



The University of Western Ontario
SOCIOLOGY 3358F-001
Women and Crime
Fall 2024

Delivery Method - in-person

Instructor: Brenda Kobayashi

Office Hours: by appointment

Department of Sociology

Email: bkobaya@uwo.ca

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

Course Description: The objective of this course is to provide an overview of women's criminality. Throughout this course we will examine how the intersections of gender, race, ethnicity, and class inequality create and perpetuate crime. Specific emphasis will be given to feminist criminological theories.

Prerequisite(s): Registered in third year or above.

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:

Students will be able to identify and explain the criminological perspectives and feminist theories of women's involvement in types of crime. Examine criminalized women and intersections of victimization and criminality, their distinct characteristics, what sets them apart from others, and how the correctional system addresses and does not address their needs. Explore how and why women and girls are targeted, including the intersection of victimization and offending, mental health, Indigenous women and girls.

Course Material:

The following books are required and available at the University Bookstore.

Jane Barker and D. Tavcer, 2023 (3rd ed). Women and the Criminal Justice System: A Canadian Perspective.

Additional textbooks and readings: TBA

Communication:

Your first sources of information are the course syllabus, attending class, and Brightspace. Students are responsible for attending class, reading the course outline, and checking the course Brightspace 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.

If you have a question or would like to discuss course content, please speak with me before, during, or after class. Outside of class, please email me at bkobaya@uwo.ca to set up a time to meet during office hours. You can expect a response within 24-48 hours on Mondays to Fridays between 9-5PM (EST). I do not respond to emails on weekends. Prior to emailing me and/or the TA, please read the course outline, review your class notes, announcements, and any other supplementary material posted on Brightspace to see if your question has already been answered.

Students are expected to adhere to professional and courteous email etiquette. Emails are to be professionally prepared, spell- and grammar-checked and not written in “text message” format. All communications must be written from your UWO account. The subject heading must read the course title and section. Sign the email with your full name and student number. Instructors and TAs reserve the right not to respond to emails that do not adhere to such practices.

Method of Evaluation:

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

Presentation: worth 25%

Presentation Critical Reflection Paper: worth 10%

Participation: worth 10%

Critical Reaction Paper: worth 20%

Essay: 35%

Evaluation Breakdown:

Presentations: Students will do one group presentation that draws upon the assigned/required course readings scheduled for that week and is relevant to the course. Additional information and sign-up for presentations will be provided during the first lecture. Sign-up for presentations will be done the first week of classes; thus, attendance is mandatory. Depending on the course enrollment, presentations will begin on Week 3 or Week 4. Academic consideration for the presentation requires submission of formal supporting documentation provided to their Home Faculty Academic Counselling Office within 48 hours of the presentation date. Unless extenuating circumstances do not allow, please email myself and your fellow presenter(s) prior to the presentation date.

Presentation Critical Reflection Paper: One week after the presentation, each presenter will be required to submit a critical reflection paper. Expectations will be provided during the first lecture. The due dates will vary depending on the week you choose to present. The papers will be due at the start of class (9:30AM) one week after the presentation. Students should plan to submit by the deadline; however, no late penalty will be imposed for the first 72 hours after the deadline in the case of extenuating circumstances. This flexibility deadline applies to all students, including students with accommodations through Accessibility Education. Because the submission deadline for this assessment already includes flexibility, students are not eligible to submit a self-attestation accommodation. The

instructor reserves the right to deny academic consideration for any assignment submitted past the flexibility deadline. A late penalty of 10%/day beginning on the due date of your submission will be imposed for papers submitted after the 72-hour flexibility deadline.

Class Participation: This course meets for 3 hours per week. Students are required and expected to attend all classes and to come prepared having read all the required readings. It is also mandatory that students play an active role during class discussions and presentations. Students can miss two lectures without penalty to their participation grade. Because there is flexibility in the participation grade, the instructor reserves the right to deny academic consideration for missed classes. Additional expectations will be provided during the first class. N.B. Students who miss more than 2 classes throughout the semester, without an academic accommodation, will not meet the requirements to pass this course.

