

**BRESCIA UNIVERSITY COLLEGE**  
**Department of Sociology**

**Sociology 1050A:**  
**An Introduction to Community, Service and Active Citizenship**  
**Fall 2020**

Course Director: Professor Julie N. Young  
Office: Face to face meetings take place in the Mercato  
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Class Time:  
Fridays 8:30am-11:30am  
Office Hours (Term 1):  
Fridays 11:30am via ZOOM  
Or, by appointment

**NOTE:**

*Sociology 1050A is strongly recommended for further coursework in Community Development and admission into a Community Development Module. Sociology 1050A does not serve as a prerequisite for other Sociology courses and may not be used to fulfill the requirements for entry into the Sociology modules.*

**COURSE DESCRIPTION:**

*“Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful committed citizens can change the world; indeed, it’s the only thing that ever has”. (Margaret Mead)*

This first year course will appeal to those who are interested in becoming active, socially informed citizens. Specifically, students will be introduced to the interdisciplinary study of community and community development through service-learning. By connecting with individuals beyond our campus, students will apply what they are learning in the classroom to real world settings. With the goal of becoming more “diversity-competent”, engaged citizens, students will participate in two community experiences. Through a combination of classroom and experiential learning, emphasis will be placed on how our diverse, individual identities influence/impact the communities in which we live.

**REQUIRED READINGS:**

Anzovino, Theresa. Deborah Boutilier. *Walk a Mile: Experiencing and Understanding Diversity in Canada*. Toronto: Nelson Education Ltd, 2015.

Collaborative for Neighbourhood Transformation. *What is Asset-Based Community Development (ABCD)*. Evanston, IL: ABCD Institute 2015.

**NOTE: this is a free, downloadable 3 page reading)**

Delgado, Richard, Jean Stefancic, and Angela Harris. 2018. *Critical Race Theory: An*

*Introduction*. Third edition. New York: New York University Press.

Hill Collins, Patricia. 2014. "The Politics of Black Feminist Thought." Pp. 1-19 in *Black Feminist Thought : Knowledge, Consciousness, and the Politics of Empowerment*. 2nd edition. London: Routledge.

McKnight, John. Peter Block. *The Abundant Community: Awakening the Power of Families and Neighbourhoods*. San Francisco: Berrett- Koehler Publishers, Inc. 2012

**LEARNING OUTCOMES (Competencies in Brackets)**

Upon completion of this course students will be able to:

1. **Demonstrate** an understanding of the following concepts: community, abundant community and community development (Critical Thinking L1, Inquiry and Analysis L1)
2. **Explain** the concept and process of becoming diversity-competent (Communication L1, Critical Thinking L1, Self-Awareness and Development L1, Social Awareness and Engagement L1, Valuing L1)
3. **Identify** the effects of prejudice and discrimination on diverse groups (Critical Thinking L1, Inquiry and Analysis L1, Social Awareness and Engagement L1, Valuing L1 )
4. **Apply** principles of community development and diversity competence through service-learning (Communication L1, Critical Thinking L1, Inquiry and Analysis L1, Self-Awareness and Development L1, Social Awareness and Engagement L1, Valuing L1)
5. **Strategize**, in collaboration with others, to create more inclusive and equitable communities (Critical Thinking L1, Social Awareness and Engagement L1, Valuing L1).

*Students may vary in their competency levels on these outcomes. They can expect to achieve these outcomes if they honor course policies, attend classes regularly, complete all assigned work in good faith and on time, and meet all other course expectations of them as students. (Linda Nilson, Teaching at its Best, 2010: 37).*

**ASSIGNMENTS AND GRADING STRUCTURE:**

<b>Assignment</b>	<b>Value of Assignment</b>	<b>Learning Outcomes</b>
'Pay it Forward' Assignment	20%	1, 2, 3
Service-Learning Journal Assignment	20%	1, 2, 3, 4, 5
Reflections	25%	1, 2, 3, 4, 5
Final Exam (Take-Home)	35%	1, 2, 3

**DETAILED BREAKDOWN OF ASSIGNMENTS:**

## **Reflections**

***Worth: 25%***

***Date: Biweekly***

Reflections will be submitted through OWL throughout the term (a total of 6 biweekly reflections). These reflections will include prompts or specific questions upon which you will reflect using course material and personal thoughts/ideas. Examples and thoughtful answers are encouraged.

## **2. Service-Learning Journal**

***Worth: 20%***

***Length: 3-4 pages, typed, double spaced, and properly referenced.***

You will be required to submit a journal assignment based on your 'Pay it Forward' Service Learning experiences and the Anti-Racism Workshop. The journal will be submitted online on **Friday November 20, 2020.**

Students will journal about this experience, recording their observations and reactions. While on one level journaling is very personal and subjective, there is a more "structured" component to this assignment. Specifically, students' observations will also be considered more reflectively using concepts from their coursework and/or the literature on community development and diversity.

