



Sociology 3354f (570)
Migration, Strangers and Borders
Fall/ Winter 2026-2027

Instructor: A. Piekosz
Email: apiekos2@uwo.ca

Course Information

Calendar Description:

This course examines various fields of research related to religious experiences across borders. Specifically, it focuses on global religions and how migrants pack and unpack their beliefs and customs internationally, creating and recreating their relationship to their faith, religion, culture, and ethnicities..

Antirequisite(s): [Sociology 3327F/G](#) if taken in 2019-2020.

Prerequisite(s): Third or fourth year standing in a Sociology or Criminology module.

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.

SOC 3354F (570)
Migration, Strangers, and Borders
FALL 2026

Day & Time: Tuesdays 2:30-5:30pm
Professor: Dr. Agata Piękosz
Email: apiekos2@uwo.ca
Office Hours: Zoom (by appointment)

Course Description: This course examines various fields of research related to experiences across borders, examining ‘theories of migration’ and the ‘sociology of migration’. Overall, we unpack and examine ideas, themes, and theories related to migration (emigration/immigration). The first part of the course applies a classical and micro sociological approach and G. Simmel’s concept of the “The Stranger” (1908). Specifically, we focus on the various theoretical social types (stranger, sojourner, home comer, marginal man, cosmopolitan, etc.) to understand the real-life experiences that result from migration. The first part of the course examines the broad theoretical debates and ‘theories of migration’ in an attempt to define some strategies of assessment and interpretation. The first part focuses on concepts, and methods, for understanding the migration experience. The focus of the second part of the course is how the ‘theories’ and ‘methods’ have been applied in the contemporary field. Theories of social inclusion, social exclusion, belonging, and ethnic, cultural, racial as well as religious marginalization are examined in relation to the theories of migration.

Learning Goals & Outcomes:

1. Communicate sociological analyses in relevant formats, including written, oral, visual, and/or digital, using appropriate theoretical, scholarly, and/or empirical sources.
2. Demonstrate an ability to identify the various components of complex social issues
3. Evaluate the legitimacy of data sources and situate data within theoretical perspectives
4. Interrogate common-sense assumptions about local and global narratives of the social world and identify the connections between personal and societal issues
5. Engage self and others in ongoing reflection of taken-for-granted assumptions of human experiences through developing a growth mind-set that fosters perseverance towards challenging tasks

Students will be encouraged to think critically and engage analytically and philosophically about the migration experience (micro and macro). The readings allow students to gain insight into the various ways in which race, ethnicity, culture, and religion have been viewed by social scientists who study migration. The aim is to provide students with a *sociological* lens through which to be able to interpret the importance of ‘strangers’ and ‘strangeness’ as it relates to migration. Overall, the goal is to become confident with some of the standard language associated with migrants, migration, and migrations.

Readings: Students will find most (if not all) required readings through the on-line library search/data base/archives and library catalogue. Also articles will be provided on Brightspace. At no extra cost.

Email & Communication

I respond to emails within 48hrs. If you do not hear from me, follow up! Maybe I missed the first part of our communication. When emailing, please be formal, and respectful, that is always appreciated. When asking questions, please check and double check the **syllabus** and then ask for points of clarification. It is important that we communicate through the UWO email system – that is best. If you are ever in doubt, things are unclear, you need to talk about ideas, concepts or get points of clarification I am always open and willing to help.

AI Use and Academic Integrity

Students are expected to complete all assignments, exams, and coursework independently, demonstrating their own understanding and effort. 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. The use of AI tools to generate answers or complete assignments will be noted as a violation of academic integrity. Please ensure all work submitted is your own and reflects your honest effort.

