



Western University  
SOCIOLOGY 2257B - 001  
Deviance and Social Control  
Winter 2024

Thursdays 9:30-12:30, [REDACTED]  
In-Person

**Instructor:** Melissa Elliott

**Office Hours:** Following lecture, Thursdays 12:30-1:30 pm or via Zoom

**Department of Sociology, Office:** [REDACTED]

**Email:** mellio57@uwo.ca

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**This is a DRAFT only. Please see the course site for the final version.**

**Course Description:** This course covers theories of deviant behaviour and social control. We will examine how particular behaviours come to be defined as deviant and how norms, values and rules are socially constructed. We will also examine the consequences of formal and informal deviant behaviours and the responses they elicit.

**Antirequisite(s):** Sociology 2259.

**Prerequisite(s):** 0.5 Sociology course 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.

**Course Objectives and Learning Outcomes:**

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

- Identify and explain key concepts related to deviance and social control.
- Understand and apply the theoretical frameworks central to the sociological study of deviance.
- Grasp how deviance is researched, highlighting ethical concerns and methodological approaches.
- Appreciate how deviance is not only normal, but prevalent and necessary in our society.
- Connect core concepts, particularly those of Erving Goffman, to their own lives and experiences.
- Develop skills in academic writing, professionalism, and critical thinking.

Students enrolled in this class should understand the level of autonomy and discipline required to succeed in a second-year course. It is the student's responsibility to regularly complete all coursework (i.e., finish readings, attend and take notes on lectures, stay on top of important deadlines and dates, etc.).

**Course Material:**

- **Required text:** Tepperman, L., & Tepperman, A. (2013). *Deviance, crime, and control: Beyond the straight and narrow*. 3<sup>rd</sup> edition. Oxford: Oxford University Press.
- **Supplementary material (not required to purchase):** Goffman, E. (1963). *Notes on the management of spoiled identity*. Touchstone Books.

The required textbook has been ordered at the Western University Bookstore and will be available by the end of January. Instructor will provide access to required course materials via OWL while the textbooks are on order.

Goffman’s text is **not required for students to purchase** as necessary concepts for the stigma paper will be covered in lecture. However, students are encouraged to seek out the e-book version of the text available through the library’s website in the process of developing their papers. UWO has online access to three copies of the e-book, so please be considerate of your peers when accessing the book through the library.

**Communication:**

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. Please be sure that you have reviewed the course syllabus and all assignment instructions before reaching out to your instructor or your teaching assistant with questions.

**Office Hours:** I am available for **in-person** office hours on **Thursdays from 12:30 to 1:30 pm in SSC 5333 immediately following lecture**. Outside of my regular office hours, I am available to meet on Zoom. Please email me at [mellio57@uwo.ca](mailto:mellio57@uwo.ca) if you would like to book an appointment. Details regarding your teaching assistant’s contact information, office hours, and appropriate reasons for inquiry can be found on the OWL overview page. When in doubt, reach out to the instructor first.

**Email Etiquette:** Be sure to use your UWO email account for your university-related communications. All email correspondence should be professionally prepared, spell- and grammar-checked, and written respectfully. The subject heading must include the course code (e.g. “2257 – question about stigma assignment”). Always begin an email with a salutation such as “Hello Professor Elliott”. Sign off the email with your full name. Typically, you can expect responses to emails within two to three business days. A good rule of thumb is to save content-related questions or questions requiring significant explanation for a meeting during office hours. As a sign that you have read and agree to the terms outlined in syllabus, please email me a random picture of a mushroom. Students who complete this task by February 1 at 11:59 pm will earn a bonus mark on the midterm.

