



The University of Western Ontario
SOCIOLOGY 2257A-001
Deviance and Social Control
Fall 2024

Delivery Method: In person

Instructor: Sean Waite, PhD

Department of Sociology

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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.

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.

Anti-requisite(s): Sociology 2259.

Course Objectives and Learning Outcomes:

This course provides foundational knowledge in the field of deviance and social control, including theory, concepts, and methods. At the end of this course students will:

1. Understand the theoretical development and scientific study of deviance, including concepts, terms, and theorists.
2. Understand the research methodologies, and ethical implications, for conducting research in the field of deviance.
3. Understand why deviance is natural, inevitable, and, at times, beneficial.
4. Apply concepts from Erving Goffman's *Stigma* to their own life, or that of a fictional character.
5. Develop critical thinking, research, and writing skills.

Course Material:

1. Bereska, Tami. 2024. *Deviance, Conformity, and Social Control in Canada*. 7th edition Pearson Publishers.
2. Goffman, Erving. 1963. *Stigma: Notes on the management of spoiled identity*. Toronto: Simon & Schuster.
3. Additional articles and/or book chapters listed on detailed reading list.

Please note, Goffman (1963) should be purchased in hard copy. Students are required to cite passages of Goffman when completing their in-class stigma assignment.

Communication:

Email: swaite3@uwo.ca.

Email is not suitable for questions requiring considerable exposition. These questions are suited for in-person exchange during office hours. Office hours are drop-in and first come, first serve. Students are responsible for checking the course Brightspace site 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.

Method of Evaluation:

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

Midterm examination (in-class)	October 22, 2024	30%
Stigma assignment (in-class)	November 26, 2024 <u>or</u> December 3, 2024	20%
Final examination	During exam period	50%

Midterm / Final Examination

The examinations will consist of roughly 75 (midterm) and 100 (final) multiple-choice questions. The midterm will be written during class time in our regular lecture hall. The final examination will be written during the final exam period, with the date and location determined by the registrar's office. The final exam will be cumulative but there will be a far greater focus on material from the second half of the course. No electronic devices, books, cheat sheets, dictionaries or aids are permitted during the examination.

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.

Please note that instructors are permitted to designate one assessment per course per term as requiring supporting documentation to receive academic consideration. For this course the following assessment has been designated as requiring supporting documentation: midterm examination. Students with an accommodation for an examination will need to write a make-up exam. The make-up exam will be scheduled by your professor and may or may not be in the same format, length, duration, or cover the same content as the missed examination.

Stigma assignment

Students will complete an in-class writing assignment applying terms and concepts from Erving Goffman's *Stigma: Notes on the management of spoiled identity* to either their own life or that of a fictional character. Students will critically engage with original theory to show how, according to Goffman, we are all a little deviant, at least some of the time. More information about the stigma assignment will be provided in class. The stigma assignment must be completed in the classroom. Two time slots will be provided. Students must choose one, but not both, time slots to complete their assignment. If you have an accessible education plan, you can write this assignment at any time scheduled by the accessibility office.

Please note that because the submission deadline for the stigma assignment already includes flexibility in the form of two different dates to complete the assignment, the instructor reserves the right to deny academic consideration for assignments which are submitted following the end of the period of flexibility. There will be no additional class time allocated to complete the stigma assignment. Students must complete the stigma assignment

in class during one of the two provided time slots. Students who do not complete the stigma assignment will receive a zero on this component. If you have an accessible education plan, you can write this assignment at any time scheduled by the accessibility office.

All assignments must use **American Sociological Association (ASA)** referencing style.

Student Absences:

If you are unable to meet a course requirement due to illness or other serious circumstances, please follow the procedures below.

University policy on academic considerations are described [here](#). This policy requires that all requests for academic considerations must be accompanied by a self-attestation. Further information about academic considerations, and information about submitting this self-attestation with your academic consideration request may be found here. Please note that any academic considerations granted in this course will be determined by the instructor, in consultation with the academic advisors in your Faculty of Registration, in accordance with information presented in this course outline.”

Students must familiarize themselves with the [Policy on Academic Consideration – Undergraduate Students in First Entry Programs](#). Students missing course work for medical, compassionate or extenuating circumstances can request academic consideration by completing a request at the central academic consideration portal. Students are permitted one academic consideration request per course per term without supporting documentation. Note that supporting documentation is **always** required for academic consideration requests for examinations scheduled by the office of the registrar (e.g. December and April exams) and for practical laboratory and performance tests typically schedule during the last week of the term. Students should also note that the instructor may designate one assessment per course per term that requires supporting documentation. This designated assessment is described elsewhere in this document. Please note that any academic considerations granted in this course will be determined by the instructor of this course, in consultation with the academic advisors in your Faculty of Registration, in accordance with information presented in this course outline. Supporting documentation for academic considerations for absences due to illness should use the [Student Medical Certificate](#) or, where that is not possible, equivalent documentation by a health care practitioner.

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.

Artificial Intelligence:

All assignments must be completed independently, without the aid of artificial intelligence (AI).

Recording devices

Recording devices are not permitted in my class. Many of the topics we discuss will be sensitive. If students choose to share personal stories or experiences, they should not worry that they are being recorded. If you require a recording device for medical accommodations, please see me.

Other 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
- Course Selection
- Absence from Course Commitments
- Missed Tests and Exams
- Religious Accommodations
- Accessibility Options
- Mental Health
- Gender-Based and Sexual Violence statement

2024-2025