



The University of Western Ontario
SOCIOLOGY 3463F-001
Crime and the City
Fall 2024

Delivery Method - in-person

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

Course Description:

This course draws on the rich history of sociological research to explore the relationship between crime, disorder, and urban spaces. We examine how cities are impacted by shifting demographics, economic marginalization, racial segregation, gentrification, and revitalization.

Prerequisite(s): Registration in third year or above in any program.

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:

This course addresses the nature of crime and social disorder in a contemporary urban context. We will look closely at the role of industrialization, urbanization and gentrification in the changing landscape of crime. Course topics and concepts include gangs and youth crime, graffiti, social disorganization, broken windows theory, gentrification, homelessness, crime statistics, urban (re)development, and the impact of race, gender, and class on the policing of urban spaces. Upon completion of the course, students should be able to understand key sociological theories related to urban crime; analyze the impact of urbanization on crime; and evaluate crime-preventions strategies and solutions.

Course Material:

No textbook required. All additional readings will be posted on OWL Brightspace.

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.

You may also email me to discuss any course content, concerns or issues, or clarification. Please allow 24-48 hours for a response prior to following up. Make sure you have read assignment instructions and/or the syllabus prior to emailing me regarding specific questions regarding course assignments. Please include your name and student number in your email.

Method of Evaluation:

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

	DUE DATE	PERCENTAGE (of overall grade)	CONTENT
Online Discussion Posts (5)	Throughout the term	5% Each (25% Total of Final Grade)	See the ' <i>Online Discussion Posts</i> ' Description and Requirements' section of this outline
Critical Reading Summaries (2)	October 7 & Nov 4	15% Each (30% Total of Final Grade)	See the ' <i>Critical Reading Summaries</i> ' Description and Requirements' section of this outline
Research Paper Proposal	Oct 21	10%	See the ' <i>Proposal</i> ' Description and Requirements' section of this outline
Research Paper	Nov 25	35%	See the ' <i>Research Paper</i> ' Description and Requirements' section of this outline

1) Online Discussion Posts – 5% each (25% of final grade)

Each week, there will be a discussion board prompt posted on OWL Brightspace. Students must participate in **FIVE** of these posts throughout the term. You must participate in five separate weeks either by responding to the original discussion board prompt OR by adding/replying to another student's response. You can draw on course readings, news sources, case studies, external literature, and anything else you feel is relevant. To receive full marks, your discussion responses must be thoughtful and substantial. Writing 2 sentences is not enough.

This course has 10 weeks where students can submit a discussion post. Only 5/10 discussion posts are counted towards your final grade. Academic consideration will not be granted for missed discussion posts.

2) Critical Reading Summaries – 15% each (30% of final grade)

Throughout the term, students are required to submit **TWO** 1-page (single spaced) summaries of an assigned reading AND 2 critical questions about the reading. Students will be graded on their ability to summarize the main arguments of the reading, posing two critical questions about the reading/to the author, and grammar. These critical readings are due at 11:59 pm the night PRIOR to the class with your selected reading. For example, if you do a critical summary on a reading from week 4, it must be submitted the Sunday night prior to week 4's class.

3) Research Paper Proposal – 10%

The proposal requires an outline of your proposed topic for your final research paper. Your outline should consist of an introduction to your topic, thesis statement or research question, and list of five academic sources you will be using in your final paper. This is due October 21st by 11:59 pm on OWL Brightspace. More details/rubric will be released closer to due date.

4) Research Paper – 35%

This assignment is designed to provide a deep dive into a specific urban crime issue or disorder. **Students are required to select a case or a topic that is related urban crime or disorder.** The paper should begin with a thesis statement or research question, followed by relevant literature of the chosen topic. You may choose a specific case that interests you or focus on a general topic of urban crime. Case/topic ideas examples: Gang violence, homelessness, graffiti/property crime, policing of race, class or gender, introduction of urban surveillance, etc. Papers should be 2500-3000 words (not including bibliography and title page). More details will be released closer to the due date.

Extensions for Assignments:

For each assignment, students are expected to submit the assignment by the deadline listed. Should illness or extenuating circumstances arise, students are permitted to submit their assignment up to 72 hours past the deadline without academic penalty. Should students submit their assessment beyond 72 hours past the deadline, a late penalty of 5% per day will be subtracted from the assessed grade. As flexible deadlines are used in this course, requests for academic consideration will not be granted.

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:

TBA

Artificial Intelligence:

The use of generative AI is not permitted in this course. Using generative AI to aid in or fully complete your coursework will be considered academic misconduct. Assignments suspected of copying material directly from any AI tools or Chat GPT will receive an automatic zero.

Academic Policies:

Please review the Department of Sociology “[Important Academic Policies](#)” 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