



The University of Western Ontario

SOCIOLOGY 3364F-200

Criminal Justice & Mental Health

Fall 2021

MONDAYS, 9:30AM-12:30AM, UCC-63

Instructor: Dr. Jennifer Silcox

Office Hours: Thursdays 2-3pm, Fridays 2pm-4pm by appointment only. Book via: [Calendly](#)

Department of Sociology, Office: TBA

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Course Description:

This course focuses on the intersection of the criminal justice system and mental health. Using historical, sociological, and criminological frameworks, we will explore a variety of issues relating to crime and mental illness. Specific topics include: stigma, police interactions, overrepresentation in the justice system, access to mental health supports both prior to and after criminalization, and legal approaches to mental illness and crime (e.g., not criminally responsible as a sentencing option). We will examine the experiences of criminalized youth, Indigenous peoples, and women living with mental illness. In addition to traditional didactic lectures, we will engage in lively debates and discussions, as well as take advantage of our local access to expert guest speakers in forensic mental health.

Prerequisite(s):

Third or fourth year standing in a module in Sociology or Criminology.

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.

Required Text(s):

Required readings will be available via Western Libraries or as PDFs/URLs on OWL.

Course Format:

This is a blended-learning course, meaning that there will be both online components and in-person components. We will meet Mondays from 9:30am and 12:30pm, either online or in person. Students unable to attend in-person classes will be able to join the class via zoom in real time. Recordings of the lessons are not guaranteed and students are responsible for making arrangements with other students to share notes if they miss class.

Method of Evaluation:

Syllabus & OWL Quiz	Sept. 26	1%
Quizzes (2 @ 7.5%)	Oct. 24; Dec. 5	15%
Presentation		19%
Argumentative Essay	Nov. 14	30%
Final Exam		35%

Learning Outcomes:

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

- Have a broad understanding of how mental health has been dealt with in Canada's criminal justice system historically and in the present
- Understand and interact with complex and diverse theories related to mental health and deviance/crime
- Appreciate or understand the experiences of those living with mental illness in the criminal justice system
- Synthesize and critically evaluate complex material in presentations and essays

How to contact me and get important information:

- All important information can be found on the OWL course page.
- Check OWL regularly for course updates.

If a student has a question not addressed on the outline, in class lessons, or on OWL, they may:

- Ask a question before, during, or after class
 - Visit virtual office hours
 - Send an email with the **subject line SOC3364** (follow up again if no response within 48 hours)
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Evaluation Breakdown:

****IMPORTANT NOTE #1:** Any changes to the due dates, as well as all expectations and guidelines will be provided on OWL.

****IMPORTANT NOTE #2:** Any changes to the breakdown will be clearly communicated to students on OWL.

1. Syllabus & OWL Quiz: 1%

Students will complete a quiz based on information found on both the course syllabus/outline and OWL course page. The purpose of this quiz is to help students familiarize themselves with course expectations and where to find important course information.

Due Date: September 26 @ 11:55pm

2. Quizzes (2 @ 7.5% each): 15%

Over the semester, there will be 2 quizzes to test your understanding of the lesson material, including student presentations and any required documentaries or media clips. Quizzes will be primarily made up of multiple choice questions and completed on OWL outside of class time.

Due Dates:

Quiz #1 → Oct. 24 @ 11:55pm; Quiz #2 → Dec. 5 @ 11:55pm

If a student uses an SRA, the due dates become: Quiz #1 Oct. 26 @ 11:55pm; Quiz #2 Dec. 7 @ 11:55pm

3. Presentation: 19% --- refer to guidelines posted on OWL for specific requirements

In small groups, students will prepare a 20-30 minute presentation to be delivered to the class on a pre-determined topic. Students will sign up for presentation dates during the first week of class.

4. Argumentative Essay: 30% --- refer to guidelines posted on OWL for specific requirements

This term, students will write one argumentative essay, based on pre-determined topics, making use of both class material and academic sources. The essay is to be 7-8 double spaced pages not including a bibliography. The essay is to follow APA referencing style and have size 12 font, 1" margins, and no additional spacing between paragraphs. Failing to provide in-text citations will result in a failing grade for the assignment. Students will upload their essays on OWL. All written work, including presentations will be subject to similarity testing on OWL via Turnitin.com.

Due Date: November 14 @ 11:55pm on OWL

If a student uses an SRA, the due date becomes November 16 @ 11:55pm on OWL

5. Final Exam: 35%

The final exam will be comprised of multiple choice and true/false questions, as well as short answer and long answer questions. All material covered is fair game for testing. E.g., lessons (including embedded video links), required reading, and documentaries/films. The exam will take place in person (unless otherwise stated) during the official exam schedule.

