



The University of Western Ontario
SOCIOLOGY 4455-F
Advanced Sociology of Law
Fall 2022

Friday, 9:30-12:30PM, Room SSC 5230

Delivery Method - in-person

Instructor: Brenda Kobayashi

Office Hours: Fridays 12:30-1:30PM

Department of Sociology, Office: SSC # TBA

Email: bkobaya@uwo.ca

Course Description: This course examines law as a social institution; as a product of social organizations and processes. Various theoretical frameworks with different explanations of how the law operates will be examined. Topics to be analyzed include law and social control, violence against women, and factors influencing the outcome of legal decisions.

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: Drawing on different theoretical frameworks, students will critically analyze law as a social institution. Students will develop a deeper understanding of law and society by examining: social issues that arise in Canada and beyond to understand their legal underpinnings and implications; the forces that shape the law and the social implications of law; how the law operates; the controversies surrounding law; what functions law fulfills; how law can be dysfunctional; the major assumptions in the study of law and society, among others.

Course Material:

A list of readings will be provided during the first class. These readings will be made available on Owl and/or through the library.

Communication:

Your first sources of information are the course syllabus, attending class, and OWL. Students are required and expected to read the course syllabus in its entirety. Students are responsible for checking the course OWL site (<http://owl.uwo.ca>) on a regular basis for news and updates.

If you have a question or would like to discuss course content, please see me before, during, or after class, or during office hours (Fridays 12:30-1:30PM). Outside of class and/or office hours, email (bkobaya@uwo.ca) is my preferred method of contact. You can expect a response within 24-48 hours on Mondays to Fridays between 9-5PM (EST). Prior to emailing me, please read the course outline, announcements, and any other supplementary material posted on Owl to see if your question has already been answered.

Students are expected to adhere to professional and courteous email etiquette. Emails are to be professionally prepared, spell-and grammar checked and not written in “text message” format. All communication must be written from your UWO account. The subject heading must read the course title and section. Sign the email with your full name and student number. Instructors and Teaching Assistants reserve the right not to respond to emails that do not adhere to such practices.

Grades (except the final exam and year-end mark) will be posted to OWL as they become available. Due to privacy regulations, I do not provide grades or discuss issues regarding grades via email. If you wish to discuss your grade(s) please contact or speak with me to set up an appointment, during office hours.

Method of Evaluation:

Student-led seminar: 25%

Critical Reflection Paper: 15%

Participation: 25%

Final Term Paper: 35%

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

A) Seminar: Students will lead one class seminar, either individually or as a team. This will be dependent on class enrolment. The seminar will draw upon the assigned/required course readings, scheduled for that week. Additional information and sign-up for seminars will be provided during the first lecture. **Seminars will begin on Week Two. Sign-up will be done the first week of classes. Attending the first lecture on September 9, 2022, is an expected and mandatory requirement.**

B) Participation: Students are required and expected to attend all lectures, come prepared having done the assigned readings and to play an active role during the class seminars. Additional details will be provided during the first class.

C) Students will submit one critical reflection paper, due one week after their scheduled seminar. Additional details will be provided during the first class.

D) Essay: Students will complete a research paper on a selected topic that is relevant to the course and is of interest to the student. This is to be a formal research paper. This essay is not a descriptive, but rather an argumentative paper. Thus, students are expected to think critically and analytically. It is expected that students will demonstrate strong writing skills. Students are permitted to draw on and use some course material; however, a substantial portion of sources is to come from scholarly, peer reviewed journal articles and scholarly books beyond the course readings. As such, students are required to research their topic thoroughly. The final paper is to be 10 pages in length (approximately 2500 words), double spaced with standard formatting and text size (1" margins and 12-font) with proper referencing. A title page and bibliography are to be included, as additional pages. The final essay is worth 35% of your final course grade. A hard copy must be submitted in person (not electronically) at the beginning of class on **November 25, 2022**. Students must submit their paper to turnitin prior to the beginning of class on November 25, 2022. Late papers, without academic accommodation, (including hardcopies of papers not submitted) will be penalized 10% per day beginning November 25, 2022 at 9:40 am. Late papers, without an academic accommodation, will not be accepted after December 2, 2022 and will receive a "0" grade.

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 dates

Friday September 9, 2022: Introductory Class

- **Please come prepared having read the course syllabus. Attendance is expected and mandatory.**

October 31 - November 6, 2022: Fall Reading Week.

November 25, 2022: Class essay is due at the beginning of class.

A more detailed weekly course schedule along with assigned readings will be provided in the first lecture and will also be posted on Owl.

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 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.

Please notify me within 24 hours of the missed evaluation, preferably prior to the evaluation due date so that arrangements can be made (e.g., setting a new due date). Further, if you will miss the seminar that

you have signed up to lead, please email me as well as any other classmate who is scheduled to present on the same day as soon as possible, preferably prior to your scheduled seminar date. If you receive an academic accommodation, your presentation will be rescheduled to the following week, if time permits. If there is no time the following week, then students will present on the last day of class (December 2, 2022). If you have signed up to present as a team and one member receives an academic accommodation, then the team will present the following week, if time permits or on December 2, 2022.

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.

Course Schedule and Readings:

A more detailed weekly course schedule along with assigned readings will be provided in the first lecture and will also be posted on Owl.

2022-2023

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.