

Introduction to Sociology
SOC101
Tuesdays and Thursdays, 1:00pm to 2:20pm
Class Location, AL116
Conrad Grebel University College | Winter 2025

Contact Information

Instructor: Jeffery Klaehn
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Office hours: By appointment, via Zoom.

Calendar Description

An introduction to the basic concepts and frames of reference of sociological investigation and interpretation: topics for analysis will include communities, associations and institutions, classes and status groups, crowds and publics, social processes, and social change. Special attention is given to Canadian society.

Course Assessment and Requirements

Test	30% (Feb 27, by 11:59pm, Learn Dropbox)
Essay	30% (March 18, by 11:59pm, Learn Dropbox)
Final Exam	40% (TBA, during official exam period)

Note: Turnitin will be utilized for course tests as well as the essay & final exam. The course tests and final exam will be "take-home"; questions will be given out in class and on Learn, and expectations for work to be undertaken for these items will be clearly explained in class.

Course Readings

Jennifer Ball and Lorne Tepperman, *The Stacked Deck: an introduction to social inequality* (2nd ed). Oxford University Press. (List price: \$116.99)

Deborah Brock et al, *Power and Everyday Practices* (2nd ed.). University of Toronto Press. (List price: \$188)

Important

The instructor reserves the right to make changes to the course as it unfolds and to add required readings: any such changes will be clearly announced via the Learn News page.

If this course outline is updated, notification will be posted in the Learn News section.

Course Learn Page

The course Learn page will be a vital hub for course information and it is recommended that you visit the page frequently. You will find the following course material on the course Learn page:

1. Course announcements and reminders
2. Course Syllabus and Detailed Course Plan
3. Assignment Dropbox Folders, Assignment Information
4. Lecture materials

Course Objectives and Learning Outcomes

The goals or objectives of this course are:

1. To introduce students to sociology
2. To develop theoretical and conceptual literacy and critical thinking skills
3. To develop student research and writing skills.

Course Assignments

Grade Assignment

Letter grades will be assigned only after all components of the course are completed, and will be based on your performance in fulfilling the requirements listed above. Letter grades will be assigned as follows:

A+ = 90 to 100	B+ = 77-79	C+ = 67 to 69	D+ = 57 to 59
A = 85 to 89	B = 74 to 76	C = 63 to 66	D = 53 to 56
A - = 80 to 84	B- = 70 to 73	C- = 60 to 62	D- = 50 to 52

Communication Policy

I will communicate important information to the entire class via the Newsfeed located on the course Learn page. This will be my primary means of class-wide communication. I will reply to emails within 72 hours throughout the term, but emails typically won't be opened on weekends or holidays. If you'd like to speak with me during office hours, please email me and I'll send you a zoom link. You can also reach me via email at jklaehn@wlu.ca.

Essay

Sociologically investigate an art form in relation to a major issue or area pertaining to social inequality which you find particularly intriguing or are interested in learning more about. Write a paper in which you engage in original empirical analysis of your chosen art form, contextualizing in relation to social theory. Construct a thesis, draw on relevant theories and concepts, and engage in critique that goes beyond a mere summary of existing research. You must consult at least six substantial scholarly resources (i.e. books or journal articles) beyond those utilized in the course. Other material, including course readings or examples drawn from popular media can be utilized in addition to these resources but not in their place. Ideas for potential papers will be discussed in class.

The paper should be approx. 8 pages (2000 words) in length, double-spaced, and written in Times New Roman (font size 12). The margins for the text should be one inch on all four sides. It should include a title page and reference page (**Note:** Title and reference pages are not included in total page count). The referencing and formatting for the Essay Assignment should conform to the American Psychological Association (APA) referencing style. Upload the file to myls in Word or PDF only. Paragraphs should generally not exceed 5-7 sentences each. Use section headings (in bold) throughout your essay to help organize your content. Ensure that your conclusion is meaningful and makes a case for the importance/significance of the research you've undertaken.

Essays submitted in any file format other than Word or PDF will be awarded a grade of zero with no opportunity to resubmit.

Late penalty: Barring exceptional circumstances such as medical emergencies, a 10% penalty will be deducted per late day including weekends.

