



The University of Western Ontario  
**SOCIOLOGY 2257B-001**  
**Deviance and Social Control**  
**Winter 2025**

**Delivery Method: In person**

**Instructor: Sean Waite, PhD**

**Department of Sociology**

**Email: swaite3@uwo.ca**

---

**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 (required):**

1. Bereska, Tami. 2024. *Deviance, Conformity, and Social Control in Canada*. 6<sup>th</sup> edition Pearson Publishers. \$95.00 (EBook) or \$65.00 (EBook, 180 day rental) – at Western Bookstore
  - a. Students need to purchase this edition or 7<sup>th</sup> edition, available at the Bookstore
2. Goffman, Erving. 1963. *Stigma: Notes on the management of spoiled identity*. Toronto: Simon & Schuster. \$25.00 (physical copy) – at Western Bookstore (or Amazon)
  - a. 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.
3. Additional articles and/or book chapters listed on detailed reading list.

## Communication:

Email: [swaite3@uwo.ca](mailto: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)	February 12, 2025	30%
Stigma assignment (in-class)	March 26, 2025 <b>or</b> April 2, 2025	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:**

**Scholastic Offences:** Scholastic offences are taken seriously and students are directed to read the appropriate policy, specifically, the definition of what constitutes a Scholastic Offence, at the following web site:

[https://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic\\_policies/appeals/scholastic\\_discipline\\_undergrad.pdf](https://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/scholastic_discipline_undergrad.pdf)

**Plagiarism:** Students must write their assignments in their own words. Whenever students take an idea from another author, they must acknowledge their debt both by using quotation marks where appropriate and by proper referencing such as footnotes or citations. Plagiarism is a major scholastic offence.

All required papers may be subject to submission for textual similarity review to the commercial plagiarism detection software under license to the University for detection of plagiarism. All papers submitted for such checking will be included as source documents in the reference database for the purpose of detecting plagiarism of papers subsequently submitted to the system. Use of the service is subject to the licensing agreement, currently between The University of Western Ontario and Turnitin.com (<https://www.turnitin.com/>).

Students are expected to retain all research notes, rough drafts, essay outlines, and other materials used in preparing assignments. In the unlikely event of concerns being raised about the authenticity of any assignment, your instructor may ask you to produce these materials; an inability to do so may weigh heavily against you.

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.

**Copyright:** Students may not record or distribute any class activity, including conversations during office hours, without written permission from the instructor, except as necessary as part of approved accommodations for students with disabilities. Any approved recordings may only be used for the student's own private use.

**Absence from Course Commitments:** Students must familiarize themselves with the Policy on Academic Consideration – Undergraduate Students in First Entry Programs

[https://uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic\\_policies/appeals/academic\\_consideration\\_Sep24.pdf](https://uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/academic_consideration_Sep24.pdf)

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 in the course outline. 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

[https://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic\\_policies/appeals/medicalform.pdf](https://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/medicalform.pdf) or, where that is not possible, equivalent documentation by a health care practitioner.

**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 Academic Counselling Office.

**Missed Tests and Exams:** Students with an approved absence from an in-class test will be required to write a make-up test. 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. Course professors may not be available to respond to questions during the make-up test/exam slots.

Students with an approved absence from a final exam in December or April will be required to write a makeup exam known as a Special Examination. Permission to write a Special Examination may be granted on the basis of compassionate or medical grounds with appropriate supporting documentation provided to the student's Home Faculty Academic Counselling office.

Students who fail to write a make-up test or special examination will receive a grade of zero on that assessment. No other make-up opportunities will be provided unless further academic consideration is granted by the student's Home Faculty Academic Counselling office.

**Religious Accommodation:** Students should review the policy for [Accommodation for Religious Holidays](#) . Where a student will be unable to write examinations and term tests due to a conflicting religious holiday, they should inform their instructors as soon as possible but not later than two weeks prior to writing the examination/term test. In the case of conflict with a midterm test, students should inform their instructor as soon as possible but not later than one week prior to the midterm.

**Contingency plan for an in-person class pivoting to 100% online learning:** In the event of a COVID-19 resurgence during the course that necessitates the course delivery moving away from face-to-face interaction, affected course content will be delivered entirely online, either synchronously (i.e., at the times indicated in the timetable) or asynchronously (e.g., posted on OWL Brightspace for students to view at their convenience). The grading scheme will **not** change. Any remaining assessments will also be conducted online as determined by the course instructor.

**Accessibility Options:** Students with disabilities or accessibility challenges should work with Accessible Education (formerly SSD) [http://academicssupport.uwo.ca/accessible\\_education/index.html](http://academicssupport.uwo.ca/accessible_education/index.html), which provides recommendations for accommodation based on medical documentation or psychological and cognitive testing. The accommodation policy can be found here:

[https://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic\\_policies/appeals/Academic%20Accommodation\\_disab](https://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/Academic%20Accommodation_disab)

[ilities.pdf](#) . Information regarding accommodation of exams is available on the Registrar's website:  
[www.registrar.uwo.ca/academics/examinations/accommodated\\_exams.html](http://www.registrar.uwo.ca/academics/examinations/accommodated_exams.html) .

**Mental Health:** Students who are in emotional/mental distress should refer to Mental Health@Western  
<https://www.uwo.ca/uwocom/mentalhealth> for a complete list of options about how to obtain help.

**Gender-Based and Sexual Violence:** Western is committed to reducing incidents of gender-based and sexual violence (GBSV) and providing compassionate support to anyone who is going through these traumatic events. If you are experiencing or have experienced GBSV (either recently or in the past), you will find information about support services for survivors, including emergency contacts at the following website  
[https://www.uwo.ca/health/student\\_support/survivor\\_support/get-help.html](https://www.uwo.ca/health/student_support/survivor_support/get-help.html) .To connect with a case manager or set up an appointment, please contact [support@uwo.ca](mailto:support@uwo.ca) .

**Additional resources:**

Registrar Services <http://www.registrar.uwo.ca>

Student Support Services <http://westernusc.ca/services>

**Course Selection:** Students are responsible for ensuring that their selection of courses is appropriate and accurately recorded, that all course prerequisites have been successfully completed, and that they are aware of any antirequisite courses they may have taken.

If a student enrolls in a course for which they do not have the prerequisites, they may be removed from the course and have it deleted from their record. This decision may not be appealed. A student will receive no adjustment to their fees in the event that they are dropped from a course for failing to have the necessary prerequisites.

If a student takes a course that is antirequisite to a course previously taken, they will lose credit for the earlier course, regardless of the grade achieved in the most recent course.

Please visit your Home Faculty Academic Counselling webpage for information on adding/dropping courses, academic considerations for absences, appeals, exam conflicts, and many other academic related matters:  
[https://registrar.uwo.ca/faculty\\_academic\\_counselling.html](https://registrar.uwo.ca/faculty_academic_counselling.html) .

**Bookstore:** Search for Textbook availability and cost <https://bookstore.uwo.ca/textbook-search>