**Method of Evaluation:**

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

Midterm examination	In-class, on Thursday February 29, 2024.	25%
Stigma paper	Due Thursday March 21 by 11:55pm.	30%
Final examination	TBA.	45%

***Midterm examination (25%):***

The midterm examination will take place in-class on **Thursday, February 29, 2024**. You will have 3 hours to complete the examination. The examination will cover all course material (i.e., readings, lectures, class discussions, videos, etc.) up to February 22. The examination may include multiple choice, true-and-false, matching concept-definitions, fill in the blank, and/or short answer questions. More details about the examination will be provided in lectures, especially leading up to the midterm date. Students can expect a quick turnaround in receiving their grades for this midterm, as students are required to have at least 15% of their course mark by March 4, 2024.

***Stigma assignment (30%):***

The stigma assignment is due at 11:55 pm on **Thursday, March 21, 2024**. The assignment involves students applying the concepts and theoretical perspective of Erving Goffman housed in his work, *Stigma: Notes on the Management of Spoiled Identity* to their own life experiences or to the life of a fictional character. While key

concepts will be covered during lecture, students are also encouraged to learn more about Goffman and his work by seeking out *Stigma: Notes on the Management of Spoiled Identity* accessible as an e-book on the library website.

Essays will be approximately 1,500 words, using normal margins, 12-point Times New Roman font, and in APA or ASA-style formatting. Papers will be submitted via the “*Assignments*” tab on OWL. This will ensure all papers are reviewed by Turnitin. Thus, please submit your assignments in either Word or PDF format. Full instructions about the assignment will be made available under the “*Resources*” tab on OWL.

***Students who do not receive formal accommodations from the Academic Counselling Office will be subject to a late penalty. For each full 24-hour period that passes beyond the deadline, a -5% penalty will be applied.***

***When grades have been released for the stigma paper, at least 24 hours must pass before you contact the instructor or the teaching assistant regarding the mark. Always review the feedback provided and take time to process it before reaching out.***

#### ***Final examination (45%):***

The final examination will take place during the final April examination period, with the date and location determined by the UWO registrar’s office. You will have 3 hours to complete the examination. The examination will cover all course material (i.e., readings, lectures, class discussions, videos, etc.) following the midterm. While the final examination is NOT cumulative in the traditional sense, you should expect major course themes and theoretical perspectives to remain relevant and to carry forward throughout the course. The examination may include multiple choice, true-and-false, matching concept-definitions, fill-in-the-blank, and/or short answer questions. Finalized details about the examination will be provided in lectures as we get closer to the final examination period.

*Note: 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. This applies to the stigma paper, the midterm, and the final exam.*

#### **Student Absences:**

If you know that you have a problem with a due date or an examination (scheduling conflict, illness, etc.), **please discuss this with me as soon as possible**. If you do not or cannot let me know ahead of time, you will be required to follow the formal academic accommodation process (see below).

#### ***Assessments worth 10% or more of the overall course grade (which are all assessments in this course):***

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. Documentation (medical or otherwise) is required, and it can *only* be collected by the student’s Dean’s Office Academic Counselling unit, not the instructor.

For the **stigma paper**, students who receive formal accommodation from the Academic Counselling Office will receive an extension. For the **midterm and final examinations**, students with an approved absence will be required to write a make-up examination. Our Undergraduate Program Coordinator plans department-wide makeup dates for midterms and final examinations. These dates will be announced to students when they become available. The course professor or teaching assistant may not be available to respond to questions during the make-up examination. Students should be aware that the make-up examination will not necessarily be in the same format, be of the same duration, or cover the same material as the original.

There will **NOT** be any opportunity to reweigh any of the assessments in the course.

**Course Readings and Schedule:**

**NOTE:** The course reading list and the schedule will be uploaded to our OWL site in the 'Resources' folder.

**Academic Policies:**

Please review the Department of Sociology "[Important Academic Policies](https://sociology.uwo.ca/undergraduate/courses/Academic_Policies.pdf)" document [https://sociology.uwo.ca/undergraduate/courses/Academic\\_Policies.pdf](https://sociology.uwo.ca/undergraduate/courses/Academic_Policies.pdf) for additional information regarding:

- Scholastic Offences
- Plagiarism
- Copyright
- Academic Accommodation
- Accessibility Options
- Mental Health