



The University of Western Ontario
SOCIOLOGY 2266A-650

Crime & Society
Summer 2023

Online: Asynchronous

Instructor: Sam Ghebrai

Office Hours: Thursdays 10:00am-12:00pm (EST) via Zoom or by appointment

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

Course Description: This course provides students with a comprehensive introduction to the sociological aspects of crime in Canada. The course: (1) begins with a critical examination into the definition of crime and criminality; (2) identifies measurement patterns, causes, and social explanations of criminal behaviour; (3) examines major classical and contemporary criminological theories, including those that explore the intersections of race, gender, sexuality, and crime; (4) analyzes various typologies of crime and their social and legal consequences. The course provides the groundwork for students to engage in sophisticated sociological and criminological debates around crime and society.

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): None.

Course Objectives and Learning Outcomes:

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

- Explain the extent and nature of crime in Canada.
- Understand the process of criminological research, including the data and methods used by scholars.
- Develop an understanding of key criminological concepts and theories and evaluate their strengths and limitations.
- Distinguish between personal opinion and critical analysis.
- Evaluate the role of the criminal justice system in addressing crime and in administering punishment.

Course Material:

- Schmallegger, F., & Volk, R. (2021). *Canadian Criminology Today* (7th ed.). Pearson Education Canada. *Note: Digital copies can be purchased online through [Western's bookstore website](#). Physical copies are also available in the bookstore.*
- Additional readings will be posted on OWL.

Course Organization and Expectations:

Students enrolled in this class should understand the level of autonomy and self-discipline required to succeed in online courses, especially considering this course is both **virtual** and **asynchronous**. Course materials will be released under the “**Resources**” tab on OWL each **Monday at 12:00 (noon) EST**, starting Monday May 8. On occasion, additional or supplemental **content will be released throughout the week** using the “**Announcements**” feature on OWL, so it is very important to make it a daily habit to log onto OWL to ensure you have seen everything posted. It is the student’s responsibility to regularly complete all coursework (i.e., finish readings, take notes on lectures/videos, complete weekly quizzes etc.). Refer to the “**Calendar**” on OWL for important/upcoming dates.

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.

Office hours: I am available for virtual (Zoom) office hours on Thursday mornings between 10:00am-12:00pm EST, or by appointment. Please e-mail me at sghebrai@uwo.ca if you are looking to book an appointment outside of my office hours. Be sure to use your UWO e-mail account when communicating with me. E-mails from other accounts will not receive replies.

All e-mail correspondence should be professionally prepared, spell- and grammar-checked, and not written in “text message” format. The subject heading must include the course title. Begin your e-mail with a salutation such as “Hello Professor Ghebrai” or “Hi Professor Ghebrai”. Sign off the e-mail with your full name and student number. You can expect a response from me within 24 hours, between 9am-5pm EST on weekdays.

Method of Evaluation:

Weekly quizzes	Available from Thursdays 12:00pm EST to Sundays 11:59am EST (5 quizzes, lowest grade dropped; $4 \times 6.25\% = 25\%$)*	25%
Short Essay Assignment	Due Thursday June 8 @ 11:59am EST	35%
Final Examination	TBA (Exam period June 17-18)	40%

* See “Student Absences” section below for more details.

Weekly quizzes (5 quizzes, lowest grade dropped; $4 \times 6.25\% = 25\%$)

The weekly quizzes will be available each **Thursday from 12:00pm (noon) EST until Sunday at 11:59am EST** through the “**Tests & Quizzes**” tab on OWL. You will have between 15-20 minutes to complete each quiz, depending on the number/type of questions asked. Each quiz will cover the course material released earlier in the week. For example, the quiz available on Thursday May 11 will be based on coursework (i.e., lecture, readings, videos, etc.) released on Monday May 8. The quizzes **may** include multiple-choice, true and false, matching concept-definition, fill in the blank, and/or short answer questions. Students will be permitted to miss **ONE** weekly quiz **WITHOUT** penalty. **Students who complete all five quizzes will have their lowest grade dropped.** More details about the quizzes will be provided in the first lecture.

