



The University of Western Ontario
SOCIOLOGY 2266A-001
Crime and Society
Fall 2022
Monday, 9:30 to 12:30, Room NCB-113
Delivery Method: In person

Instructor: Sean Waite
Office Hours: Fridays 9:00am to 10:00am
Department of Sociology, Office: SSC 5401
Email: swaite3@uwo.ca

Course Description: The sociological aspects of crime in Canada. The measurement patterns, causes and social explanations of criminal behavior will be examined.

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

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): None

Course Objectives and Learning Outcomes:

This course provides a foundational knowledge in the criminological theory, concepts and methods. At the end of this course students will be able to:

1. Explain the extent and nature of crime in Canada.
2. Understand the data and methods used by criminologists to study crime, including their strengths and limitations.
3. Understand the assumptions, strengths and weaknesses of competing criminological theories.
4. Understand the social causes and consequences of crime.
5. Critically analyze the criminal justice system, laws and public policies aimed at controlling crime.

Course Material:

1. Winterdyk, John. 2020. *Canadian Criminology*, 4th Edition. Oxford University Press, Don Mills Ontario. Chapters 1-4 (Pages 1-96).
2. Snipes, Jeffrey B., Thomas J. Bernard, and Alexander L. Gerould. 2019. *Vold's Theoretical Criminology*, 8th Edition. Oxford University Press. New York: NY.
3. Additional articles and/or book chapters listed on detailed reading list.

Communication:

Office hours: Fridays 9am to 10pm (SSC 5401). Email: swaite3@uwo.ca. Email is not suitable for questions requiring considerable exposition. These questions are suited for in-person exchange during office hours. Office hours are drop-in and first come, first serve. 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.

Midterm examination	October 24, 2022	30%
Research Paper	December 5, 2022	25%
Final Examination	Exam period	45%

Midterm / Final Examination

The examinations will consist of roughly 75 (midterm) and 100 (final) multiple-choice questions. The midterm will be written in class. The final examination will be written during the final exam period, with the date and location determined by the registrar's office. The final exam will be ***cumulative*** but there will be a far greater focus on material from the second half of the course. No electronic devices, books, cheat sheets, dictionaries or aids are permitted during the examination.

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.

Research paper

Students will write an original research paper on any criminological topic of their choosing. Please see the teaching assistant if you are concerned about the suitability of your topic. You are expected to integrate at least two criminological theories into your analysis and consider how age, gender, race/ethnicity, and class relate to your topic. Papers should be between 8 and 10 double-spaced pages and include a minimum of 8 peer-reviewed sociological/criminological sources. Research papers should use American Sociological Association (ASA) referencing style. Students must complete a self-assessment form and attach it to the back of the term paper. Research papers must be submitted in class and in OWL.

Here is the main evaluation criteria:

- The introduction very clearly outlines the issue / debate / problem and sets the stage for the thesis statement.
- The thesis statement is clear, concise, and perfectly defensible.
- A diverse range and adequate number of sources are used.
- The analysis reflects the writer's ability to engage in critical thinking about the literature and theory, beyond what was presented in the course material.
- At least one criminological theory is presented and used to support the author's thesis statement.
- The paper shows an in-depth understanding of the theory, beyond what was presented in lecture.
- The peer-reviewed literature clearly supports the thesis statement.
- The paper does an excellent job of weaving sociological factors such as age, race, class and gender into the arguments.
- The in-text citations are written correctly using ASA style.
- The reference list is written correctly using ASA style.

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.

Contingency plan for an in-person class pivoting to 100% online learning:

In the event of a COVID-19 resurgence during the course that necessitates the course delivery moving away from face-to-face interaction, affected course content will be delivered entirely online, either synchronously (i.e., at the times indicated in the timetable) or asynchronously (e.g., posted on OWL for students to view at their convenience). The grading scheme will not change. Any remaining assessments will also be conducted online as determined by the course instructor.

Important Policies

Recording devices are not permitted in class. Some of the topics we discuss may be sensitive. If students choose to share personal stories or experiences they should not worry that they are being recorded. If you require a recording device for medical or other reasons, please see me.

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 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.

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), 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](https://www.registrar.uwo.ca/academics/examinations/accommodated_exams.html). 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: 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) 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 \(uwo.ca\)](https://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. To connect with a case manager or set up an appointment, please contact support@uwo.ca.