

**BRESCIA UNIVERSITY COLLEGE**  
**DIVISION OF SOCIOLOGY AND FAMILY STUDIES**  
**SOCIOLOGY 2239/530**  
**Social Inequality**  
**2011-2012**

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Office hours: Tuesdays 1:30-3:00 pm, or by appointment

Class Time: Tuesdays 7:00-10:00 pm, Room BRW 153.

**Course Description**

This course examines sociological approaches to social inequality with special attention to issues of class, gender, 'race', ethnicity and sexuality. The course will deal mainly with North America, but will also attempt to connect this continent with global issues. Initially the course will overview major social theories of inequality, then will move to cover topics such as colonialism, nationalism, ethnoracial inequality, gender inequality and heterosexism. We will also investigate possible strategies of resistance and social change to eradicate systemic social inequality.

**Course Objectives**

By the end of the course, the student will be able to:

- define the basic sociological concepts of social inequality - racism, sexism, classism, ageism, nationalism, colonialism, heterosexism, homophobia, homelessness, and globalization.
- address how the different forms of inequality coalesce with each other and often reinforce each other.
- understand historical changes in social stratification, social class, and social inequality, particularly in North America.
- assess and compare the leading theories in the field of social inequality.
- critique the usefulness of the leading theories of social inequality in explaining the nature and extent of social inequality in contemporary North American societies.
- think creatively of effective ways of reducing inequality in Canada and globally.

**Prerequisites**

Sociology 1020 or 1021E, formerly Sociology 020 or 020E. Unless you have either the requisites for this course or written special permission from your Dean to enrol in it, you will 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.

**Antirequisite**

None

**Course Materials**

1. Grabb, Edward G. (ed) 5th edition. 2007. *Theories of Social Inequality: Classical and Contemporary Perspectives*. Toronto, ON: Thomson/Nelson.
2. *Selected Readings on Social Inequality*. 2011. Course Reading Package available at the UWO Bookstore.

### **Evaluation and Exam Schedule**

In Class Test #1 (October 25<sup>th</sup>, 2011) 15% of total mark  
Midterm Exam (TBS- December Exam Period) 25% of total mark  
In Class Test #2 (March 6<sup>th</sup>, 2012) 15% of total mark  
Final Exam (TBS – April Exam Period) 30% of total mark  
Group Presentation (TBS) 15% of total mark

### **Class Attendance**

Good class attendance is critical to getting the most out of this course. There is a direct correlation between attendance in class and marks achieved by students. While readings and class lectures fit together, some material will only be covered in class. You are responsible for everything that occurs during class time including discussions, videos, guest speakers, group presentations, etc. You are also responsible for any announcements made during class. It is a good idea to buddy up with a classmate, in order to exchange notes if you must miss a class, since lectures notes will not be supplied to students. Some videos shown in class may be available in the library, others can be rented from video stores, but others will not be available for private viewing. Please note that the instructor does not post lecture notes, therefore if you need to miss a class, it is your responsibility to borrow notes from a classmate.

### **Laptops and Cell Phones in the Classroom**

All cell phones will be turned off before class and put away. No texting or chatting online allowed during class. Doing so will be considered disruptive and you could be asked to leave. Laptops are allowed during lectures but only for taking notes and taking part in other class activities, not for surfing the net or chatting on line. However, laptops are **not** allowed during group presentations, as in the past some students have been found to surf the net or chat on line and this has been very disruptive and disrespectful towards the presenters. As you are responsible for all class material, including group presentations, it is in your best interest to be attentive during presentations and take notes.

### **Examinations**

The examinations will cover all course material, including lectures, assigned readings, class discussions, films, guest presenters, etc. They may include multiple choice questions, short answer questions, true/false questions and essay questions. No electronic devices are permitted in exams.