Due Date: The assignment is due, to the Learn dropbox, by **March 18, 11:59pm**.

Assignment Submissions and Late Policy:

Work for this course will be submitted using the appropriate Dropbox folder on the course Learn page. A few additional notes about the submission of assignments:

1. The assignments must be in Microsoft Word (doc) format to be opened and graded. If you use another word processing program, you must convert the file to PDF format. However, the PDF format will not allow for any comments on submitted work. (If you submit in another file format, you will receive a grade of zero without opportunity to resubmit. Please re-read the sentence before this one. Instructions cannot be clearer regarding accepted file formats.)
2. It is the student's responsibility to ensure that assignments are uploaded to the appropriate Dropbox folder and are readable. In the event that a file is corrupted or cannot be opened, you will be contacted immediately and asked to re-submit the assignment. Late penalties will still apply.
3. Requests for extensions will only be granted under extraordinary circumstances (serious medical problem, family emergency). You may be asked to produce evidence of work completed on the assignment even in cases where an extension is granted. Multiple assignments due on the same day will NOT be accepted as a reason for an extension.
4. Late assignments will be penalized 10% per day and 10% for weekends. Assignments that are more than one week overdue will not be accepted and will receive a grade of zero.

Academic Misconduct

Academic misconduct is an act by a student or by students working on a team project, which may result in a false evaluation of the student(s), or which represents a deliberate attempt to unfairly gain an academic advantage.

Academic misconduct includes, but is not limited to, the following acts which are presented as examples or a guide since not every possible circumstance can be anticipated:

- plagiarism, which is the unacknowledged presentation, in whole or in part, of the work of others as one's own, whether in written, oral or other form, in an examination, report, assignment, thesis or dissertation;
- cheating, which involves the using, giving, receiving, or the attempt to use, give or receive unauthorized information during an examination in oral, written or other form; or, copying an essay, examination or report, or allowing someone else to copy one's essay, examination or report;
- submitting the same piece of work, or a significant part thereof, for the same course or for more than one course without the permission of the instructors involved in each course; or, submitting an essay or other work which has been submitted elsewhere, previously or at the same time, without the written permission of all academic units or institutions involved in the submissions;

- impersonating another person in an examination or test;
- buying or otherwise obtaining term papers or assignments for submission of another person's work as one's own for evaluation;
- falsifying, misrepresenting or forging an academic record or supporting document.

Intellectual Property Statement

The educational materials developed for this course, including, but not limited to, lecture notes and slides, handout materials, examinations and assignments, and any materials posted to the course Learn page, are the intellectual property of the course instructor or the respective copyright holders. These materials have been developed for student use only and they are not intended for wider dissemination and/or communication outside of this course.

Posting or providing unauthorized audio, video, or textual material of any course content to third-party websites violates an instructor's intellectual property rights, and the Canadian Copyright Act. Do not take videos or photos in this class. This is a course policy.

Do not post any course material from this course to ONECLASS or similar websites. Students creating unauthorized audio or video recordings of lectures violate an instructor's intellectual property rights, and the Canadian Copyright Act.

Failure to follow these instructions may be in contravention of the university's Policy 71 on Academic Integrity and will result in appropriate penalties. Participation in this course constitutes an agreement by all parties to abide by the relevant university policies, and to respect the intellectual property of others during and after their association with the university.

Statement on Use of AI

The use of generative AI is not permitted in this course. Using generative AI to aid in or fully complete your coursework will be considered academic misconduct.

Academic Integrity

Please read carefully: <https://uwaterloo.ca/academic-integrity/integrity-students>

