



Sociology 2145a (570)
Sociology of Work
Fall/ Winter 2026-2027

Instructor: R. Miele
Email: rmiele@uwo.ca

Course Information

Calendar Description:

The course offers an examination of the changing world of paid work in North America from a variety of theoretical perspectives. The focus includes the study of workplace organization, including various management strategies and workers' responses, as well as the effects of technological changes, the shift to a service economy, self-employment, and the changing demographic composition of the workforce.

Extra Information: 3 lecture 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
SOC2145A
Sociology of Work, Fall 2026

Instructor: Dr. Rachelle Miele (she/her)

Email: rmiele@uwo.ca

Office Hours (Zoom): Wednesday, 4:30-5:30 pm or by appointment

King's University College is on the traditional territories of the Anishinaabek, Haudenosaunee, Lūnaapéewak, and Chonnonton peoples. In our class, we are working towards reconciliation by learning about the history, experiences, and cultures of Indigenous peoples.

Course Description:

This course examines work sociologically and explores both paid and unpaid labour. In this class, we will consider how labour structures society, social life, and the ways in which work and social inequality are related. We will consider various sociological perspectives on work, how work has changed and will likely continue to change, and the ways in which labour organizes our society. Our course will be taught from an intersectional lens and will examine how work shapes and is shaped by our social locations including race, gender, class, sexualities, and disabilities. We will also explore how work is intertwined with social institutions, structures, and processes.

Course Learning Outcomes:

Upon the completion of this course, you will:

- Have a strong understanding of the main issues and debates related to work various sociological perspectives.
- Be able to critically examine and discuss how work is connected to inequality.
- Understand and critically discuss the role of social class, race, gender, sexuality, and disability in relation to work and labour.
- Refine your communication skills through class participation.
- Make connections between readings and pose effective questions.
- Improve your communication, writing, and analytic skills through course work.
- Reflect on your experiences and understand them in relation to course materials.

Mode of Instruction: In-person

Course Materials:

- **Required Text(s):**
 - Textbook: Krahn et al (2021). Work Industry, and Canadian Society. 8th Ed. Thomson Nelson. Available via the Western Bookstore (Cost: \$80)
 - Assigned academic journal articles (see weekly schedule) available for download through the library or on OWL

- **OWL Brightspace:** OWL will be used regularly for this course and will include course information/ schedule, assigned readings, and assignment instructions. I will also post announcements regularly. Please check our OWL site frequently.

Methods of Evaluation:

The overall course grade will be calculated as listed below:

- Class Engagement and Attendance (ongoing): 15%
- Weekly Reflections (ongoing, 3 total during designated weeks): 30% (10% each)
- Take-home midterm (October 28): 25%
- Final Project (two parts): 30%
 - Part 1: Final Project Proposal (November 18): 5%
 - Part 2: Final Project (December 9): 25%

Assignment Descriptions – See OWL for detailed instructions:

Class Engagement and Attendance (15%) – Ongoing

Each of our classes will include discussions and you will have the opportunity to discuss the topic at hand, ask questions, and bring in your own knowledge to our class. The third hour of our class will be used like a tutorial and may include class discussions, group work, and other activities. Your grade will include attendance and participation during lecture and class activities.

Weekly Reflections (30%) (3 x 10%) – Ongoing

In 400-600 words (around 1.5-2 pages double spaced), you will complete three reflections throughout the course answering a prompt given at the end of lecture. You must attend class in order to answer get the prompt. In your reflections, you will reflect on the weekly topic and course. The focus of this assignment is on reflecting on the topic, using your critical thinking skills, and applying the knowledge you have gained from the course. Reflections are due the week we cover the topic on Fridays at 11:59 pm. Full instructions will be posted on OWL. You must complete one reflection in the designated weeks below:

- Reflection 1: weeks 1 - 4
- Reflection 2: weeks 5 - 8
- Reflection 3: weeks 9 - 12

Take-Home Midterm (25%) – Due October 28 (before class)

During week 5, you will be given a choice of three prompts. Using course material, you are to respond to one prompt in an essay 5-7 pages double spaced (not including references). Full instructions will be posted on OWL.

Final Project (2 parts)

Your final assignment is your opportunity to explore a topic you are interested in relation to the sociology of work. A list of topics will be provided. You have two choices: (A) Written Project; (B) Alternative Medium. Full instructions will be posted on OWL.

- **Part 1: Final Project Proposal (5%) – Due November 18**
In 2-3 pages double spaced, outline your final assignment. The purpose of the proposal is for you to receive feedback and guidance before starting your project.
- **Part 2: Final Project (25%) – Due December 9**
Choice A: Written Project: Once you have decided on your project and topic, you will write a 6–8-page paper double spaced (not including reference list).
Choice B: Alternative Medium: In addition to your project, you will write a 2–3-page double spaced (not including reference list) description of your project.

Academic Considerations:

Please reach out to your professor via email if you need an extension for your written assignments (take home, reflections, proposal, final project). Together we will come to an agreement so that you can submit your written assignment without penalty.

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, at the following Web site:
http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/scholastic_discipline_undergrad.pdf
- Within this course, use of generative artificial intelligence (AI) tools (such as ChatGPT, 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.
- Notice of Turnitin Analysis: All assignment 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>).

Schedule of Classes, Readings, Assessments:

Week 1: Sep. 9

- **Introduction to the Course; What is “work”? Defining Work and Workers**
 - Review OWL and Syllabus

Week 2: Sep. 16

- **Classic Theories of Work**
 - Textbook: Intro and Chapter 1

Week 3: Sep. 23

- **Contemporary Perspectives on Work**
 - Textbook: Chapter 2

Sep. 30: National Day for Truth and Reconciliation (non-Instructional day)

Week 4: Oct. 7

- **Good Jobs, Bad Jobs, No Jobs: Class and The Labour Market**
 - Textbook: Chapter 4 and 5

Reading Week: Oct. 14 – Rest!

Week 5: Oct. 21 **Take-home midterm assigned**

- **Gender and 2SLGBTQIA+ Labour**
 - Textbook: Chapter 6

Week 6: Oct. 28 **Take-home midterm due before class**

- **Social Reproduction, Family, and Unpaid Labour**
 - Textbook: Chapter 7

Week 7: Nov. 4

- **2SLGBTQIA+ and Labour**
 - Article: Owens et al (2022)

Week 8: Nov. 11

- **Race, Racism, and Transnational Labour**
 - Articles: Tungohan et al (2015); Ashiagbor (2021)

Week 9: Nov. 18 **Final Project Proposal due before class**

- **Disabled Workers and the 'Ideal' Worker**
 - Article: Foster & Wass (2012)

Week 10: Nov. 25

- **Labour, Health, and the Body**
 - Article: Burgard and Lin (2013)

Week 11: Dec. 2

- **Unions and Industrial Relations**
 - Textbook: Chapter 11

Week 12: Dec. 9 **Final Project Due on OWL at 11:59 PM**

- **Work in the Future and Course Wrap Up**
 - Textbook: Chapter 12

**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.