



**Brescia University College**  
**Department of Sociology**  
**Social Inequality in Canada**  
**Sociology 2228A**  
**Fall 2017**

**Instructor:** Rebecca Collins-Nelsen

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**Class Times:** Thurs. 6:30 pm – 9:30 pm in BR-302

**Office Hours:** Wednesdays 1:25pm – 2:25 pm or by appointment   **Office:** UH-352

**Prerequisite(s):** 1.0 from Sociology courses at the 1000 level

**Antirequisite:** Sociology 2239

**Course Description**

This course is designed to introduce you to theories and concepts related to social inequality in Canada. Patterns of privilege and inequality are all around us and this class will use an intersectional framework to highlight these patterns in the Canadian context. Specifically we will discuss inequality as it relates to the intersections of class, gender, race, ethnicity, sexualities, (dis)ability, age, and so on. We will also discuss how processes of inequality operate in relation to social institutions including education, health, and family. Throughout this course you will be asked to critically think about the interplay of privilege and inequality in the social world around you.

**Learning Outcomes**

When you have completed this course you should be able to:

- Define and discuss varying sociological concepts and theories related to social inequality (Critical Thinking; Inquiry & Analysis)
- Use an intersectional framework to think critically about the social inequality (Critical Thinking; Social Awareness and Engagement)

- Describe the relationship between inequality and a variety of axes of difference, including, class, race, ethnicity, age, gender, sexual orientation, and so on (Inquiry & Analysis; Problem Solving)
- Understand the relationship between agency and structure in reinforcing social inequality in Canada (Critical Thinking; Valuing)
- Critically reflect and discuss scholarly literature and perspectives on social inequality (Critical Thinking; Communication; Social Awareness & Engagement)
- Communicate sociological analyses about inequality in verbal and written form (Communication; Critical Thinking)

### **Required Reading Materials**

McMullin, Julie and Josh Curtis. 2017. *Understanding Social Inequality: Intersections of Class, Age, Gender, Ethnicity, and Race in Canada*. Don Mills, Ontario: Oxford University Press.

Articles and book chapters posted on OWL (See Course Schedule below for author names and OWL for a list with full citations)

*It is essential that readings are done prior to class as the lectures and class discussions are designed under the assumption that students have read the required material.*

### **Grading Scheme**

		<b>Applicable Brescia Competencies</b>
<b>Attendance/Participation</b>	<b>10%</b>	Communication, Critical Thinking, Self-Awareness and Development, Social Awareness and Engagement, Valuing
<b>Mid Term Exam</b>	<b>35%</b>	Critical Thinking, Problem Solving, Social Awareness and Engagement, Communication, Inquiry and Analysis
<b>Final Exam</b>	<b>35%</b>	Critical Thinking, Problem Solving, Social Awareness and Engagement, Communication, Inquiry and Analysis
<b>Critical Reflection</b>	<b>20%</b>	Critical Thinking, Communication, Inquiry and Analysis, Self-Awareness and Development

### **Class Participation**

Participation will be graded based on student contributions to class discussions and group work. One of the advantages of Brescia is smaller classroom sizes so it is important that we take

advantage of this opportunity to engage with each other. There will be class discussion questions throughout lectures as well as activities that will require small group discussion. Participation grades will be based on a combination of your attendance and the frequency and quality of your participation in class and small group discussion.

### **Critical Reflection**

The assignment will consist of writing a critical reflection based on one of the topics covered in class. Regardless of the topic you choose you should employ an intersectional analysis. The expectation is that you will engage with the material covered in class and use at least **5 academic and peer-reviewed** resources in your paper (2 can be from class readings). You are welcome to draw on your own experiences of inequality and/or privilege but this is by no means an opinion paper and you will need to engage with relevant debates discussed in class. Your paper should be **5 to 7 pages** in length. All assignments must be submitted in the form of a hardcopy. The assignment can be handed in during class on **November 30<sup>th</sup>**. There will be a 5% late penalty per day if the assignment is handed in late. Further details about the assignment will be provided in class.

### **Exams**

There will be two exams throughout this course. The mid-term exam will take place during class time on **Thursday, October 19<sup>th</sup>**. The final exam will happen during the final exam period, therefore the date and location will be set by the registrar's office. All exams will be based on a combination of the required readings and anything that has been covered up until that time during class. This can include information that was learned through class discussion, a video shown in class, and so on. It should be evident that consistently coming to class, paying close attention, and taking effective notes will be extremely important for success in this course. If you must miss a class I would highly recommend acquiring the notes from a fellow class member or you risk missing information that may be on an exam. The exam may contain multiple choice, short answer and/or essay questions. More information will be given at least two classes before each scheduled exam.

