



**Western University**  
**SOCIOLOGY 2256B: Section 001**  
**The Sociology of Corrections**

Tuesdays 6:30pm-9:30pm in SSC 2032  
 Winter 2017

**Western**

**Instructor: Elizabeth Torrens**

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Office hours: Tuesday 5pm-6pm, SSC 5420

\*Students **must** book an appointment during this time through email correspondence. Students who fail to book an appointment will not be seen. Booking appointments will ensure that I have an idea of how many students will be coming to see me, and how much time I can allocate to each student.

**Course Description:**

This course is an examination of the evolution of corrections and punishment (penology). It will include the historical development, organization, and administration of correctional institutions, as well as the development of various models of punishment (deterrence, rehabilitation, and incapacitation). Students will learn some of the contemporary issues regarding Canadian corrections and understand how various social structures impact these issues.

**3 lecture hours, 0.5 course.**

**Prerequisite(s): SOC2253A/B**

Unless you have either the requisites for this course or written special permission from your Dean to enroll in it, you may 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.

**Course Materials and Required Text(s):**

1. John Winterdyk and Michael Weinrath. (2013). *Adult Corrections in Canada*. DeSitter Publications.
2. Additional PDFs will be uploaded on WebCT OWL.

**Method of Evaluation:**

Midterm Test #1:	20%
Midterm Test #2:	35%
Final Exam*:	45%

\*To be held during the official examination period.

**Marking Scales:**

Marks for achievement in courses are assigned as follows:

90 –100	A+
80-89	A
70-79	B
60-69	C
50-59	D
0-49	F

It is expected that for Sociology courses at the 2100 and 2200 level, “A”s are not to exceed “B”s and class means will be in the range of 66-70%.

### **Learning Outcomes:**

- Demonstrate knowledge of social institutions, social processes, social relations, and various dimensions of social experience, and assess them using a critical sociological/criminological perspective.
- Read, synthesize and evaluate criminological arguments and published research from a critical perspective.
- Understand how social structures and historical ideologies led to the creation of the correctional system in Canada.
- Identify how social inequality and social structures impact on the lives of offenders differently.

### **Office Hours and E-mail:**

If you have questions or would like to discuss course content further, please come and see me during my office hours. If you are in class during my office hours and therefore unable to meet during that time, you can book an alternate appointment with me in person or through e-mail.

If you contact me via email, please be advised that I will respond to your message within two business days. Proper etiquette must be followed throughout all correspondence. For example, DO NOT e-mail me “hey, i was wondering if u could tell me what will be on the midterm”. Use your exchanges with Professors and TAs to practice proper form so that you can develop that skill for use later in, or outside of, academia. I will also not provide email responses to questions that have already been clearly addressed on the course outline, in class lectures, or in the information that has been posted on the WebCT OWL course site. Questions requiring a brief answer can be dealt with via e-mail, however more in depth questions (such as “Can you explain this theory in contrast to another theory...”) should be discussed during office hours.

You must use your UWO e-mail account to e-mail me. This is mainly to ensure that any e-mails from an alternate address are not sent to the spam folder. I will also be checking the mail folder on the WebCT OWL course page, but the easiest way for you to contact me is through a direct e-mail.

WebCT OWL will be used to post course information, content, reminders and important instructions regarding deadlines, expectations, requirements, etc. It is expected that you check WebCT regularly to ensure that you are kept up to date on new and revised course content. From time-to-time I may post or e-mail additional content that may aid in your learning and understanding of course topics. This material may be used in assignments or class discussions.

### **Evaluation Breakdown:**

(Note: more information will be provided on the first day of class and throughout the semester in announcements and documents posted on the WebCT OWL course page)

*Test #1 (20%), Test #2 (35%), and Final Examinations (45%): 100%*

The midterms and final examination will be comprised of multiple choice and true or false questions. All material that was covered in the readings, on OWL, or in class lectures (including films and guest lectures) is testable material. Articles posted on OWL are required and thus testable material unless explicitly stated that they will not be tested on the exams.

