



The University of Western Ontario
SOCIOLOGY 3260B-001

Law and Society
Winter 2024

Delivery Method - In-person

Instructor: Brenda Kobayashi

Office Hours: by appointment

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

Course Description: This course examines the institutions and processes of the law, and how they operate in contemporary society. Issues engaged are social control, law and culture, knowledge, violence, governance, diversity, and social change.

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

Unless you have either the prerequisites or written special permission from your Dean to enroll in the course, 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): Sociology 2260A/B

Course Objectives and Learning Outcomes:

By critically analyzing the law and drawing on different theoretical perspectives, students can seek to examine/answer such questions as: what is the nature of the relationship between law and society? What is the purpose of law? Why are some activities and relationships regulated through law while others are not? Whose interests does the law represent? Can the law affect social change? How or can the law address social inequality?

Course Material:

Textbook: TBA

Additional Assigned Readings will be posted on Owl or placed on reserve at Weldon Library.

Communication:

Your first sources of information are the course syllabus and OWL. Students are expected and required 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. This is the primary method by which information will be disseminated to all students in the class. Students are also responsible for attending class and reading the course outline in its entirety.

If you have a question or would like to discuss course content, please speak with me before, during, or after class. Outside of class, please email me at bkobaya@uwo.ca to set up a time to meet during office hours. 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, review your class notes, 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 should be professionally prepared, spell- and grammar-checked and not written in “text message” format. All communications 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 TAs reserve the right not to respond to emails that do not adhere to such practices.

Method of Evaluation:

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

Assignment (**March 5**): worth 30%

Midterm Examination (**February 6**): worth 30%

Final Examination (**Final exam period**): worth 40%

Evaluation Breakdown:

- A) Examination:** The midterm examination is worth 30% of your final course grade and will be held on **February 6, 2024**. The final exam is worth 40% of your final course grade and will be held during the final exam period. The examinations in this course will be closed book and **may** include multiple choice, true and false, fill in the blank, and/or short answer questions. The examinations will cover all material covered in the lectures, readings, and any supplementary material provided. Details regarding the exam format will be provided the week before the upcoming examination date. If you do not attend these lectures, it is your responsibility to reach out to a classmate to catch up on what you have missed. Please do not email the instructor or the TA for this information as these emails may not be responded to. **N.B.** Makeup quizzes and exams will be in **essay format only**.
- B) Assignment:** There will be one assignment worth 30% of your final course grade and will be due at the start of class on **March 5, 2024**. Details regarding the assignment will be provided prior to the assignment due date. A handout will be posted on Owl with additional details and

answers to questions being provided during our lecture times. If you do not attend these lectures, it is your responsibility to reach out to a classmate to catch up on what you have missed. Please do not email the instructor or the TA for this information as these emails may not be responded to.

Grading Guidelines:

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. Final course grades will be released from the registrar and posted on your student centre.

All evaluations are guided by Western's Undergraduate Grading Guidelines:

University-wide grade descriptors

A+ 90-100: One could scarcely expect better from a student at this level

A 80-89: Superior work which is clearly above average

B 70-79: Good work, meeting all requirements, and eminently satisfactory

C 60-69: Competent work, meeting requirements

D 50-59: Fair work, minimally acceptable

F below 50: Fail

For more information about the university grading standards, see the Registrar's Handbook: Grading Standards

N.B. To ensure the fair treatment of all students, so that no one individual receives any consideration or special treatment as a result of verbal complaints (e.g., arbitrary bumping up of grades) that is not equally received by others, there are no make-up assignments for low evaluation scores or to enhance a final grade; nor will requests to change a grade because it is needed for a future program be considered.

Assessment Re-evaluation

Any request of assessment re-evaluation is to be done within two weeks of the mark being released. Students who seek a re-evaluation of grades must justify in detail and in writing why they feel that a mark is not justified. The request must be based on reasons rooted in the specific course content and keeping in mind my expectations for the class. The assessment will be re-graded in its entirety, not simply the portion the student believes were scored improperly. Note, in the course of remarking an assessment the instructor or TA may discover errors or defects that were not originally detected and as a result it is possible that a student's revised mark may go down, rather than up. The instructor reserves the right to adjust the mark both upwards and downwards. The revised mark stands.