Each journal entry should have a three-part format. You might distinguish the three parts, by typing each entry in a different font. For example, part one- "DESCRIBE" might be written using "Arial"; part two- "REFLECT" might be written using "Rockwell Extra Bold"; part three- "APPLY" might be written using "Comic Sans MS." Alternatively, if you don't wish to use different fonts to type the sections, you might try: regular type for part 1; italics for part 2; and bold for part 3.

At the first level, DESCRIBE what you heard, saw and did during your community experience and the anti-racism workshop. Level two requires that you REFLECT upon your reactions to what you heard, saw and did. For example, think about and describe your mental and emotional reactions to your community-service learning experience and the workshop. Was it meaningful to you? What is your opinion of the organization that you were partnered with, and the person or people with whom you were connected prior to and during the experience? The third level, APPLY, is the most challenging. During the application portion of your journal entry, explain how your community experience and participation on the workshop relates to concepts, ideas and theories associated with our course materials and lectures on service-learning, diversity and/or community development.

The purpose of the "apply" portion of your journal entry is to allow what you are learning in the classroom to facilitate your learning in the community, and to allow your community experience to enrich your academic learning. In the apply section, I will expect to see a minimum of 3 concepts used. Some of you will choose to include more. Remember that the effectiveness of your apply

section depends not only on the number of concepts included. It is also dependent on how well you explain and relate the chosen concepts to your experiences.

### **3. "Pay It Forward" Assignment**

**Worth: 20% --Evaluation by Professor**

**Due: October 9, 2020**

What is "Pay it forward"? Responding to a kindness you have received by being kind to someone else. For example, "I will take the support I have had and try to pay it forward whenever I can".

The Purpose of this Assignment: To help you better understand the concept of "the abundant community" through your "Pay it Forward" community service experience. According to McKnight and Block (2012: 83-84)

*Gifts, association, and hospitality create the conditions or rules for what we call the capacities of a competent community. Capacities reside in individuals and can be nurtured to exist in the collective. They are core elements that need to be visible and manifest to create an abundant community....The capacities of an abundant community are kindness, generosity, cooperation, forgiveness, and acceptance of fallibility and mystery... An abundant community is one that values our capacities and assumes that they already reside within us... [An abundant community] takes what emerges and lets it become an asset for us all.*

#### Specific Assignment Instructions:

- 1) Read the required text The Abundant Community.
- 2) Select, plan and put into action your "pay it forward" activity.

When choosing an activity, remember that it is designed to get you engaged in action that shifts the focus away from yourself and emphasizes giving, in some way, to a community in need. You will be asked to identify a community that is of interest to you: children, the elderly, animals, women, the homeless to name just a few possibilities.

The activity will be associated with doing something to support your chosen community. In an age of COVID-19, there are limits to how this can be done, but it is still possible. Some non-contact options include: Creating virtual educational materials to help raise awareness, hosting a virtual event for an organization, mentoring through video conference platforms such as Zoom, and conducting wellness checks over the phone.

- 3) Connect your "pay it forward" activity to the themes presented in the abundant community. Use the follow questions to guide your work:

- a. What is the central message you have taken from reading The Abundant Community?
- b. Identify at least 2 key ideas associated with the abundant community and relate these to your "pay it forward" activity. Specifically, how does your "pay it forward" activity contribute to the movement towards an abundant community?

4) Share your “pay it forward” service experience and analysis with a 2-4-page summary of how you served your community and how it relates to the reading.

#### **4. Final Take-home Exam**

***Worth: 35%***

***Date: TBA***

The Final Exam will be a take-home exam, meaning it is to be completed at home rather than at the school. Date will be announced through OWL. You will have 6 hours to complete this exam, after which it will be closed and no longer available to you.

### **COURSE SPECIFIC GUIDELINES:**

#### 1. Submission of Assignments

- All assignments should be submitted through **turnitin.com (when specifically requested)** when it is due. All assignment due dates are firm and subject to a late penalty, except when the professor recognizes that there are legitimate and documented exceptional circumstances (eg. illness, death in the family). For each day the assignment is late, the student will lose  $\frac{1}{4}$  a mark (that is,  $\frac{1}{4}$  (or .25) % of final course grade). Except for exceptional circumstances such as those noted above, **assignments submitted 7 days or more past the due date will not be accepted.**

#### 2. Blended Learning Format

- This is a blended course which allows for flexibility. Although classes are scheduled for Fridays at 8:30am to 11:30am, all classes will be online. Content will be posted each week before Friday at 8:30am and you will have one week to complete all the necessary readings, tasks, and assignments given each week. Classes will not be held in-person and can therefore be done on your own time. The only exception is on Friday, October, 30<sup>th</sup>, where all students will be required to attend an online Anti-Racism Workshop. This is mandatory as it will contribute to your Service Learning Journal Assignment.