### **Grades**

Due to privacy regulations, I am unable to send marks or discuss issues regarding grades by email. Please see me during my office hours. Midterm exam grades will be posted to the web-ct when they become available (within two weeks of the exam). Final exam grades will not be available until approved by the department. PLEASE NOTE, there will be NO extra work assigned for the purpose of improving grades. It is unfair to other students in the class who are not given the same opportunity. Also, I am unable to increase marks unless warranted. PLEASE DON'T ASK!

### **Compassionate Grounds**

Serious Illness of a Family Member: Inform your instructor as soon as possible and submit a medical certificate from the family member's physician to your home faculty's Academic Counselling office.

In Case of a Death: Inform your instructor as soon as possible and submit a copy of the newspaper notice, death certificate or documentation provided by the funeral director to your home faculty's Academic Counselling office.

**PLEASE NOTE:**

For academic accommodation to be considered for any course component worth less than 10% of the final course grade, it is the responsibility of the student to approach the course instructor(s) in a timely fashion. Documentation may be required to be submitted to the academic advisor. If documentation is required, the request for accommodation will be decided by the academic advisor in consultation with the instructor. If documentation is not required, the instructor will make the final decision as to whether or not accommodation will be granted. The policies governing requests for academic accommodation for course components worth 10% or more of the course grade are outlined in the Academic Policies section included at the end of the course outline.

**EXPLANATION OF ASSIGNMENTS & OTHER EVALUATION CRITERIA:**

**A. Group Presentation (15% of Final Mark)**

In groups of 3-4 students, there will be presentations. Each group will be presenting on a topic dealing with social inequality randomly drawn from a number of selections provided by the instructor. Students can choose own members but dates of presentation as well as topic will be randomly drawn. In order to present on given topic, students will have to apply relevant required readings to the given topic and present what they found to the class. They can present material in whatever format/structure they wish (e.g. power point presentation, debate, class activity, show a brief film clip and discuss its relevance to the presentation, mock trial, etc, and any combination of these). They need to submit a brief summary (2 pages, single-spaced) to the instructor with the titles of the readings applied in their presentation. The group will be evaluated by the instructor (10 marks) as well as the rest of the class (5 marks). They will be evaluated on the strengths and quality of the sociological research, on creativity, originality, style, ability to engage class into discussion. The presentation is to last approximately 45 minutes, including discussion time. Please pay attention to your time! Instructor will give you a warning sign when you approach the 40 minutes, and then you must wrap up and conclude your presentation. In the event that a student misses to present on the given day that her/his group was to present, he/she will receive 0. There are no makeup. If she/he presents documentation from a doctor that indicates that due to illness, he/she could not come to class on that day and present, a small written assignment will substitute the group presentation (details on this will be given to student in case such a situation arises). More information about the presentation will be given on first week of classes and we will schedule dates of presentation during the first week of classes.

**B. In-Class Test #1 (15% of Final Mark)**

On October 25<sup>th</sup>, 2011 there will be a **2 hour** in-class test on **all** class material, including videos and presentations, covered from first week of classes. The test will be a mixed format, constituting of true/false questions and short answers.

**C. December Mid- Term Exam TBS ( 25% of Final Mark)**

This is a **2 hour exam** on **all** class material covered from first week of class until December 6<sup>th</sup>, 2011, including presentations and videos. The test will be a mixed format, constituting of true/false, multiple choice questions, and short answers.

**D. In-Class Test #2 (15% of Final Mark)**

On March 6<sup>th</sup> 2012 there will be a **2 hour** in-class test on **all** course material from January 10<sup>th</sup>, 2012 until March 6<sup>th</sup> 2012, including presentations and videos. The format of the test will be mixed, including true/false questions, multiple choice questions and short answers.

**E. Final Exam (30% of Final Mark)**

During the April Exam Period there will be a **3 hour exam** on all course material from January 10<sup>th</sup> 2012 until last day of classes, including presentations and videos. The format of the test will be mixed, including true-false questions, multiple choice questions, short answers and one long essay question.