Tentative Class Schedule

Topic	Date	Readings
	Jan 7, 9	Read: <i>Stacked Deck</i> , ch. 1 Read: <i>Power & Everyday Practices</i> , ch. 1&2 Read: Arch Hades, poems (via Learn) Read: Karl Marx (via Learn) Read: Chomsky, "What Makes Mainstream Media Mainstream" (via Learn)
	Jan 14, 16	Read: <i>Stacked Deck</i> , ch. 2 Read: <i>Power & Everyday Practices</i> , ch. 3 Read: Klaehn et al, "Talking Communication Studies ..." (via Learn) Read: Klaehn, "Talking cinema, power and representation ..." (via Learn) Read: David Harvy, Universal Alienation (via Learn)
	Jan 21, 23	Read: <i>Stacked Deck</i> , ch. 3&4 Read: <i>Power & Everyday Practices</i> , ch. 4
	Jan 27, 30	Read: <i>Power & Everyday Practices</i> , ch. 5&6 Read: Ritzer, McDonaldization (via Learn)
	Feb 4, 6	Read: <i>Stacked Deck</i> , ch. 5&6 Read: <i>Power & Everyday Practices</i> , ch. 7&8
	Feb 11, 13	Read: <i>Stacked Deck</i> , ch. 7 Read: <i>Power & Everyday Practices</i> , ch. 9&10
	Feb 25, 27	Read: <i>Stacked Deck</i> , ch. 8 Read: <i>Power & Everyday Practices</i> , ch. 11 Test: Feb 27, 11:59pm, Learn dropbox
	March 4, 6	Read: <i>Stacked Deck</i> , ch. 9&10 Read: <i>Power & Everyday Practices</i> , ch. 12
	March 11, 13	Read: <i>Stacked Deck</i> , ch. 11 Read: <i>Power & Everyday Practices</i> , ch. 13 Read: Eileen Meehan, Holy Commodity Fetish Batman (via Learn)
	March 18, 20	Read: <i>Stacked Deck</i> , ch. 12 Read: <i>Power & Everyday Practices</i> , ch. 14&15
	March 24, 27	Read: <i>Power & Everyday Practices</i> , ch. 16 Read: Fuchs, The Working Class (via Learn)
	April 1, 3	Read: Stuart Hall, Lecture 7 (via Learn) Read: Bourdieu (via Learn) Read: Kellner, Media Culture (via Learn)

Additional Information

(copied from: <https://uwaterloo.ca/secretariat/governance-committees/senate-undergraduate-council/course-outline-requirements>)

The following statements MUST be included in all course outlines and/or websites:

Academic integrity: In order to maintain a culture of academic integrity, members of the University of Waterloo community are expected to promote honesty, trust, fairness, respect and responsibility. [Check [the Office of Academic Integrity](#) for more information.]

Grievance: A student who believes that a decision affecting some aspect of their university life has been unfair or unreasonable may have grounds for initiating a grievance. Read [Policy 70, Student Petitions and Grievances, Section 4](#). When in doubt, please be certain to contact the department's administrative assistant who will provide further assistance.

Discipline: A student is expected to know what constitutes academic integrity to avoid committing an academic offence, and to take responsibility for their actions. [Check [the Office of Academic Integrity](#) for more information.] A student who is unsure whether an action constitutes an offence, or who needs help in learning how to avoid offences (e.g., plagiarism, cheating) or about "rules" for group work/collaboration should seek guidance from the course instructor, academic advisor, or the undergraduate associate dean. For information on categories of offences and types of penalties, students should refer to [Policy 71, Student Discipline](#). For typical penalties, check [Guidelines for the Assessment of Penalties](#).

Appeals: A decision made or penalty imposed under [Policy 70, Student Petitions and Grievances](#) (other than a petition) or [Policy 71, Student Discipline](#) may be appealed if there is a ground. A student who believes they have a ground for an appeal should refer to [Policy 72, Student Appeals](#).

Note for students with disabilities: [AccessAbility Services](#), located in Needles Hall, Room 1401, collaborates with all academic departments to arrange appropriate accommodations for students with disabilities without compromising the academic integrity of the curriculum. If you require academic accommodations to lessen the impact of your disability, please register with AccessAbility Services at the beginning of each academic term.

Turnitin.com: Text matching software (Turnitin®) may be used to screen assignments in this course. Turnitin® is used to verify that all materials and sources in assignments are documented. Students' submissions are stored on a U.S. server, therefore students must be given an alternative (e.g., scaffolded assignment or annotated bibliography), if they are concerned about their privacy and/or security. Students will be given due notice, in the first week of the term and/or at the time assignment details are provided, about arrangements and alternatives for the use of Turnitin in this course.

It is the responsibility of the student to notify the instructor if they, in the first week of term or at the time assignment details are provided, wish to submit alternate assignment.