Computer-marked multiple-choice quizzes, 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.

CLASS POLICIES ON MISSED OR LATE ASSIGNMENTS & QUIZZES (Not including the final exam)

Self-Reported Absences

- Students can use 'self-reported absences' (SRAs) for missed or late assignments and quizzes without documentation. SRAs excuse late or missed assignments for up to 48 hours as per school policies. E.g., If a student uses an SRA and misses the essay due date of Nov. 14 @ 11:55pm, the essay becomes due Nov. 16 @ 11:55pm. The same applies for missed quizzes.
- For more information on SRAs:
 - https://www.registrar.uwo.ca/academics/academic_considerations/self_reported_absences_faqs.html

Late Essays

- Late assignments will incur a penalty of **10% grade reduction per day late** (including weekends), unless prior arrangements have been made. Papers will not be accepted 5 days after the due date.

Late Presentations or Missed Quizzes

- Late presentations will NOT be accepted without an SRA or approved academic accommodation.
- Students will not be permitted to write a missed quiz without an SRA or approved academic accommodation.

EXTENSION REQUESTS: Requests for extensions must be made **well before the due date** and may be granted if there are legitimate medical or compassionate grounds. Documentation must be submitted.

→ see Policy on Accommodation and Academic Considerations below.

Examinations

- All tests and examinations will take place in person on campus unless otherwise indicated.
- If a student misses an exam, they will NOT be permitted to write a make-up exam unless they obtain accommodation for medical illness or academic consideration from Academic Counselling. Remember you cannot use SRAs for examinations.
- Exams will be closed book (i.e., lessons, notes, the internet, etc. are not allowed) and to be completed without the use of technology.
- Students without a student ID or governmental ID may be barred from writing the exam.
- As stated above, computer-marked multiple-choice quizzes, 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.

Class Policies for Classroom Behaviour, Academic Honesty, and Intellectual Property

Classroom Behaviour

- All students are expected to engage online in a professional and respectful manner. This includes all interactions with peers, as well as communication between TAs or your Professor. Failure to do so will result in academic discipline.
- Laptops, tablets, phones, etc. are permitted in class, but if it is observed that students are shopping, gaming, or on social media, they will be told to put away the device not use it for the remainder of the class. Be sure that all cell phones are silenced at the beginning of class.

Academic Honesty

- Assignments, quizzes, and examinations are expected to be done by the student registered in the course. It is a scholastic offence to submit work completed by another student and/or to complete another student's course work.

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 [including presentations and take-home exams] 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).

Intellectual Property

- Recording of lectures or tutorials without the explicit consent of the professor is grounds for academic discipline.
- Course content (including PowerPoints, outlines, guidelines, etc.) created by a professor is considered the professor's intellectual property; it should not be distributed, shared in any public domain, or sold by a student or third party without prior written consent of the professor. All material created by the professor is considered intellectual property and it is a copyright violation to share this material with others not enrolled in the class (e.g., it is copyright infringement to upload this material to websites, just as it is to share or sell this material to other individuals or sites such as Course Hero, etc.).

UWO Policies on Accommodation, Academic Consideration, Accessibility Options, & Scholastic Offences

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: counselling.ssc.uwo.ca/procedures/academic_consideration.html.

Academic Consideration for Missed Work

Students who are seeking academic consideration for missed work during the semester may submit a *Self-Reported Absence (SRA)* form online provided that the absence is **48 hours or less** and the other conditions specified in the [Senate policy](#) are met. Two important exceptions to this rule: SRAs will NOT be allowed for final examinations or assessments worth more than 30% of a given course. Students whose absences are expected to last **longer than 48 hours**, or where the other conditions detailed in the policy are not met (e.g., work is worth more than 30% of the final grade, the student has already used 2 self-reported absences, the absence is during the final exam period), may receive academic consideration by submitting a [Student Medical Certificate](#) (for illness) or other appropriate documentation (for compassionate grounds) to your Home Faculty Academic Counselling office.

All students pursuing academic consideration, regardless of type, must contact their instructors no less than 24 hours following the end of the period of absence to clarify how they will be expected to fulfill the academic responsibilities missed during their absence. Students are reminded that they should consider carefully the implications of postponing tests or midterm exams or delaying submission of work, and are encouraged to make appropriate decisions based on their specific circumstances.

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

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/academics/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 (www.uwo.ca/health/mental_wellbeing/) for a complete list of options how to obtain help.

Course Schedule and Readings to be Uploaded on OWL