The University of Western Ontario
SOCIOLOGY 4451G-001
Policing and Society
Winter 2018-2019
Wednesdays 1:30-4:30, SSC 5406

Instructor: Prof. Laura Huey

Office Hours: before and after class or by appointment
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Course Description:

This course provides a comprehensive introduction to the sociology of policing through descriptive, empirical, and theoretical research. It offers a balanced overview of who the police are, what they do, and their interactions with different social institutions and groups. Special attention is given to problems and controversies related to policing.

Although this is a fourth-year course, much of the course content will be entirely new and/or more significantly detailed than content from any previous introductory classes. Thus, this course will be 2 hours of lecture followed by 1 hour of student-led class discussion (related to ideas, concepts, beliefs, controversies, etc., discussed during lecture hours).

Prerequisite(s): Sociology 2253A/B and enrolment in fourth year of one of the Honors Specializations or Honors Double Major in Sociology.

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.

Antirequisite(s): None.

Learning Outcomes:

Students will develop new knowledge and perspectives on the role of police and policing in society through exposure to both academic research and officer experience. Objectives include:

1. Understanding the historical role of the police and how it has changed over time
2. Acquiring a general sense of the vast body of literature and academic approaches to studying the police
3. Developing a specialized area of knowledge about policing through writing an essay on a chosen topic.
4. Understanding how policing can be shaped by political, social, and economic conditions.

Required Text(s):

None. Students will select their own readings.

Evaluation

Weekly reading assignment (10 marks per write up):	60 marks
Participation	10 marks
Comment	20 marks
What do we know about policing assignment: January 16	10 marks

What do we know about policing assignment:

For class on January 16th, please bring me a list of 20 questions that you would like answered during this class. We will not only try to answer these questions during this class, but I will also be evaluating them in terms of the degree of thought that went into the questions you raised for me to answers. Try to avoid basic questions such as, 'why do I have to have a speeding ticket?" in favour of questions like, 'do the FBI and the RCMP do the same thing?' or 'how do they police transnational crime?'. I'm also open to questions about basic police powers, procedure and policy, as long as it's a thoughtful question.

Weekly Reading Assignment:

Pick 6 classes from January 23 to March 27 and find one recent news article on a topic related to Canadian policing. Drawing on the content of that article, you will write up an one-page critical analysis of the article, including: how you assess the claims made, the sources used, what you think might be missing from the article or need more information on, and the potential impact of this story on shaping public perceptions of policing.

Expect to present one of your reviews to the class. Each week I will ask 2 or 3 people to provide their summaries to everyone else; you need to come to class and **be prepared** EVERY week, as you don't get to pick when you present. This will ensure that most people show up each week ready to engage.

Comment on What You Learned:

On the **March 27th class**, you will be expected to hand in a 6-8 page comment piece in relation to **two** of the topic areas covered in this class. What I'm looking for is to see:

Detailed knowledge of a topic (including references to concepts, ideas, papers and/or discussions from class – **this is your chance to show what you learned**);

You may argue for or against something, compare or contrast two different perspectives or types of policing – I leave that choice up to you. As always, please feel free to float your ideas past me, and be assured that I will set aside time in class to discuss the assignment and where everyone is at.

Class outline

January 9: Course Introduction

January 16: What do we know about policing?

January 23: Community-oriented policing

February 6: Problem-oriented policing (with Det. Andrew Whitford)

February 13: Spring break

February 20: Evidence Based Policing

February 27: Policing strategies old school (RRR, Zero Tolerance, Broken Windows)

March 6: Policing research (with Hillary Peladeau)

March 13: **New policing strategies (hot spots, focused deterrence, harm-focused)**

March 20: Policing controversies (street checks, sexual assaults)

March 27: More policing issues (use of force, deaths in custody, mental health crises)

April 3: Class wrap up

Important Policies

Policies for Assignment Deadlines:

Have all of your assignments turned in by April 6th. Assignments will not be accepted after this date without notification from Academic Counselling that you have provided written documentation of a valid reason as to why you are unable to complete your work during the term.

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).

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.

Grading guidelines

Sociology 1020 and 1021E
> Means in the range of 68-72%

Sociology courses at the 2100
> Means in the range of 70-75%

Sociology courses at the 2200 level
> Means in the range of 69-73%

Sociology courses at the 3300-level (including Soc 3300a and 3302b)
> Means in the range of 73-80%

Sociology courses at the 4400-level
> Means in the range of 78-82%