



The University of Western Ontario  
SOCIOLOGY 2222A-650  
Drugs and Society  
Fall 2022  
Online & Asynchronous

**Instructor:** Dr. Jennifer Silcox  
**Office Hours:** TBA via Zoom (book via [Calendly](#))

**Department of Sociology, Office:** SSC # 5209  
**Email:** [jsilcox5@uwo.ca](mailto:jsilcox5@uwo.ca)

### Course Description:

This course considers the sociological significance of drugs and drug use in society. The historical, political and cultural underpinnings of drug policies and drug use are examined, while highlighting the social implications of policies that approach drugs and drug use from moral rather than empirical positions.

**Prerequisite(s):** 1.0 from Sociology courses at the 1000 level.

Unless you have either the prerequisites 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.

**Anti-requisite(s):** The former Sociology 3313F/G.

### Course Objectives and Learning Outcomes:

Upon the completion of this course, students should:

1. Understand the sociological importance of drugs and drug use
2. Be able to critically examine the models of addiction that dominate public discourse
3. Appreciate the value of a biopsychosocial model of addiction
4. Learn to examine various forms of evidence-based knowledge and critically assess the sources
5. Be able to critically examine what makes policies and public education effective or ineffective
6. Apply evidence-based knowledge to educate the public about drugs and drug use

### Course Material:

The following text is **required** and is available in both print and e-book versions from the publisher:

Bruno, Tara L. and Rick Csiernik. (2018). [\*The Drug Paradox: An Introduction to the Sociology of Psychoactive Substances in Canada\*](#). Toronto, ON: Canadian Scholars.

There is also an e-copy available at [UWO Libraries](#) and a hardcopy at [King's library](#) on 2 hour reserve.

### Communication:

This course is entirely online and asynchronous. Students are responsible for checking the course OWL site (<http://owl.uwo.ca>) on a regular basis for news and updates. This is the primary method by which information will be disseminated to all students in the class.

## Method of Evaluation:

The evaluation methods described in the course outline are essential requirements for the course.

Syllabus & OWL Quiz	1%	(Sept. 16)
Quizzes (2 @ 10%)	20%	(Oct. 7; Nov. 11)
Written Assignment	19%	(Nov. 25)
Midterm Exam	25%	(Oct. 14)
Final Exam	35%	(December Exam Period)

The methods of evaluation are briefly described below. More detail will be provided on OWL.

## SYLLABUS & OWL QUIZ

Students will complete a quiz based on information found on the course syllabus/outline and OWL course page.

## QUIZZES

This semester, there will be 2 quizzes on OWL to test your understanding of course material, including lessons, student presentations, documentaries or media clips. Tests will be timed with the expectation that students will not have the time to look up answers (i.e., as if the quiz was 'closed book'). Understanding the material will be more effective than memorizing the material as most questions will be application-based rather than simple recall questions. Late quizzes will not be accepted without approval from academic counselling.

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.

## WRITTEN ASSIGNMENT --- refer to guidelines posted on OWL for specific requirements

This term, students will write one written assignment, based on pre-determined topics, making use of both class material and academic sources. Assignments to be submitted on OWL in 'Assignments' tab.

- Papers without in-text citations will not receive a passing grade.
- **Late assignments will be penalized 5% per day late and not accepted after 5 days, unless the student has an approved accommodation from academic counselling.**

All written work will be subject to similarity testing on OWL via Turnitin.com. By taking this course, you agree that your assignments may be subject to submission for textual similarity review by Turnitin.com.

## MIDTERM & FINAL EXAM

The midterm and final exam will take place on OWL and will be comprised of multiple choice questions and may also include short answer and long answer questions. The tests will be timed with the expectation that students will not have the ability to look up answers in their material. The final exam is cumulative.

**If a student has an approved absence from Academic Counselling for the midterm, they will be required to write a makeup midterm on the following Monday (Oct. 17).** Course professor or teaching assistant(s) may not be available to respond to questions during the makeup exam. Students should be aware that the make-up test will not necessarily be in the same format, be of the same duration, or cover the same material as the original test.

**Tests and examinations in this course may be conducted using a remote proctoring service. By taking this course, you are consenting to the use of this software and acknowledge that you may be required to provide personal information (including some biometric data) and the session may be recorded.** Completion of this course will require you to have a reliable internet connection and a device that meets the technical requirements for this service. More information about this remote proctoring service, including technical requirements, is available on Western's Remote Proctoring website at: <https://remoteproctoring.uwo.ca>

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.

## Student Absences:

If you are unable to meet a course requirement due to illness or other serious circumstances, please follow the procedures below.

### ***Assessments worth less than 10% of the overall course grade:***

There is one assignment worth less than 10% in this class: the Syllabus/OWL quiz worth 1% due Sept. 16<sup>th</sup> at 11:55pm. If a student is unable to write the Syllabus/OWL quiz, they can write this quiz up to 48 hours after the deadline (Sept. 18<sup>th</sup> at 11:55pm) without penalty. This 48 hour grace period also services to accommodate students enrolling in the class on September 16<sup>th</sup>.