Critical Reading Paper: To ensure students engage with the assigned readings, participate in class, and to determine students understanding of the readings before the topics are discussed in class, students will sign up to write **five** critical reading papers (total worth 20% of your final course grade) dealing with one aspect of that week's assigned readings. Only four submissions will count toward your final course grade (the lowest grade will be dropped). Because there is flexibility (the lowest mark is dropped) in the assignment, students are not eligible to submit a self-attestation for a missed critical reading paper. Instead, missed critical reading papers will be graded as a zero. The papers will be due by 5:00 PM (EST) on the Friday prior to the scheduled class. **The due dates will vary depending on the weeks you choose to submit a paper.** The paper will be uploaded to Turnitin under the Assignment tab by **5:00pm** of the assigned date (Friday prior to the lecture covering the assigned readings), with an additional copy sent to myself and the TA by email. The paper must be double-spaced and 1-2 pages (2 pages maximum) in length. A 'cover' page and a 'Bibliography' page will make the paper 3-4 pages in length. The paper will be graded on the quality of your writing, your ability to show clarity of ideas, and evidence of solid reading comprehension. Errors in referencing, grammatical and punctuation errors will result in a significantly reduced grade. Follow the APA style of citation and cite correctly. Incorrect citations or lack of citations will be considered "plagiarism", and your paper will be dealt with accordingly. Students are not permitted to use AI for these papers. Additional expectations will be provided during the first lecture. **N.B. Students cannot sign up to write a critical reading paper the same week they present.**

Essay: Students will each complete a research paper on a selected topic, that is relevant to the course and is of interest to the student. Term papers will be 8 pages (~2500 words) double-spaced with standard formatting and text size (1" margins and 12-font) with proper referencing. A title page and bibliography are to be included on additional pages. Students are permitted to draw on and use some course material; however, a substantial portion of sources are to come from sources beyond the course readings. Essays will be submitted to turnitin on Brightspace with a hard copy to be submitted in person (not electronically) at the beginning of class (9:30AM) on **November 19, 2024**. Students should plan to submit by the deadline; however, no late penalty will be imposed for the first 72 hours after the deadline in the case of extenuating circumstances. The flexibility deadline is provided to all students, including students with an academic accommodation with Accessibility Education. Because the submission deadline for this assessment already includes flexibility, students are not eligible to use a self-attestation accommodation for this evaluation. The instructor reserves the right to deny academic consideration for any assignment submitted past the 72-hour window. A late penalty of 10%/day beginning Friday,

November 22, 2024 at 9:30AM will be imposed for papers submitted after the 72-hour flexibility deadline. Late papers, without accommodation, will not be accepted after November 30, 2024 at 9:30AM (EST) and will receive a “0” grade. Additional expectations will be provided during the first class. Late papers must be submitted to Turnitin via the Assignment tab on Brightspace with an additional copy emailed to the instructor and TA.

Use of AI Tools

The use of ChatGPT or other AI services, including translation and grammar-checking tools is strictly prohibited in all assessments, including assignments, discussion forums, essays, tests, and examination. Unauthorized use of any AI services will be subject to academic discipline. By adhering to these guidelines, students contribute to a responsible and effective learning environment that promotes critical thinking, independent inquiry and all them to produce original written contributions. The same principles also apply to the use of translation software to support the writing the essays and other written assessments. High AI and/or turnitin scores will be penalized.

Other Requirements to Pass the Course

Student Absences:

Students must attend the first lecture of this course.

Students who miss more than 2 classes throughout the semester, without an academic accommodation, will not meet the requirements to pass this course.

Grading Guidelines:

Grades (except the final exam and year-end mark) will be posted to Brightspace as they become available. Due to privacy regulations, I do not provide grades or discuss issues regarding grades via email. If you wish to discuss your grade(s) please contact or speak with me to set up an appointment, during office hours. Final course grades will be released from the registrar and posted on your student centre.