#### 3. Anti-Racism Workshop

- This workshop will be held online on Friday, October 30<sup>th</sup>. The format of this workshop will be a 2-hour online conference where students will hear from experts on racism, white fragility, the black lives matter movement, and allyship. Students will have the opportunity to ask questions and engage with these experts at the end of the workshop to further their understanding of the topics mentioned above. This workshop is mandatory to all students in this course and will comprise a significant portion of your Service-Learning Journal Assignment which is worth 20% of your final grade.

## 2020-21 BRESCIA UNIVERSITY COLLEGE ACADEMIC POLICIES AND REGULATIONS

### 1. POLICY REGARDING ACADEMIC ACCOMMODATION

The complete policy regarding [Accommodation for Illness - Undergraduate Students](http://www.westerncalendar.uwo.ca/PolicyPages.cfm?Command=showCategory&PolicyCategoryID=1&SelectedCalendar=Live&ArchiveID=#Page_12) can be found at [http://www.westerncalendar.uwo.ca/PolicyPages.cfm?Command=showCategory&PolicyCategoryID=1&SelectedCalendar=Live&ArchiveID=#Page\\_12](http://www.westerncalendar.uwo.ca/PolicyPages.cfm?Command=showCategory&PolicyCategoryID=1&SelectedCalendar=Live&ArchiveID=#Page_12).

Students who have long-term or chronic medical conditions which may impede their ability to complete academic responsibilities should seek Academic Accommodation through Student Accessibility Services ([http://www.westerncalendar.uwo.ca/PolicyPages.cfm?PolicyCategoryID=1&Command=showCategory&SelectedCalendar=Live&ArchiveID=#Page\\_10](http://www.westerncalendar.uwo.ca/PolicyPages.cfm?PolicyCategoryID=1&Command=showCategory&SelectedCalendar=Live&ArchiveID=#Page_10)).

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.

Students who experience an illness or extenuating circumstance sufficiently severe to temporarily render them unable to meet academic requirements may submit a request for academic consideration through the following routes:

1. Submitting a **Self-Reported Absence** form provided that the conditions for submission are met;
2. For medical absences, submitting a **Student Medical Certificate (SMC)** signed by a licensed medical or mental health practitioner;
3. For non-medical absences, submitting **appropriate documentation** (e.g., obituary, police report, accident report, court order, etc.) to their Academic Advisor. Students are encouraged to contact their Academic Advisor to clarify what documentation is acceptable.

#### Requests for Academic Consideration Using the Self-Reported Absence Portal

Students who experience an unexpected illness or injury or an extenuating circumstance of 48 hours or less that is sufficiently severe to render them unable to meet academic requirements should self-declare using the online Self-Reported Absence portal. This option should be used in situations where the student expects to resume academic responsibilities within 48 hours. Note that the excused absence includes all courses and academic requirements within the up to 48 hours, it is not intended to provide an excused absence from a single course while students fulfill their academic responsibilities in other courses during that time.

The following conditions are in place for self-reporting of medical or extenuating circumstances:

1. Students will be allowed **a maximum of two self-reported absences** between September and April and one self-reported absence between May and August;
2. The duration of the absence will be for a maximum of 48 hours from the time the Self-Reported Absence form is completed through the online portal, or from 8:30 am the following morning if the form is submitted after 4:30 pm;
3. The excused absence will terminate prior to the end of the 48 hour period if the student undertakes significant academic responsibilities (writes a test, submits a paper) during that time;
4. Self-reported absences will **not** be allowed for scheduled final examinations; midterm examinations scheduled during the December examination period; or for final lab examinations scheduled during the final week of term;
5. Self-report absences may **not** be used for assessments worth more than 30% of any course;
6. Any absences in excess of 48 hours will require students to present a Student Medical Certificate (SMC), or appropriate documentation;
7. Students **must** communicate with their instructors **no later than 24** hours after the end of the period covered by the Self-Reported Absence form to clarify how they will fulfil the academic expectations they may have missed during the absence.

#### Request for Academic Consideration for a Medical Absence

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 their academic responsibilities. Minor ailments typically treated by over-the-counter medications will not normally be accommodated.

