenous and non-Indigenous community members
- Co-creating with classmates to produce a final group project
- Regular, interactive participation during class
- In-class assignments
- Hands on activities

Course Materials:

Most course materials can be acquired through free and/or online sources like the Library, or will be provided via Brightspace and in class:

- [Whose Land is it Anyway? Decolonization Manual](#)
- As We Have Always Done - Leanne Simpson (Ebook - Western Libraries)

Total estimated costs for course materials: ~\$0

Methods of Evaluation:

20% Attendance & Participation

50% Reflections

30% Final Group Project

Attendance and Participation: 20%

Due: Weekly

- Attendance is taken each class, and accounts for 10% of your grade - perfect attendance = 100% on 10% of your grade!
- Participation accounts for 10% of your grade and is graded via self-evaluation in conjunction with instructor approval

Reflections: 50%

Due: Throughout the semester

- 5 total at 10% each
- To be completed in class or before next class, as instructed (See Brightspace for further instructions)
- Reflection activities typically engage the readings and discussions of that week, and/or leading up to that week
- If students will be absent, reflections can only be submitted during the following class, or online - **if they notify instructor in advance**

Final Group Project: 30%

Due: December 7, 2026 (as well as November 30, 2026 if necessary due to number of groups and time required)

- In lieu of a final exam
- Can be pre-recorded (ie a podcast, video, documentary) but must be presented on scheduled presentation day by group members (if someone will be absent or unable to present, it must be clear what their contribution to the assignment is to receive full grades)
- 5% is a self-reflection on positionality, collaboration, groupwork dynamics and participation
- Minimum 3 people in a group
- Choose between provided presentation prompts and topics
- Further instructions and prompts available on Brightspace

Academic Considerations:

- Make up Reflection Assignments will only be made available to those who inform the instructor in advance of their absence
- If you need an extension for the final project, you must apply for formal academic accommodations.
- Email instructor with concerns regarding due dates and extensions, or seek accommodations where applicable
 - Please speak to the instructor as soon as you realize you may miss deadlines or reflections. Failure to communicate with the instructor regarding missed deadlines, results in zero on your assignment
- Make up or alternative assignments will be made available where possible, to accommodate absences connected to grief, illness or crisis

Academic Integrity / Remote Proctoring:

1. Please review the Western Scholastic Discipline policy:
https://uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/scholastic_discipline_undergrad.pdf
2. Using Generative AI to develop, edit, draft, plan or research assignments is not permitted. If any instance emerges where Generative AI is utilized, please cite the use of AI appropriately or the assignment will not be graded.
3. Turnitin will be required for all written submissions

Tips for Success:

- Do the readings
- While readings and materials are typically available in Brightspace, they might also require a subscription, or require access through Western or London Public Libraries.
- Refer to Brightspace for the most up to date information about syllabus, readings, assessments and alternative activities
- Regular communication with the instructor is encouraged, especially to proactively request extensions, or if you are at risk of, or falling behind in your readings or assignments
- In-class activities and reflections are based on the assigned materials for that week, come as prepared as you are able

Schedule of Classes, Readings, Assessments:

Week 1: September 14, 2026 (Cancelled)

Topic: Intro & Course Overview

Optional pre-reading: available on Bright Space

Week 2: September 21, 2026

Topic: Intro to Decolonizing Theory and Methodologies Pt 1

Read: Eve Tuck & K. Wayne Yang, "Decolonization is Not a Metaphor;" Leanne Simpson, "Nishnaabeg Brilliance as Radical Resurgence Theory," *As We Have Always Done* (2017)

Week 3: September 28, 2026

Topic: Introduction to Decolonizing Theory and Methodologies Pt 2

Read: Walter Mignolo, "The Geopolitics of Knowledge and the Colonial Difference" (2002); Santiago Castro-Gómez, "The Hubris of the Zero Point" (2005); Taiaiake Alfred, "It's All about the Land" (p 10 - Decolonization Manual); Linda Tuhiwai Smith, Decolonizing Methodologies (Introduction & Chapter 1)

Due: Reflection 1

Week 4: October 5, 2026

Topic: Extractive Research & Epistemic Violence

Read/Listen: Eve Tuck, "Suspending Damage: A Letter to Communities;" Zoe Todd, "An Indigenous Feminist's Take on the Ontological Turn;" Vine Deloria Jr., "Anthropologists and Other Friends" (from Custer Died for Your Sins)

— Reading Week - no class - October 12 —

Week 5: October 19, 2026

Co-Facilitator: Ryan Joseph

Topic: Harm Reduction & Indigenous Ethics of Care

Read: Eva Jewell, "Towards an anti-colonial feminist care ethic" (from Making Space for Indigenous Feminism, 3rd ed.); [A Love Letter to Community: Reflections on Harm Reduction & Being Bad - Yellowhead Institute](#)

Due: Reflection (in class)

Week 6: October 26, 2026

Topic: Representation Matters

Watch: Reel Injun (2009); Reservation Dogs S2E9 "Offerings;"

Due: Reflection 2

Week 7: November 3, 2026

Topic: Indigenous Frameworks - Relationality

Read: Manomin Ch 5, 7, 8; Jeffrey McNeil-Seymour "Two-Spirit Resistance" (Pg 52); Leanne Simpson "Constellations of Coresistance," *As We Have Always Done* (Pg 211); Shawn Wilson, *Research is Ceremony: Indigenous Research Methods* (Pg 32-42); Patty Krawec "The People: We Are Related" *Becoming Kin* (Ch 7)

Week 8: November 9, 2026

Topic: Indigenous Frameworks - Land and Language

Read: Lawrence Gross "The Quantum Nature of the Anishinaabe Language," *Anishinaabe Ways of Knowing and Being* (Pg 81); Leanne Simpson "Land as Pedagogy" *As We Have Always Done* (pg 145); Glen Coulthard "Dechinta Bush University: Land-Based Education and Indigenous Resurgence" *Whose Land is it Anyway* (pg 57); Patty Krawec "The Land Our Ancestor" *Becoming Kin* (Ch 6)

Due: Reflection 3

Week 9: November 17, 2026

Topic: Disrupting Heteronormativity & Patriarchy

Read: Maile Arvin, Eve Tuck, and Angie Morrill, "Decolonizing Feminism: Challenging Connections between Settler Colonialism and Heteropatriarchy," Leanne Simpson "Endlessly Creating Our Indigenous Selves" and "Indigenous Queer Normativity," *As We Have Always Done* (pg 82; pg 119);

Due: Reflection 4

Week 10: November 23, 2026

Topic: Disrupting the University

Read: Sara Ahmed, *On Being Included: Racism and Diversity in Institutional Life* (Introduction); Sandy Grande, "Refusing the University;" Leanne Simpson "Embodied Resurgent Practice and Coded Disruption," *As We Have Always Done* (pg 191); Senator Murray Sinclair "From the 2017 Convocation Speech," *Whose Land is it Anyway?*

Due: Reflection 5

Week 11: November 30, 2026

Topic: Solidarity, Ethics and Refusal

Read: Patty Krawec "Solidarity: Becoming Kin" (Ch 9); Audra Simpson, "On Ethnographic Refusal: Indigeneity, 'Voice' and Colonial Citizenship;" Ngũgĩ wa Thiong'o "The Quest for Relevance" *Decolonising the Mind* (pg 87-109); Leanne Simpson "I See Your Light," *As We Have Always Done* (pg 175)

Due: Extra Group Presentation date, if needed

Week 12: December 7, 2026

Topic: Final Presentations

Due: Final Presentations

**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.