Method of Evaluation:

To Do	% of Grade	Due Date
Reading Response #1	15%	October 27, 2026
In-Class Movie Assessment	30%	November 3, 2026
Reading Response #2	15%	December 8, 2026
Final Exam	30%	Exam Period
Participation	10%	Ongoing

LECTURE SCHEDULE & READING LIST

	<i>Date</i>	<i>Topics & Readings</i>
1	September 15, 2026	Introduction, explanation, deadlines Discuss Race, Ethnicity & Culture
2	September 22, 2026	Why Simmel? History Read "The Stranger" (1908) Simmel Classical vs. Contemporary Migration Theory
3	September 29, 2026	Various Types of Strangers Early Critiques & Application "Typology of Strangers" (Levine)
4	October 6, 2026	Various Strangers "Sojourner" (Siu) & "Marginal Man" (Park)
5	<i>Reading Week</i>	<i>October 10 – 18 No Classes</i>
6	October 20, 2026	Various Strangers "The Homecomer" (Schütz) Culture (Culture Shock), Acculturation, (Re)Adaptation
7	October 27, 2026	Sociology of Migration Overview How to critique and conceptualize Preparation for Movie Assessment - strategies for applying concepts and methodologies to film. *Reading Response #1 Due
8	November 3, 2026	In Class Movie Review (3hrs)

9	November 10, 2026	Sociology of Migration: Settlement Paradigm Race & Assimilation Group Conflict
10	November 17, 2026	Sociology of Migration: Settlement Paradigm Assimilation & Context of Reception The Second Generation
11	November 24, 2026	Theories of Migration: Mobility Paradigm Transnationalism Ties & Transnational Actors Ethnocentrism & Acculturation
12	December 8, 2026	Theories of Migration: Mobility Paradigm Transnational Ties & Globalism Ties to Home, Reverse Culture Shock *Review *Reading Response #2 Due
14	December Exam Period	Cumulative Final Exam

Method of Evaluation

Reading Responses

There are two ‘critical writing reflections’ or ‘reading responses’ each worth 15% of the final grade (30% total). The reflections require students to define, interpret, and critique or assess central concepts discussed in class and lecture. Detailed instructions and the substantive questions will be provided throughout the term in advance of the deadlines. The substantive questions aim to address specific elements from the required text. Instructions and information will be posted on Brightspace.

- **Title Page:** With title of work, your name, student number, date, course code
- **Font:** 12-point Times New Roman
- **Spacing:** Entire paper **double-spaced**, including references.
- **Margins:** **1 inch** on all sides.
- **Alignment:** Left-aligned text (not justified).
- **Page numbers:** Number pages in the **bottom right**
- **Reference page:** by last name of first author, in alphabetical order
- **Subheadings are acceptable**

Movie Assessment (In-Class)

There is one ‘movie assessment’ (30%). The ‘movie assessment’ asks students to comment on, critique, and analyze a documentary feature using some of the central concepts discussed. The goal of this assessment is an ‘application’ of core concepts learned in the first part of the term. Detailed instructions will be provided leading up to the date of the in-class assessment.

Final Exam

There is one (1) final CUMULATIVE EXAM occurring during the December Exam period (30%). The Final Exam will focus on concepts reviewed throughout the term that relate to details, examples, and topics on the 'sociology of migration' and 'migration theory'. The test will be multiple choice, and true and false, and covers all the material from lectures and required readings.

Participation

Participation is calculated based on the attendance in lecture ('question of the day'). The 'question of the day' is posted at the end of each substantive lecture, students have until the end of the day at 11:55pm to complete the question on OWL. The answers must reflect the content of each lecture (specific to that week). Students are required to complete all the 'questions', each week. Marks are also awarded for being present and taking an active part in discussions and in (independent & group) weekly tasks. In total, participation is worth 10% of the final grade.

Accommodations & Submissions & Penalties

Requests for accommodations for *all* assignments and exams must be made well *in advance* of the due date. It is important to follow King's policy on all late or missed deadlines. Please make sure that you are aware of your options when it comes to special accommodations. Requests may be granted if there are legitimate medical or compassionate grounds only. In these cases, documentation must be submitted (*see Kings Policy).

Online OWL Submissions

When submitting your assignments, please ensure that your full name for the submissions is used. For example (SmithLucy)(Assignment1)(2026) is very neat and legible, this helps the professor identify your work. Late assignments are not accepted 5 days past the deadline. Late penalties are 10% per day, including weekends.

**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.