Test #2 **is not** cumulative, however the final exam **will be cumulative**.

If you are absent during class lectures, it is your responsibility to obtain notes from a colleague in the class. I will not provide my class notes to students. It is a good idea to swap emails with someone in the course early on and contact them if you have to miss the occasional class.

There will be no make-up examinations should you receive an unsatisfactory grade. **Vacations and sleeping in are not justifiable reasons to miss an examination.** In case of a missed examination for legitimate medical/compassionate/other reasons, you will need to submit the appropriate documentation to Academic Counseling in order to be eligible to write the make-up examination. Additional information regarding documentation and the process for seeking accommodation can be found further on in the syllabus.

The multiple choice and true/false questions will be graded electronically using Scantron forms. These forms are compared for similarity to check for patterns that may indicate cheating. To read more on this: [http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic\\_policies/exam/courseoutlines.pdf](http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/exam/courseoutlines.pdf).

### **Policies for Deadlines:**

Students who miss the midterms or examinations **will not** be permitted to write unless they submit formal written documentation regarding their absence to the appropriate channels. Only reasons deemed appropriate will be granted the option to rewrite (i.e., doctor's note regarding illness, religious holiday, death/illness of a family member, etc.). The student medical certificate (SMC) can be found at: [http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic\\_policies/appeals/medicalform.pdf](http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/medicalform.pdf). If a student suspects that an unavoidable crisis might arise preventing them from completing the assignments or examinations, they should get in contact with the instructor as soon as possible to make alternative arrangements. Students should note that they will not be automatically granted approval for a missed assignment or test and that the legitimacy of your request and documentation will have to be substantiated.

The Policy on Accommodation for Medical Illness can be found at:

[http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic\\_policies/appeals/accommodation\\_medical.pdf](http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/accommodation_medical.pdf)

Students must see the Academic Counsellor and submit all required documentation in order to be approved for certain accommodation: [http://counselling.ssc.uwo.ca/procedures/medical\\_accommodation.html](http://counselling.ssc.uwo.ca/procedures/medical_accommodation.html)

### **Statement on Use of Electronic Devices:**

Electronic devices (whether clicker, cell phone, tablet, or laptop) are permitted in class, but if it is observed that students are on social networking sites such as Facebook, Snapchat, Twitter, Instagram, etc., they will be told to close the lid and they will not be permitted to use it for the remainder of the class. Be sure that all cell phones are placed in silent mode at the beginning of class. Inappropriate use of laptops during lectures, seminars, labs, etc., creates a significant disruption. As a consequence, instructors may choose to limit the use of electronic devices in these settings. In addition, in order to provide a safe classroom environment, students are strongly advised to operate laptops with batteries rather than power cords.

### *Use of Electronic Devices:*

You are not allowed to have a cell phone, or any other electronic device, with you during tests or examinations.

### **Statement on Academic 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 the following web site:

[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)

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.

### **Support Services:**

Students who are in emotional/mental health distress should refer to Mental Health@Western: [http://uwo.ca/health/mental\\_wellbeing/](http://uwo.ca/health/mental_wellbeing/) for a complete list of options about how to obtain help.

University Students Council provides many valuable support services for students (including the health insurance plan) <http://westernusc.ca/services/>.

For emotional/mental health assistance see specifically:

[http://uwo.ca/health/mental\\_wellbeing/self/student.html](http://uwo.ca/health/mental_wellbeing/self/student.html)

The Student Development Centre can help with a variety of things ranging from help with writing to support services for mental health or students in crisis <http://www.sdc.uwo.ca/>

### **Accessibility Options:**

Please contact the course instructor if you require material in an alternate format or if you require any other arrangements to make this course more accessible to you. You may also wish to contact Services for Students with Disabilities (SSD) at 661-2111 x 82147 for any specific question regarding an accommodation.