



The University of Western Ontario
SOCIOLOGY 4451G-650
Policing and Society
Winter 2023
Online

Instructor: Professor Laura Huey
Office Hours: online 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. Extra Information: 3 seminar hours.

Prerequisite(s): Registration in third year or above in any Department of Sociology module, or fourth year in any module.

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:

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.

Course Material:

I have taped a series of lectures for this seminar that are available to you in two different formats!

For access to the visual and audio version of the lecture, you can simply download the material through

OWL. Where possible I include the PowerPoints for you to access; however, some of these were lost thanks to a computer crash.

For access to a more portable audio version, you can find links to various audio versions (Spotify, Apple podcasts, Google podcasts, etc.) on <https://anchor.fm/can-sebp-knowledge-incubator>

No text book is required for this course; however, there are assigned podcasts. Please see appropriate assignment.

Evaluation

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

Podcast assignments (3 x 20)	60 marks
Comment	30 marks
What do we know about policing assignment	10 marks

What do we know about policing assignment (DUE DATE: January 23, 2023)

Please email me a list of 20 questions that you would like answered during this class. I will not only try to answer as many of these questions as I can in a taped response, 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. What I’m evaluating you on is the apparent degree of thought you put into thinking about what you asked.

Podcast Assignment (DUE DATES: January 30, February 28, March 30. Although we can be reasonably flexible with these dates, please note I cannot accept work later than **April 3, 2023**):

I am asking you to turn in **3 reviews** of the 3 of the Reducing Crime Podcasts (<https://www.reducingcrime.com/podcast>). I am asking you to turn in **3 reviews** of the 3 of the Reducing Crime Podcasts (<https://www.reducingcrime.com/podcast>) from among the following podcast episodes:

Jackie Sebire
Scott Charles
Walter Katz
Charles Ramsay
Carmen Best
Tanya Meisenholder
Alex Murray
Bill Walsh
Rachel Tuffin
Kevin Bethel

For these reviews, you will be expected to provide a succinct two page (single spaced) brief on the key takeaways or messages you learned from listening to the podcast. A lot of this content will tie into ideas, concepts, research from class, so ***make sure that, when possible, you draw links between the podcast and what you learned from lectures provided for in this class.*** Of course, I am happy to accept your work by email.

Comment on What You Learned (DUE DATE: April 5th)

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.

Student Absences:

Most deadlines in this course are 'soft' – meaning that you have the flexibility to turn in assignments later than the suggested deadline without having to provide an excuse to me or even contacting me. That said, two things to note:

1. If I have not received any work from you by March 10th, I will be following up with you to see how you're doing, what your workload is like and how best I can work with you to complete your course requirements.
2. I do require all of your work to be received *no later than April 10th, 2023.*

If you are unable to complete your course work on or by April 10th, due to illness or other serious circumstances, please follow the procedures below (contacting Academic Counseling, etc).

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

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.

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.

Absences from Final Examinations: N/A

Course Schedule and Readings:

Course Introduction – **January 12th** Microsoft Teams meeting at **1pm**. I will send everyone a Teams meeting invite through your UWO email account. If you can't make it, do NOT worry! I have also taped a greeting for OWL that goes over many of the same things and we can always email or schedule a time for any unanswered questions.

Policing philosophies

Community Oriented Policing

Problem Oriented Policing

Evidence Based Policing

Broken Windows Policing

Policing strategies

Focused Deterrence

Crime Hot Spots

Nudge Theory

COMPSTAT

Policing issues & controversies

The Politics of Policing

Street checks

Unfounded rates

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. 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](#). 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 \(uwo.ca\)](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. To connect with a case manager or set up an appointment, please contact support@uwo.ca.

Guidelines for Grades/Marks

Sociology 1000-Level

A's not to exceed B's
Means in the range of 68-72%

Sociology 2000-Level

A's not to exceed B's
Means in the range of 70-75%

Sociology 3000-Level

Means in the range of 73-80%

Sociology 4000-Level

Means in the range of 78-82%