



The University of Western Ontario

**SOCIOLOGY 3260A - 001**

**Sociology of Law**

**Fall 2024**

**In-Person**

**Instructor:** Dr. Ballucci, Associate Professor

**Department of Sociology**

**Email:** dballucc@uwo.ca

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**Course Description:**

This course is designed to introduce students to the broad-ranging field of law and society. Our focus is to challenge how people ordinarily understand law by beginning to think about law outside the box of legal logic. This course will introduce students to different ways of thinking about law as a social phenomenon and some of the main themes and debates that characterize the field of law and society today. Themes addressed may include law and social control, law and culture, law and knowledge, law and violence, law and governance, law and diversity, and law and social change. Students will consider the various ways law gains its meaning and authority from society and the extent to which law shapes society through its regulatory force.

***Prerequisites:* 1.0 from Sociology 1020, 1021E, 1025A/B, 1026F/G, 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.

***Antirequisite(s):* The former Sociology 260F/G, and 2260A/B**

**Course Objectives and Learning Outcomes:**

By the end of this course, students should:

- Distinguish between personal opinion and critical analysis
- Compare and contrast different ways of thinking about the interconnections between law and society
- Describe and challenge the ideal image of Law by looking at the everyday practices and experiences of law
- Identify and describe various social forces that influence, and are influenced by, law
- Identify, define, and illustrate basic concepts of law and society
- Be prepared for Advanced topics in Sociology of Law 4455

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### **Course Material:**

- 1) Calavita, Kitty (2016). *Invitation to Law & Society: An Introduction to the Study of Real Law (second edition)*. Chicago and London: The University of Chicago Press.
- 2) Additional readings will be provided via OWL.

### **Communication:**

Students are responsible for checking the course OWL Brightspace site (<https://westernu.brightspace.com/d2l/login>) 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:***

Professor Ballucci: I will be available for office hours by appointment. Also, please provide me with some information concerning your questions.

### ***How to Contact Me and the Teaching Assistants***

I can be contacted via email at [dballucc@uwo.ca](mailto:dballucc@uwo.ca). The teaching assistant's email will be provided below. Only emails that use proper etiquette will be answered. For example, a salutation is required. "Hello Professor Ballucci, or Dr. Ballucci" is acceptable. "Hey", "Miss", or the absence of a salutation is not acceptable. Also, no texting terminology is acceptable. Lastly, provide me with your name and the course and section you are emailing about. These rules also apply when email teaching assistants. Please do not email me questions about course content or course procedures. I will take time in every class to answer these types of questions. There are, however, two main exceptions to this policy:

1. You are experiencing a personal emergency that I need to know about before the next class.
2. You want to make an appointment to see me.

I will give my best effort to respond to these emails within 24 hours.

Teaching Assistant: Sam Ghebrai's office hours will be by appointment only. The TA can be contacted if you have questions about the Module assignments. BEFORE you contact the TA, please carefully read the instructions and information provided concerning the Module. Sam Ghebrai's email is: [sghebrai@uwo.ca](mailto:sghebrai@uwo.ca).

### **Method of Evaluation:**

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

1. In-Class Assignments: Total worth 40%, (6 x 6.67 %) Dates & topics listed in detailed outline.
2. Mid Term: 25%: October 29
3. Final Exam: 35%: TBA.

**1. In Class Assignment Philosophical Approach:** Each assignment will allow you to learn about the concepts, theories and challenges in the law and society. The assignments will teach you about the discipline and help you further develop your academic skills. The modules encourage you to reflect and critically engage with the course material. It is important that you cover the required content assigned to each module, complete any assigned learning activities, and attend office hours if you have any questions or concerns about the course. (For further details see Appendix)

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### **2. Mid Term-Exam (25%): Oct 29** (you will have 3 hours)

The midterm exam will be given in class and will address all material covered in the class. Mid-term 1 will include material between September 10<sup>th</sup> to October 22<sup>th</sup>. Questions will be based on lectures, readings, films, discussions, and guest lectures. The exam **may** include multiple choice, true and false, matching concept definitions, fill-in-the-blank questions, and/or short answer questions. The mid-term exam will cover ALL the materials, readings, class discussions and videos assigned and covered in the course.

Students with an approved absence from an in-class test or exam must write a makeup exam. The course professor or teaching assistant(s) may not be available to answer 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.

### **3. Final Exam: Final Exam (35%): TBA**

The final exam will be given during the formal examination period and may include all material in the course. Questions will be based on lectures, readings, films, discussions, and guest lectures. The exam **may** include multiple choice, true and false, matching concept definitions, fill-in-the-blank, and/or short-answer questions. The final examination period is Dec 9-22. Students are advised NOT to make travel commitments during this time period. Please note that students are expected to write their examinations honestly and straightforwardly; students who do not write the final exam will fail the course; only students with proper documentation will be allowed to write a make-up exam. The final exam will cover ALL the materials, readings, class discussions, and videos assigned and covered in the course throughout the term.

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. No electronic devices will be allowed during tests and examinations.

**Bonus Grades:** From time to time, I may provide opportunities for bonus marks. I may offer these on days with low attendance, either at the start or end of each class.

### **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 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.

### **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

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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.

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

### **Additional Important Information**

#### **How to get important information:**

All relevant course material will be available in the course outline and in class. Course announcements and information may also be sent to your Western email account.

#### **Approach and Expectations**

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The learning outcomes will be achieved through lectures, readings, class discussions and activities, multimedia clips, written and collaborative work, and exams. Students are expected to:

- Attend **all** classes;
- Read any required readings **before** class;
- Participate actively and thoughtfully in class discussions and group assignments (treat others with respect);
- Make notes on class content and identify questions as they arise during the process of reading required texts;
- Keep all rough work (notes, drafts, etc.) until their final marks have been officially recorded and be able to supply this rough work if requested by the course instructor;
- Keep an electronic copy of any paper or written commentary that is submitted in this course. The instructor may verify any written work using anti-plagiarism software (e.g., Turnitin.com);
- Contact Dr. Ballucci with any problems that may arise during the semester.
- **Turn off all handheld electronic devices in class and refrain from using cell phones, messenger, Facebook, and other social networking tools during class time.**

### **Policies for Assignment Deadlines:**

All assignments are due on the dates noted. Late course work will only be accepted without penalty with appropriate documentation that has been approved by the Academic Counseling office. Coursework received after the due date will have their grade reduced by a rate of 5% per day (including weekends). If an assignment is due at the end of class (4:30) it will be considered one day late any time after 4:30 p.m. the following day) unless Dr. Ballucci provides a class extension.

### **Policy on Laptops and other Electronics/Phones in Class:**

Laptops are permitted in class but if it is observed that students are on social networking sites such as Facebook or Twitter, they will be told to close the lid and they will not be permitted to use it for the remainder of the class. Be sure that all cell phones are turned off at the beginning of class.