The following conditions apply for students seeking academic accommodation on medical grounds:

1. Students must submit their Student Medical Certificate (SMC) 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. An 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) ;
2. In cases where there might be an extended absence or serious issue, students should submit their documentation promptly and consult their Academic Advisor for advice during their recovery period;
3. Whenever possible, students who require academic accommodation should provide notification and documentation in advance of due dates, scheduled tests or examinations, and other academic requirements;
4. Students **must** communicate with their instructors **no later than 24 hours** after the end of the period covered by the SMC to clarify how they will fulfil the academic expectations they may have missed during the absence;
5. Appropriate academic accommodation will be determined by the Dean's Office/Academic Advisor in consultation with the course instructor(s). Academic accommodation may include extension of deadlines, waiver of attendance requirements, arranging Special Exams (make-ups), re-weighting course requirements, or granting late withdrawal without academic penalty.

The [full policy on requesting accommodation due to illness](#) can be viewed at:

[http://www.westerncalendar.uwo.ca/PolicyPages.cfm?Command=showCategory&PolicyCategoryID=1&SelectedCalendar=Live&ArchiveID=#Page\\_12](http://www.westerncalendar.uwo.ca/PolicyPages.cfm?Command=showCategory&PolicyCategoryID=1&SelectedCalendar=Live&ArchiveID=#Page_12)

## 2. ACADEMIC CONCERNS

If you feel that you have a medical or personal challenge 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 are not normally considered.

If you think that you are too far behind to catch up or that your work load is not manageable, you should consult your Academic Advisor. If you consider reducing your workload by dropping one or more courses, this must be done by the appropriate deadlines; please refer to the [Registrar's website](#), <http://brescia.uwo.ca/academics/registrar-services/> or the list of official sessional dates in the Academic Calendar (<http://www.westerncalendar.uwo.ca/SessionalDates.cfm?SelectedCalendar=Live&ArchiveID=>).

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.*

## 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.

Please note that for asynchronous online courses, attendance or participation requirements may be different than for synchronous or in-person courses.

**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 and warranted.

It is important to note that the Academic 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://www.westerncalendar.uwo.ca/PolicyPages.cfm?Command=showCategory&PolicyCategoryID=5&SelectedCalendar=Live&ArchiveID=#SubHeading\\_68](http://www.westerncalendar.uwo.ca/PolicyPages.cfm?Command=showCategory&PolicyCategoryID=5&SelectedCalendar=Live&ArchiveID=#SubHeading_68)).

#### **4. SCHOLASTIC OFFENCES**

Scholastic offences are taken seriously and students are directed to read the appropriate policy, specifically, the definition of what constitutes a Scholastic Offence at:

[http://www.westerncalendar.uwo.ca/PolicyPages.cfm?Command=showCategory&PolicyCategoryID=1&SelectedCalendar=Live&ArchiveID=#Page\\_20](http://www.westerncalendar.uwo.ca/PolicyPages.cfm?Command=showCategory&PolicyCategoryID=1&SelectedCalendar=Live&ArchiveID=#Page_20).

Students are responsible for understanding the nature of and avoiding the occurrence of plagiarism and other academic offences. 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 Scholastic Discipline for Undergraduate Students in the Academic Calendar.

If you are in doubt about whether what you are doing is inappropriate or not, consult your instructor, the Academic Dean's Office, 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.

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 is to be sent to the School Chair. If the response of the Chair is considered unsatisfactory to the student, they may then submit a written appeal to the Office of the Dean. If the student is not satisfied with the decision of the Dean, they may appeal to the Senate Review Board Academic (SRBA), if there are sufficient grounds for the appeal and if the matter falls within the jurisdiction of the SRBA. For information on academic appeals consult your Academic Advisor or see the Student Academic Appeals – Undergraduate in the Academic Calendar

[http://www.westerncalendar.uwo.ca/PolicyPages.cfm?Command=showCategory&PolicyCategoryID=1&SelectedCalendar=Live&ArchiveID=#Page\\_14](http://www.westerncalendar.uwo.ca/PolicyPages.cfm?Command=showCategory&PolicyCategoryID=1&SelectedCalendar=Live&ArchiveID=#Page_14).

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.

## 6. PREREQUISITES

Unless you have either the prerequisites for a course or written special permission from the 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/>. Students can access supports through Brescia's Student Life Centre (<http://brescia.uwo.ca/life/student-life/>) and Learning Skills Services at Western (<https://www.uwo.ca/sdc/learning/>)

### 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 obtain information about how to obtain help for yourself or others through **Mental Health & Wellness at Brescia** (<http://brescia.uwo.ca/life/mental-health-wellness/>) and **Health and Wellness at Western**, [http://uwo.ca/health/mental\\_wellbeing/index.html](http://uwo.ca/health/mental_wellbeing/index.html).

### 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.

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