### **Schedule of Topics & Readings**

**September 13: Introduction to the course**

**September 20: Introduction to Social Inequality**

***Required Readings:***

- Grabb, Ch. 1
- Reading Package: "Stratification in Perspective"

**September 27: Karl Marx on Social Inequality**

***Required Readings:***

- Grabb, Ch. 2

**October 4: Karl Marx on Ideology**

***Required Readings:***

- Reading Package: "The German Ideology: Part 1"

**October 11: Max Weber on Social Inequality**

***Required Readings:***

- Grabb, Ch. 3

**October 18: Emile Durkheim on Social Inequality**

***Required Readings:***

- Grabb, Ch. 4

**October 25: In-Class Test!!**

**November 1: Structural Functionalist Approach**

***Required Readings:***

- Grabb, Ch. 5

**November 8: Recent Approaches to Social Inequality**

***Required Readings:***

- Reading Package: "Five Faces of Oppression"
- Reading Package: "Beginning the Debate" & "Defining Homelessness"

## **November 15: Theories of Gender Inequality**

### ***Required Readings:***

- Reading Package: “Liberal, Socialist, and Radical Feminism: An Introduction to Three Theories about Women’s Oppression and Social Change”
- Reading Package: “Introduction: Making What Will Become”

## **November 22: Gender and Work**

### ***Required Readings:***

- Reading Package: “Fragmentation and Feminization: The Challenge of Equity for Labour-Relations Policy”
- Reading Package: “Why Privatization is a Women’s Issue”

## **November 29: Gender and Sport**

### ***Required Readings:***

- Reading Package: “The Incredible Shrinking Woman”
- Reading Package: “Men, Masculinities, War, and Sport”

## **December 6: 2 Group Presentations and a bit of a review**

## **January 10: Colonialism and Nationalism**

### ***Required Readings:***

- Carty, L. “The Discourse of Empire and the Social Construction of Gender”, in Reading Package.
- Mackey, E. “Settling Differences: Managing and Representing People and Land in the Canadian National Project”, in Reading Package.

## **January 17: First Nations Peoples and Inequality**

### ***Required Readings:***

- Fleras & Elliott. “First Nations”, in Reading Package.

## **January 24: 2 Group Presentations**

## **January 31: First Nations Women**

### ***Required Readings:***

- Stevenson W. “Colonialism and First Nations Women in Canada”, in Reading Package.
- Gehl, L. “The Queen and I: Discrimination against Women in the *Indian Act* Continues”, in Reading Package.

## **February 7: Racism in Canada**

### ***Required Readings:***

- Henry F. “Racism in Canadian History”, in Reading Package.

## **February 14: Black Feminism**

### ***Required Readings:***

- Collins, P. “The Politics of Black Feminist Thought”, in Reading Package.
- Collins, P. “Defining Black Feminist Thought”, in Reading Package.
  - **Group Presentation**

## **February 20-24 Reading Week! No Classes**

## **February 28: Race and Gender in Contemporary Canadian Context**

### ***Required Readings:***

- Yee, M. "Finding the Way Home through Issues of Gender, Race and Class", in Reading Package.
- Desai, S. "But You are Different: In Conversation with a Friend", in Reading Package.
  - **Group Presentation**

## **March 6: IN-CLASS TEST (2 HOURS)**

### **March 13: Heterosexuality and Homophobia**

- O'Brien C. & Goldberg A. "Lesbian and Gay Men Inside and Outside Families", in Reading Package.
- Lahey, K. & Alderson, K. "Blocking Queer Marriage: Canada, the U.S. & Europe", in Reading Package.
  - **Group Presentation**

### **March 20: Aging and Ageism**

#### ***Required Readings:***

- McMullin, J. "Age and Inequality", in Reading Package.
- Gillin, C.T. & Klassen, T.R. "Retire Mandatory Retirement", in Reading Package.
  - **Group Presentation**

### **March 27: Racism and Policing**

#### ***Required Readings:***

- Henry, F. "Racism and Policing", in Reading Package.