Short Essay Assignment (35%)

The short essay assignment will be due **Thursday June 8 at 11:59am EST**. Students are expected to write a short argumentative essay applying **ONE APPROVED** criminological theory learned from the course into a real-world example of crime. Your analysis will consider how factors such as age, race/ethnicity, gender, sexuality, and/or class relate to your topic. Assignments are expected to be between 3-5 double-spaced pages, normal margins (2.54cm), 12-point Times New Roman font, and in APA-style formatting. More information about the assignment, including a detailed rubric and supporting documents, will be available in the “**Resources**” tab on OWL shortly after the beginning of the course.

Note: There are some topics that students find particularly interesting and want to write about, such as **serial killers** or **mass murder**. These are indeed criminological topics but are often studied exclusively from psychological and psychiatric perspectives. I strongly encourage students interested in these topics to see me during office hours. Students having difficulties choosing a topic are also encouraged to see me for office hours.

Final Examination (40%)

The final examination will take place sometime during the exam period (**Saturday June 17 to Sunday June 18**) and will be available through the “**Tests & Quizzes**” tab on OWL. The examination will cover all course material (i.e., lectures, readings, videos, etc.) from **May 8 to June 16**. The final examination will contain roughly 100-120 multiple-choice questions. More details about the examination will be provided in lectures, especially leading up to the final examination date.

Important Dates:

- May 8: First day of classes
- May 12: Last day to add course
- May 22: Victoria Day
- June 5: Last day to drop course (without academic penalty)
- June 16: Course ends
- June 17-18: Examination period

Course Schedule and Readings:

Please refer to the “**Syllabus**” tab on OWL for a syllabus with the detailed breakdown of the course schedule and additional readings. A copy of the course schedule and readings will also be available as a separate document in the “**Resources**” tab on OWL.

Course Schedule and Readings

NOTE: This is a DRAFT only. The instructor reserves the right to change the course outline prior to the beginning of class. Students will be given sufficient notice of any changes should they arise.

Week	Date Beginning	Topics	Readings
1	May 8, 2023	Course Introduction + What is Crime? Definitions, Measurement, and Patterns Weekly Quiz #1: Thurs. May 11 to Sun. May 14	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Course outline • Schmalleger & Volk, Chapters 1, 2, & 3 (pp. 1-92).

May 12 is the last day to add this class

2	May 15, 2023	Overview of Sociological, Biological, and Psychological Perspectives on Crime Weekly Quiz #2: Thurs. May 18 to Sun. May 21	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Schmalleger & Volk, Chapter 5, 6, & 7 (pp. 115-202).
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Monday May 22 is Victoria Day. Lecture content will be released Tuesday May 23

3	May 22, 2023	Structural and Interactional Criminological Theories Weekly Quiz #3: Fri. May 26 to Mon. May 29	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Schmalleger & Volk, Chapter 8 & 9 (pp. 203-252).
4	May 29, 2023	Contemporary and Emerging Criminological Theories Weekly Quiz #4: Thurs. Jun. 1 to Sun. Jun. 4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Schmalleger & Volk Chapter 10 (pp. 253-277). • Additional readings posted on OWL.

June 5 is the last day to drop this course without academic penalty

5	June 5, 2023	Criminal Justice Policy: Crime Prevention, Punishment, and Justice Short essay assignment due @11:59am Thurs. Jun. 8 Weekly Quiz #5: Thurs. Jun. 8 to Sun. Jun. 11	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Schmalleger & Volk Chapter 11 (pp. 277-297). • Additional readings posted on OWL.
6	June 12, 2023	Future Directions in Criminology Final Exam: Exam period (Sat. Jun. 17 to Sun. Jun. 18)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Schmalleger & Volk Chapter 12 (pp. 298-321). • Additional readings posted on OWL.

Student Absences:

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

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:

For work worth less than 10% of the total course grade (in this case, the weekly quizzes), students will be permitted to miss **ONE** weekly quiz **WITHOUT** penalty. If students miss more than one, they will receive a grade of “0” on the subsequent missed quizzes. Exceptions will **ONLY** be made under extreme circumstances. If students complete all the weekly quizzes, their lowest grade will be dropped. **NOTE:** Missing a weekly quiz **DOES NOT** exclude the student from being responsible for knowing the course material for that week. All course material is eligible for the final examination.

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. 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 short essay assignment, students who receive accommodation from the Academic Counselling Office will receive an extension. For the final examination, students with an approved absence will be required to write a make-up examination. The course professor 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 the short essay assignment or final examination.

Academic Policies:

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

https://sociology.uwo.ca/undergraduate/courses/Academic_Policies.pdf for additional information regarding:

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