## Course Schedule

*Note: This schedule is subject to minor changes*

<b>Intersession Course</b>		
<b>Day</b>	<b>Topic</b>	<b>Readings</b>
Sept. 7 <sup>th</sup>	Introduction	Ch. 1
Sept. 14 <sup>th</sup>	Class and Inequality	Ch. 2 Nelsen (2017)
Sept. 21 <sup>st</sup>	Gender and Inequality	Ch. 3 Fleras (2017)
Sept. 28 <sup>th</sup>	Sexualities and Inequality	Logie, James, Tharao and Loutfy (2012) Giwa and Greensmith (2012)
Oct. 5 <sup>th</sup>	Race, Ethnicity, and Inequality	Ch. 4 Marshall (2017)
Oct. 12 <sup>th</sup>	Inequality related to Age and (Dis) Ability	Ch. 5 Shuey, Wilson, Bouchard (2007)
<b>Oct. 19<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>Fall Reading Week</b>	<b>No Reading</b>
<b>Oct. 26<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>Mid Term</b>	<b>STUDY</b>
Nov. 2 <sup>nd</sup>	Actors and Agency	Ch. 6 and Ch. 7
Nov. 9 <sup>th</sup>	Families, Domestic Labour, and Reproduction	Ch.8 Fox (2009)
Nov. 16 <sup>th</sup>	CAGE (s) Paid Work and Education	Ch. 9 and 10
Nov. 23 <sup>rd</sup>	Colonialism and Inequality	Menzies and Hwang (2017) Amadahy (2003)
Nov. 30 <sup>th</sup>	CAGE (s) Health and the State	Ch. 11 and 12 <b>Critical Reflection DUE</b>
Dec. 7 <sup>th</sup>	Equality, Politics, Platforms and Policy Issues	Ch. 13 Hwang and Grabb (2017)
<b>Final Exam</b> during final exam period – Date and Location set by Registrar’s Office		

## **2017-18 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 for illness 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. Minor ailments typically treated by over-the-counter medications will not normally be accommodated. Documentation shall be submitted as soon as possible to the student’s Academic Advisor indicating the period of illness and when the student should be able to resume academic responsibilities. Students must submit their documentation along with a request for relief specifying the nature of the accommodation being requested no later than two business days after the date specified for resuming 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.

A UWO Student Medical Certificate (SMC) is **required** if a student is seeking academic accommodation on medical grounds. This documentation should be obtained at the time of the initial consultation with the physician/nurse practitioner or walk-in clinic. A SMC can be downloaded from: [http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic\\_policies/appeals/medicalform.pdf](http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/medicalform.pdf). 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 documentation stating simply that the student "was seen for a medical reason" or "was ill" is **not** adequate to support a request for academic accommodation.

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 policy on requesting accommodation due to illness can be viewed at:

<http://westerncalendar.uwo.ca/2017/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, <http://brescia.uwo.ca/academics/registrar-services/> or the list of official dates <http://westerncalendar.uwo.ca/2017/pg7.html> ). 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 (<http://westerncalendar.uwo.ca/2017/pg130.html> )

## 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

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](http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/scholastic_discipline_undergrad.pdf).

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 (<http://www.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 Student Academic Appeals under Academic Rights and Responsibilities in the Western Academic Calendar (<http://westerncalendar.uwo.ca/2017/pg112.html>).

Note that final course marks are not official until the Academic Dean has reviewed and signed the final grade report for the course. If course marks deviate from acceptable and appropriate standards, the Academic Dean may require grades to be adjusted to align them with accepted grading practices ([http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic\\_policies/exam/evaluation\\_undergrad.pdf](http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/exam/evaluation_undergrad.pdf) and [http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic\\_policies/exam/finalgrades.pdf](http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/exam/finalgrades.pdf)).

## **6. PREREQUISITES**

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 prerequisite(s).

## **7. SUPPORT**

### **Support Services**

The Brescia University College Registrar's website, with a link to Academic Advisors, is at <http://brescia.uwo.ca/academics/registrar-services/>. The website for the Student Development Centre at Western is <http://www.sdc.uwo.ca/>.

### **Mental Health and Wellness**

Students may experience a range of issues that can cause barriers to your learning, such as increased anxiety, feeling overwhelmed, feeling down or lost, difficulty concentrating and/or lack of motivation. Services are available to assist you with addressing these and other concerns you may be experiencing. You can learn more about mental health and wellness at Brescia at <http://brescia.uwo.ca/life/mental-health-wellness/>. Students who are in emotional/mental distress should refer to Mental\_Health@Western <http://www.uwo.ca/uwocom/mentalhealth/> for a complete list of options about how to obtain help.

### **Sexual Violence**

All members of the Brescia University College community have a right to work and study in an environment that is free from any form of sexual violence. Brescia University College recognizes that the prevention of, and response to, Sexual Violence is of particular importance in the university environment. Sexual Violence is strictly prohibited and unacceptable and will not be tolerated. Brescia is committed to preventing Sexual Violence and creating a safe space for anyone in the Brescia community who has experienced Sexual Violence.

If you or someone you know has experienced any form of Sexual Violence, you may access resources at <http://brescia.uwo.ca/life/sexual-violence/>.

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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.