### **April 3: Law and Inequality**

#### ***Required Readings:***

- Monture-Angus P. "Standing Against Canadian Law", in Reading Package.
- Gavigan. "Poverty Law, Theory, and Practice", in Reading Package.
  - **Group Presentation**

### **April 10: Creating Change: Institutional Responses**

#### ***Required Readings:***

- Dei, G. "The Politics of Educational Change", in Reading Package.
- Henry, F. "State Responses to Racism in Canada", in Reading Package.
  - **Group Presentation**

If you need some assistance with your writing, here is some information about Brescia's Writing Centre:



**Brescia Writing Centre**    St. James, Room 40

Hours: Open 5 days a week. Check our web page for details  
Appointments: Drop in or email [jellsw03@uwo.ca](mailto:jellsw03@uwo.ca)

[http://www.brescia.uwo.ca/campus\\_life/campus\\_services/writing\\_center/](http://www.brescia.uwo.ca/campus_life/campus_services/writing_center/) 

## SEE BELOW FOR BRESCIA UNIVERSITY COLLEGE ACADEMIC POLICIES AND REGULATIONS!

### BRESCIA UNIVERSITY COLLEGE ACADEMIC POLICIES AND REGULATIONS

#### 1. POLICY REGARDING MAKEUP EXAMS AND EXTENSIONS OF DEADLINES

When a student requests academic accommodation (e.g., extension of a deadline, a makeup exam) for work representing 10% or more of the student's overall grade in the course, it is the responsibility of the student to provide acceptable documentation to support a medical or compassionate claim. All such requests for academic accommodation **must** be made through an Academic Advisor and include supporting documentation. Academic accommodation on medical grounds will be granted only if the documentation indicates that the onset, duration and severity of the illness are such that the student could not reasonably be expected to complete her academic responsibilities. Appropriate academic accommodation will be determined by the Dean's Office in consultation with the student's instructor(s). Please note that personal commitments (e.g., vacation flight bookings, work schedule) which conflict with a scheduled test, exam or course requirement are not grounds for academic accommodation.

If supporting documentation is from a family physician, Hospital Urgent Care Centre or Emergency Department, or a walk-in clinic a UWO Student Medical Certificate (SMC) is **required**. To download an SMC go to <https://studentservices.uwo.ca/secure/index.cfm> and follow the link under "Medical Documentation". Documentation should be obtained at the time of the initial visit. If it is not possible to have an SMC completed by the attending physician, the student must request documentation sufficient to demonstrate that her ability to meet academic responsibilities was seriously affected. Please note that under University Senate regulations document-ation stating simply that the student "was seen for a medical reason" or "was ill" is **not** considered adequate to support a request for academic accommodation. All documentation is to be submitted to an Academic Advisor.

Whenever possible, requests for academic accommodation should be initiated in advance of due dates, examination dates, etc. Students must follow up with their professors and Academic Advisor in a timely manner.

The full statement of University policy regarding extensions of deadlines or makeup exams can be found at <http://www.westerncalendar.uwo.ca/2011/pg117.html>.

#### 2. ACADEMIC CONCERNS

If you feel that you have a medical or personal problem that is interfering with your work, contact your instructor and Academic Advisor as soon as possible. Problems may then be documented and possible arrangements to assist you can be discussed at the time of occurrence rather than on a retroactive basis. Retroactive requests for academic accommodation on medical or compassionate grounds may not be considered.

If you think that you are too far behind to catch up or that your work load is not manageable, you should consult an Academic Advisor. If you consider reducing your workload by dropping one or more courses, this must be done by the appropriate deadlines (refer to the Registrar's website, [www.registrar.uwo.ca](http://www.registrar.uwo.ca), for official dates). You should consult with the course instructor and the Academic Advisor who can help you consider alternatives to dropping one or more courses. *Note that dropping a course may affect OSAP eligibility and/or Entrance Scholarship eligibility.*

The Dean may refuse permission to write the final examination in a course if the student has failed to maintain satisfactory academic standing throughout the year or for too frequent absence from the class or laboratory.