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.

Makeup Examinations and Missed Evaluations

If you miss an examination or evaluation due to illness or for any other unforeseen reason, please notify me within 24 hours. Students must provide valid medical or supporting documentation to their Home Faculty Academic Counselling Office as soon as possible.

Students with an approved absence from an in-class test or exam will be required to write a makeup exam. There will be **only one makeup examination** for each scheduled examination. The makeup examination for the in-class midterm examination will be held during the Department Makeup Exam scheduled on **TBA**. Failure to write the exam, without an academic accommodation, will result in a zero grade for that evaluation.

Students with an approved absence from an in-class test or exam will be required to write a makeup exam. 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. **Makeup exams will be essay format only.**

Special Examination

Regarding a missed final examination, 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). The makeup examination (Special Examination) for the final examination will be held during the Department Makeup exam scheduled on **TBA**. The locations **TBA**. Failure to write the exam, without an academic accommodation, will result in a zero grade for that evaluation.

Students with an approved absence from an in-class test or exam will be required to write a makeup exam. 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. **Makeup exams for this course will be in essay format only.**

N.B. 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.

Classroom Conduct and Additional Information:

This class will conduct itself on the principles of academic and intellectual freedom and mutual respect. Some readings and content will include topics about sensitive, difficult, and/or challenging issues that may be triggering and/or upsetting. I ask all students to help create an atmosphere of mutual respect and sensitivity during the lecture and discussion periods. Racist, sexist, or other derisive comments, intentional or otherwise will not be tolerated.

Recording of lectures, tutorial or virtual meetings or online course content without the explicit consent of the Professor, TA, and students involved is grounds for serious academic and/or legal discipline. All course content created by a faculty member is considered the faculty member's intellectual property; it should not be distributed, shared in any public domain, or sold by a student or other third part without prior written consent of the faculty member.

Class attendance is critical to getting the most of this course. While readings and lectures fit together, some material will only be covered in class. Students are responsible for everything that occurs during class time, including discussion, handouts, videos, guest speakers, etc.

I do not post or handout my lecture notes. I will post powerpoint slides on Owl in advance of each class; however, these slides are intended only to aid in note-taking. They are not complete notes and are not a substitute for attending lectures. It is the student's responsibility to create the full complement of notes from each class.

If you miss class, are late or leave early, it is your responsibility to catch up on anything and everything that occurs during class (e.g., arrange with a classmate to exchange lecture notes, discussions, handouts, videos, guest speakers, class announcements, etc.,) It is a good idea to "buddy up" with a classmate in order to exchange notes, if you must miss a class, are late, or leave early as I do not post or handout lectures notes.

A laptop can be an effective tool for taking notes in class. However, it is distracting to the instructor, TA, speakers, and other students when students use their laptops or cellphones to access the Internet and/or make personal calls and/or send and receive messages during lectures. Students who use their laptop and/or cellphone during the class for any reason other than to take lecture notes are considered to be engaging in disruptive behaviour under the Student Code of Conduct. Students caught violating this policy may be asked to leave the class lecture.

Within this course, students are permitted to use AI tools exclusively for information gathering and preliminary research purposes. These tools are intended to enhance the learning experience by providing access to diverse information sources. However, it is essential that students critically evaluate the obtained information, exercise independent thinking, and engage in original research to synthesize and develop their own ideas, arguments and perspectives. The use of AI tools can serve as a starting point

for exploring a topic, with students expected to uphold academic integrity by appropriately attributing all sources of information and avoiding plagiarism. Essays, written assignments and/or lab reports should reflect the student's own thoughts and independent written work. Students should also generate their own figures (e.g., graphs, diagrams) rather than using AI generated ones. By adhering to these guidelines, students contribute to a responsible and effective learning environment that promotes critical thinking, independent inquiry and all them to produce original written contributions. The same principles also apply to the use of translation software to support the writing the essays and other written assessments.

Course Schedule and Readings:

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

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 for additional information regarding:

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