

**SOC*2080
Rural Sociology
Winter 2022**

Course Instructor

Dr. Erin Nelson
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Office Hours: Tuesdays and Thursdays 1:00-
2:00 & by appointment

Teaching Assistant

TBD
Email: tbd@uoguelph.ca

Lectures

Time: TBD
Location: TBD

COURSE OVERVIEW

This course is designed to serve as an introduction to Rural Sociology. It will allow students to gain an in-depth understanding of contemporary issues facing rural communities, as well as historical processes that have shaped today's rural world. Key concepts and theories will be covered, with an emphasis on the Community Capitals Framework as a lens through which to think critically about how rural people are responding to challenges and building resilience. Specific topics that will be examined include: how climate change is impacting rural people and ecosystems; ways in which the COVID-19 pandemic has been differentially experienced in rural locations; and efforts to develop socially just and ecologically sustainable food and agricultural systems that can contribute to rural community health and wellbeing. While the geographic focus of the course will be on North America, we will also explore connections to rural people and landscapes around the world, with an emphasis on experiences in Latin America.

This class will be delivered face-to-face; however, six sessions will be conducted using asynchronous content. These sessions, along with the required content for each, are clearly indicated in the weekly schedule. Students will be assessed based on weekly participation, a series of quizzes covering textbook and lecture content, a research paper, and a final exam.

LEARNING OUTCOMES

By the end of the course, students should be able to:

1. Identify and explain key concepts and theories from the field of Rural Sociology.
2. Think critically about contemporary social, cultural, political, economic and environmental issues facing rural communities.
3. Discuss interconnections between rural communities and landscapes in North America and around the world.
4. Understand the Community Capitals Framework and apply it to discussions of rural community resilience.
5. Demonstrate critical thinking, effective written communication, research capacity and time management skills.