### 3. ABSENCES

**Short Absences:** If you miss a class due to a minor illness or other problems, check your course outline for information regarding attendance requirements and make sure you are not missing a test or assignment. Cover any readings and arrange to borrow notes from a classmate. Contact the course instructor if you have any questions.

**Extended Absences:** If you have an extended absence, you should contact the course instructor and an Academic Advisor. Your course instructor and Academic Advisor can discuss ways for you to catch up on missed work and arrange academic accommodations, if appropriate.

### 4. POLICY ON CHEATING & ACADEMIC MISCONDUCT

Students are responsible for understanding the nature of and avoiding the occurrence of plagiarism and other academic offences. Students are urged to read the section on Scholastic Offences in the Academic Calendar. Note that such offences include plagiarism, cheating on an examination, submitting false or fraudulent assignments or credentials, impersonating a candidate, or submitting for credit in any course without the knowledge and approval of the instructor to whom it is submitted, any academic work for which credit has previously been obtained or is being sought in another course in the University or elsewhere. Students are advised to consult the section on Academic Misconduct in the Western Academic Calendar.

If you are in doubt about whether what you are doing is inappropriate or not, consult your instructor, the Student Services Centre, or the Registrar. A claim that "you didn't know it was wrong" is not accepted as an excuse.

The penalties for a student guilty of a scholastic offence (including plagiarism) include refusal of a passing grade in the assignment, refusal of a passing grade in the course, suspension from the University, and expulsion from the University.

#### **Plagiarism:**

Students must write their essays and assignments in their own words. Whenever students take an idea or a passage from another author, they must acknowledge their debt both by using quotation marks where appropriate and by proper referencing such as footnotes or citations. Plagiarism is a major academic offence (see Scholastic Offence Policy in the Western Academic Calendar).

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.

#### **Computer-marked Tests/exams:**

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. Software currently in use to score computer-marked multiple-choice tests and exams performs a similarity

review as part of standard exam analysis.

## **5. PROCEDURES FOR APPEALING ACADEMIC EVALUATIONS**

All appeals of a grade must be directed first to the course instructor. If the student is not satisfied with the decision of the course instructor, a written appeal signed by the student must be sent to the Department Chair. If the response of the department is considered unsatisfactory to the student, she may then submit a signed, written appeal to the Office of the Dean. Only after receiving a final decision from the Dean may a student appeal to the Senate Review Board Academic. A Guide to Appeals is available from the Ombudsperson's Office, or you can consult an Academic Advisor. Students are advised to consult the section on Academic Rights and Responsibilities in the Western Academic Calendar.

## **6. PREREQUISITES AND ANTIREQUISITES**

Unless you have either the prerequisites for a course or written special permission from your Dean to enroll in it, you will be removed from the 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.

Similarly, you will also be deleted from a class list if you have previously taken an antirequisite course unless this has the approval of the Dean. These decisions may not be appealed. You will receive no adjustment to your fees in the event that you are dropped from a course because you have taken an antirequisite course.

## **7. SUPPORT SERVICES**

The Brescia University College Registrar's website, with a link to Academic Advisors, is at [http://www.brescia.uwo.ca/academics/registrar\\_services/index.html](http://www.brescia.uwo.ca/academics/registrar_services/index.html).

The University of Western Ontario Registrar's website is at <http://www.registrar.uwo.ca/index.cfm>

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Portions of this document were taken from the Academic Calendar, the Handbook of Academic and Scholarship Policy and the Academic Handbook of Senate Regulations. This document is a summary of relevant regulations and does not supersede the academic policies and regulations of the Senate of the University of Western Ontario.