



The University of Western Ontario  
**SOCIOLOGY 4451G-650**  
**Policing and Society**  
**Winter 2024**  
**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.

### **Method of 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 19, 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 26, February 16, March 8.** Although we can be reasonably flexible with these dates, please note I cannot accept the last two podcast assignments later than **April 3<sup>rd</sup> and all work must be in by April 8<sup>th</sup>**):

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

Danny Murphy  
Andrew Lemieux  
Steve James  
Vera Bumpers  
Jeff Asher  
Stijn Ruiters  
Gloria Laycock  
Kristen Ziman  
Don Weatherburn  
Bill Bratton

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 1th, 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 8<sup>th</sup>, 2024*

If you are unable to complete your course work on or by April 8<sup>th</sup>, 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 – (Week 1) - January 12<sup>th</sup>** 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 (Weeks 2-5)*

*Policing strategies (Weeks 7-10)*

*Policing issues & controversies (Weeks 11-13)*

**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 less than 10% of the overall course grade:*

N/A

*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.

Excused absences will be provided an extension to turn in the work.

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.

**Academic Policies:**

Please review the Department of Sociology “[Important Academic Policies](#)” 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