



The University of Western Ontario

SOCIOLOGY 3260-001

Sociology of Law

Fall 2018

Fridays 9:30-12:30PM, SEB 1200

Instructor: Professor Brenda Kobayashi

Office Hours: Fridays 12:30-1:30PM

Department of Sociology, Office: TBA

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Course Description:

An analysis of the legal institutions and processes in contemporary society.

Prerequisite(s): 1.0 from: *Sociology 1020, 1021E, 1025A/B, 1026F/G, 1027A/B.*

Antirequisite(s): The former Sociology 2260A/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. The 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.

Learning Outcomes:

By critically analyzing the law and drawing on different theoretical perspectives students can seek to examine/answer such questions as: what is the nature of the relationship between law and society? What is the purpose of law? Why are some activities and relationships regulated through law? Whose interests does the law represent? Can the law affect social change? How or can the law address social inequality?

Required Text(s):

Vago, S. 2014. "Law and Society" (4th ed.). Pearsons

Additional Required Readings will be posted on OWL, handed out in class, and/or placed on reserve at Weldon Library

Method of Evaluation:

Midterm Examination 1: worth 20% (in-class exam):

Midterm Examination 2: worth 20% (in-class exam)

Assignment: worth 25%

Final Exam: worth 35% (during final exam period)

Evaluation Breakdown:

Assignment: Due on **November 23, 2018 at beginning of class (8:30 AM)**. Additional information will be provided during the first week's class.

Examinations: There are **two** in-class exams (**October 5, 2018 and November 2, 2018**) and **one** final examination (during final examination period).

The in-class examinations are based on all materials presented in lectures, readings, and discussions, including material presented by speakers. Exams are closed book exams. The in-class exams **may** include multiple choice, true and false, fill in the blank, and/or short answer questions.

The final exam will be held during the final exam period and **may** be cumulative (includes all material in lectures, readings, discussions, speaker presentations). This will be a closed book exam and **may** include multiple choice, true and false, fill in the blank, and/or short answer questions.

N.B. Makeup exams will be in **essay format only**.

N.B. To ensure the fair treatment of all students, so that no one individual receives any consideration or special treatment as a result of verbal complaints (e.g., arbitrary bumping up of grades) that is not equally received by others, there are no make-up assignments for poor test scores.

Exam Re-evaluation

Any review of assignments and examinations should be done within two weeks of the mark being released. Students who wish to seek a re-evaluation of grades must justify in detail and in writing, exactly why they feel that a mark is not justified. Such a request should be based on reasons that are rooted in the specific course content and keeping in mind my expectations for the class. The assignment or exam will be re-graded in its entirety, not simply the questions or portion the student believes were scored improperly. Note, in the course of remarking an assignment or exam, the instructor may discover errors or defects that were not originally detected on the paper or exam and as a result it is possible that a student's revised mark may go down, rather than up. Please note that in an event that a mark is re-evaluated, the instructor reserves the right to adjust the mark both upwards and downwards. The revised mark stands.

Grade Guidelines:

The Department of Sociology guidelines require a particular course grade distribution. For 3300 level courses, the number of A's is not to exceed the number of B's, and class averages are expected to fall in the range of 73- 80%.

Due to concerns surrounding grade inflation, final grades in this course will be centered on a mean of no higher than 80% (as per the Department guidelines). This means that your final course grade depends on your ranking relative to the other students and I reserve the right to take corrective measures to ensure against grade inflation.

How to Contact Me:

If you have a question or would like to discuss course content, please see me before, during, or after class, or during office hours. Outside of class and/or office hours, email is my preferred method of contact.

Please note that I do not discuss matters of grades, course content (e.g., definitions of concepts, differences between theoretical perspectives, etc.) or matters of special accommodation by email. I require that email correspondence be saved to such items as arranging a meeting during my office hours and/or for discussing information that is **not** posted on the course outline. I also do **not** answer questions regarding information that is posted on the course outline (e.g., quiz/exam dates, required readings, exam information, etc.) and/or any material or announcements that are discussed in class.

Email should be professionally prepared, spell- and grammar-checked, and not written in “text message” format. All communications must be written from your UWO account. The subject heading must read the course title and section. Sign the email with your fully name and student number. You can expect a response within 24 hours, excluding weekends.

How to get important information:

Your first sources of information are the course syllabus and OWL. It is expected that you will check OWL regularly to ensure that you are kept up to date on new and revised course content. It is student’s responsibility to ensure that they are kept up-to-date on course content and announcements.