### ***Assessments worth 10% or more of the overall course grade:***

As you know, the university has eliminated self-reported absences (SRAs). The department has made it clear that instructors are NOT to allow late assessments worth 10% or more without academic counselling approval. To be fair to all students, I will not be granting extensions/make-up assignments/bonus assignments to individual students.

**For work totaling 10% or more of the final course grade, students must provide valid medical or supporting documentation to their Home Faculty Academic Counselling Office as soon as possible.**

**For absences approved by academic counselling, students will be given an extension or make-up opportunity that will be due 48 hours after the end of their granted absence period.**

- E.g., You are sick and cannot write Quiz #1 due Oct. 7. A physician approves your absence from class and school work from Oct. 7th to 10th. You will be expected to write Quiz #1 (or an equivalent make-up assessment) 48 hours after your approved absence period, which makes the quiz due Oct. 12 @ 11:55pm.

**Missed assessments will not be re-weighted to future assignments or the final exam.**

**If a student has an approved absence from Academic Counselling for the midterm, they will be required to write a makeup midterm on the following Monday (Oct. 17).** Course professor or teaching assistant(s) may not be available to respond to questions during the makeup exam. Students should be aware that the make-up test will not necessarily be in the same format, be of the same duration, or cover the same material as the original test.

### ***Absences from Final Examinations:***

**Students must provide valid medical or supporting documentation to their Home Faculty Academic Counselling Office as soon as possible.**

Academic Counselling will determine eligibility to write a **Special Examination** (the name given by the University to a makeup Final Exam).

You may also be eligible to write the Special Exam if you are in a **“Multiple Exam Situation”** (e.g., more than 2 exams in 23-hour period, more than 3 exams in a 47-hour period).

**Note:** missed work can *only* be excused through one of the mechanisms above. Being asked not to attend an in-person course requirement due to potential COVID-19 symptoms is **not** sufficient on its own. Students should check the Western website to see what directives for Covid are to be followed. Western has been and will continue to follow directives established by the Middlesex-London Health Unit. That directive will state whether students should or should not come to campus/class and any other requirements (e.g., masks are mandatory). Please check on your own and do not email the instructor, the Department Undergraduate Advisor/Coordinator or the Faculty of Social Science Academic Counselling Office.

## Important Policies

**Academic Consideration for Missed Work:** Students must provide valid medical or supporting documentation in order to receive accommodation for missed work worth 10% or more of the final grade in the course. All required documentation for absences must be submitted to the Academic Counselling office of a student's Home Faculty. Individual instructors are not permitted to receive documentation directly from a student, whether in support of an application for consideration on medical grounds or for other reasons.

Western's policy on Accommodation for Medical Illness can be found at [https://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic\\_policies/appeals/accommodation\\_medical.pdf](https://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/accommodation_medical.pdf). The student medical certificate is available at [https://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic\\_policies/appeals/medicalform.pdf](https://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/medicalform.pdf).

**Religious Accommodation:** When a course requirement conflicts with a religious holiday that requires an absence from the University or prohibits certain activities, students should request accommodation for their absence in writing at least two weeks prior to the holiday to the course instructor and the Academic Counselling office of their Faculty of Registration. Please consult University's list of recognized religious holidays (updated annually) at <https://multiculturalcalendar.com/ecal/index.php?s=c-univwo>.

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.

**Accessibility Options:** Students with disabilities or accessibility challenges should work with Accessible Education (formerly SSD [http://academicsupport.uwo.ca/accessible\\_education/index.html](http://academicsupport.uwo.ca/accessible_education/index.html)), which provides recommendations for accommodation based on medical documentation or psychological and cognitive testing. The accommodation policy can be found here: [Academic Accommodation for Students with Disabilities](#). Information regarding accommodation of exams is available on the Registrar's website: [www.registrar.uwo.ca/academics/examinations/accommodated\\_exams.html](http://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: [https://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic\\_policies/appeals/scholastic\\_discipline\\_undergrad.pdf](https://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/scholastic_discipline_undergrad.pdf)

**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.

**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 (<https://www.turnitin.com/>).

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

Please visit the Social Science Academic Counselling webpage for information on adding/dropping courses, academic considerations for absences, appeals, exam conflicts, and many other academic related matters: [Academic Counselling - Western University \(uwo.ca\)](http://www.uwo.ca/academic_counselling/).

Western is committed to reducing incidents of gender-based and sexual violence and providing compassionate support to anyone who has gone through these traumatic events. If you have experienced sexual or gender-based violence (either recently or in the past), you will find information about support services for survivors, including emergency contacts at [https://www.uwo.ca/health/student\\_support/survivor\\_support/get-help.html](https://www.uwo.ca/health/student_support/survivor_support/get-help.html). To connect with a case manager or set up an appointment, please contact [support@uwo.ca](mailto:support@uwo.ca).

2022-2023