



The University of Western Ontario  
**SOCIOLOGY 3309G-001**  
**Human Trafficking**  
**Winter 2025**  
**In-person**

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

**Department of Sociology**  
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**Course Description:**

This advanced course reviews the historical background, 'domestic trafficking' and the current complexity of the global problem of human trafficking within the context of regional causes, cases, and consequences. Human sexual exploitation, labour trafficking, and enslavement are the focus of study in this course. Definitions of the terminology and commonly used vocabulary will be discussed in detail. The course presents the legal theory and foundation upon which countries worldwide seek to control human trafficking and clarifies the difficulty of determining the scope and effect of the human trafficking problem through a focus on countries of origin, transit, and destination.

**Prerequisite(s):** Registration in the third year or above in any Department of Sociology module or fourth year in any module.

You must have either the prerequisites or written special permission from your Dean to enroll in the course to 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:**

**LEARNING OUTCOMES:**

By the end of this course, students should:

- Comprehend and differentiate the vocabulary associated with human slavery, sex trafficking, forced labour, and smuggling.
- Grasp the general practices of human trafficking regulations and governance throughout modern history with its current forms.

## **OBJECTIVES:**

**Objective one:** To evaluate the scope of the human trafficking problem in specific countries and regions, identify root causes in countries of origin and destination and assess the effectiveness of existing anti-trafficking measures in the areas of prevention, assistance, protection, partnerships, and prosecution.

**Objective two:** To understand how the Universal Declaration of Human Rights adopted by the United Nations and the Trafficking Victims Protection Act (TVPA) impact the identification of contemporary human slavery.

**Objective three:** To understand and frame the problem of human trafficking within the context of border and homeland security and assess threats against our homeland within a border security milieu.

## **Course Material:**

### **Required Text(s):**

Readings will be made available to students on Bright Space as a PDF link in the syllabus or via email.

### **Communication:**

Students are responsible for checking the course OWL Brightspace site (<https://westernu.brightspace.com/d2l/login>) regularly for news and updates. This is the primary method by which information will be disseminated to all students in the class.

### **How to Contact Me:**

I can be contacted via email at [dballucc@uwo.ca](mailto:dballucc@uwo.ca). 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 insufficient. Also, no texting terminology is acceptable. Lastly, provide me with your name, the course and the section (if applicable) you are emailing about.

Also, please do not email me questions about course content or 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 try to respond to these emails within 24 hours on weekdays, but I answer emails infrequently on the weekends.

## **Method of Evaluation:**

The evaluation methods described in the course outline are essential requirements

1. In-Class Assignments .....25% (5 assignments, 5% each)
  - a. Jan 21, Feb 4, Feb 11, March 4, March 11.
2. Midterm Exam 1.....25% Feb 25, 2025 (all material covered between Jan 14-Feb 11)
3. Film analysis.....20% March 18/19, 2025
4. Final Exam.....30% TBA (not cumulative)

**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 in-class assignments encourage you to reflect and critically engage with the course material. You must cover the required content assigned to each assignment, complete any assigned learning activities, and attend office hours if you have any questions or concerns about the course. (For further details see Appendix)

### **2. Mid Term-Exam (25%): Feb 25, 2025** (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 January 14<sup>th</sup> to February 11<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, duration, or cover the same material as the original test.

### **3. Film Analysis (20%): March 19, 2025**

The film analysis will be conducted in class on March 18. We will watch a film, and in groups, you will answer a set of questions provided on that day. The assignment will be due by the end of March 19 at 11:55 pm.

### **4. Final Exam: Final Exam (30%): 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:** Occasionally, 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.

### **Missed/Late Assignments:**

Late and missed in-class assignments will not be accepted without extenuating circumstances. In-class assignments are due at the end of each class unless Dr. Ballucci says otherwise. For the film assignment, a 5% deduction will be applied for each day the assignment is late.

### **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.

### **Course Schedule and Readings:**

The course readings and schedule are located on Brightspace and in a separate document posted on Brightspace entitled “Course Schedule and Readings”.

### **Artificial Intelligence:**

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

### **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](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