Grades (except the final exam and year-end mark) will be posted to OWL as they become available. Due to privacy regulations, I do not provide grades or discuss issues regarding grades via email. If you wish to discuss your grade(s) please contact or speak with me to set up an appointment, during office hours.

Lecture Notes and Missed Class

I do not post or handout my lecture notes. I will post powerpoint slides on Owl, in advance of each class; however, these slides are intended only to aid in note-taking. They are not complete notes and are not a substitute for attending lectures. It is a student’s responsibility, to create the full complement of notes from each class.

Class attendance is critical to getting the most of this course. While readings and class lectures fit together, some material will only be covered in class. Students are responsible for everything that occurs during class time, including discussions, handouts, videos, guest speakers, etc.

If you miss class, are late or leave early, it is your responsibility to catch up on anything and everything that occurs during class (e.g. arrange with a classmate to exchange lecture notes, discussions, handouts, videos, guest speakers, class announcements, etc.). It is a good idea to ‘buddy up’ with a classmate, in order to exchange notes, if you must miss a class, are late or leave early, as I do not post or handout lectures notes.

Course Attendance Requirements:

With the exception of legitimate medical/personal excuses (documentation required to be submitted) students are expected to attend at least 80% of the class meetings for this course. A passing grade in the course cannot be obtained without meeting this attendance requirement.

Important Policies

Policies for Assignment Deadlines:

Extensions for assignment deadlines will be granted with approved documentation only. Students must provide me with notification **within 24 hours** and must provide notification and documentation to your Academic Counselor **within 48 hours** of the assignment due date. If your problem is medical in nature, you should be seen by your doctor on the date the assignment is due. If your Academic Counselor agrees that your reasons are legitimate and are supported by your medical doctor’s documentation, you will be allowed to hand in your assignment at a later date.

Policies for Missed Exams:

Make-up exams will be granted with approved documentation only. If you have a conflict with one of the exam dates, it is your responsibility to discuss it with the Academic Counseling office as soon as possible, but no later

than one week before the regularly scheduled exam and provide documentation of the conflict. If approved, you will be allowed to schedule a make-up exam.

If you miss an exam (this includes make-up exams) due to illness or for any other unforeseen reason, please notify me **within 24 hours** of the missed exam. No documentation is required when you notify me, but I need to know that you missed the exam within 24 hours. You then must provide notification and documentation to your Academic Counselor **within 48 hours**. If your problem is medical in nature, you should be seen by your doctor on the date of the exam. If your Academic Counselor agrees that your reasons are legitimate and are supported by your medical doctor's documentation, you will be allowed to write a make-up exam.

There will be one makeup date set by the Department for students needing to write a make-up exam (with approved accommodation from your academic counseling office). This makeup exam may or may not be in the same format as the original exam.

If a student misses a make-up exam due to sickness or another documented reason, then the weight of the mid-term will be added to the weight of the final exam. In cases where there is no approved justification for the absence, the student will receive a grade of zero on the exam.

A Note on Plagiarism:

Students must write their assignments in their own words. Whenever students take an idea 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 scholastic offence (the Scholastic Offence Policy can be viewed in the Western Academic Calendar).

Plagiarism Checking:

All required papers may be subject to submission for textual similarity review to the commercial plagiarism detection software under license to the University for 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 (www.turnitin.com).

Policies on Examinations

Students are not permitted to have any electronic devices (laptops or cellphones, etc.) present or turned on during tests/quizzes or examinations. 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.

Policy on Laptops and other Electronics/Phones in Class:

Classroom Conduct

This class will conduct itself on the principles of academic and intellectual freedom, and mutual respect. Vigorous debate is encouraged, as are discussions about sensitive, difficult, and/or challenging issues, but this kind of discourse is possible only in the context of mutual respect. Please respect your classmates and your instructor during lecture and discussion periods. Racist, sexist, or other derisive comments (intentional or otherwise) will not be tolerated.

During class, students are expected to behave like adults and professionals by being attentive, engaged, and respectful of the entire class. Laptops are permitted in class but if it is observed that students are on social

networking sites such as Facebook or Twitter, 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 turned off at the beginning of class.

Tape recordings of the lectures without an academic accommodation along with the permission of the instructor and the rest of the class is **not** permitted.

Policy on Accommodation for Medical Illness

Western's policy on Accommodation for Medical Illness can be found at 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

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 519 661-2111 x 82147 for any specific question regarding an accommodation.

Information regarding accommodation of exams is available on the Registrar's website:

www.registrar.uwo.ca/examinations/accommodated_exams.html

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 the following web site:

www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/scholastic_discipline_undergrad.pdf

Mental Health

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