All evaluations are guided by Western’s Undergraduate Grading Guidelines:

University-wide grade descriptors

A+ 90-100: One could scarcely expect better from a student at this level

A 80-89: Superior work which is clearly above average

B 70-79: Good work, meeting all requirements, and eminently satisfactory

C 60-69: Competent work, meeting requirements

D 50-59: Fair work, minimally acceptable

F below 50: Fail

For more information about the university grading standards, see the Registrar’s Handbook: Grading Standards

N.B. To ensure the fair treatment of all students, so that no one individual receives any consideration or special treatment as a result of verbal complaints (e.g., arbitrary bumping up of grades) that is not equally received by others, there are no make-up assignments for low evaluation scores or to enhance a final grade; nor will requests to change a grade because it is needed for a future program be considered.

Assessment Re-evaluation

Any request of assessment re-evaluation is to be done within two weeks of the mark being released. The Instructor and TA reserve the right not to consider requests for re-evaluation past the previously stated two week window. Students who seek a re-evaluation of grades must justify in detail and in writing why they feel that a mark is not justified. The request must be based on reasons rooted in the specific course content and keeping in mind my expectations for the class. The following are not grounds for a re-evaluation: the TA and/or instructor is a hard marker, the assignment was too difficult, you were disappointed with the mark because you put a lot of effort into the assignment, you need a higher grade to fulfill your grade or program requirements, among others. Students must meet with the TA who graded your assignment prior to submitting a formal request for a re-evaluation. The assessment will be re-graded in its entirety, not simply the portion the student believes were scored improperly. Note, in the course of remarking an assessment the instructor or TA may discover errors or defects that were not originally detected and as a result it is possible that a student's revised mark may go down, rather than up. The instructor reserves the right to adjust the mark both upwards and downwards. The revised mark stands. See additional information provided on the Assignment Handout for re-evaluation of assignments.

Classroom Conduct and Additional Information:

This class will conduct itself on the principles of academic and intellectual freedom and mutual respect. Some readings and content will include topics about sensitive, difficult, and/or challenging issues that may be triggering and/or upsetting. I ask all students to help create an atmosphere of mutual respect and sensitivity during the lecture and discussion periods. Racist, sexist, or other derisive comments, intentional or otherwise will not be tolerated.

Recording of lectures is not permitted. Some topics discussed in this course are sensitive in nature and students should not worry they are being recorded. Recording of lectures without the explicit consent of the Professor, TA, and students involved is grounds for serious academic and/or legal discipline. All course content created by a faculty member is considered the faculty member's intellectual property; it cannot be distributed, shared in any public domain, or sold by a student or other third part without prior written consent of the faculty member. The infringement of copyright is an academic offence.

Class attendance is critical to getting the most of this course. While readings and lectures fit together, some material will only be covered in class. Students are responsible for everything that occurs during class time, including discussion, handouts, videos, guest speakers, etc.

I do not post or handout my lecture notes. I do post powerpoint slides on Brightspace in advance; however, these slides are intended only to aid in note-taking. They are not complete notes and are not a substitute for attending lectures. It is the student's responsibility to create the full complement of notes from each class.

If you miss class, are late or leave early, it is your responsibility to catch up on anything and everything that occurs during class (e.g., arrange with a classmate to exchange lecture notes, discussions, handouts, videos, guest speakers, class announcements, etc.) It is a good idea to “buddy up” with a classmate in order to exchange notes, if you must miss a class, are late, or leave early as I do not post or handout lectures notes.

A laptop can be an effective tool for taking notes in class. However, it is distracting to the instructor, TA, speakers, and other students when students use their laptops or cellphones to access the Internet and/or make personal calls and/or send and receive messages during lectures. Students who use their laptop and/or cellphone during the class for any reason other than to take lecture notes are considered to be engaging in disruptive behaviour under the Student Code of Conduct. Students caught violating this policy may be asked to leave the class lecture.

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 weekly readings on a separate document will be posted only on Brightspace

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