**The University of Western Ontario**

# SOCIOLOGY 2266A-650

**Crime & Society**

**Summer 2024**

**Delivery method:** Online, Asynchronous

**Instructor:** Dr. Molly-Gloria Patel

**Office Hours:** By appointment (via Zoom)

**Department of Sociology**

**Email:** mharpe22@uwo.ca

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

**Course Description:** The sociological aspects of crime in Canada. The measurement patterns, causes and social explanations of criminal behaviour will be examined.

*Prerequisite(s):* 1.0 from Sociology courses at the 1000 level (Sociology 1020, Sociology 1021E, Sociology 1025A/B, Sociology 1026F/G, Sociology 1027A/B).

Unless you have either the prerequisite or written special permission from your Dean to enrol 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 provides a foundational knowledge in criminological theory, concepts, and methods. At the end of this course students will be able to:

1. Explain the extent and nature of crime in Canada.
2. Understand the data and methods used by criminologists to study crime, including their strengths and limitations.
3. Understand the assumptions, strengths and weaknesses of competing criminological theories.
4. Understand the social causes and consequences of crime.
5. Critically analyze the criminal justice system, laws, and public policies aimed at preventing, responding to, and controlling crime.

**Course Material:**

*Required Text(s):*

Students are expected to do the weekly readings as these will be the basis for class lectures, assignments, and evaluations. The following textbook is the *required* reading material for this course:

- Boyd, N. (2024). *Understanding Crime in Canada (Third Edition)*. Emond.

The textbook can be purchased via the university bookstore: https://bookstore.uwo.ca/textbook-search?campus=UWO&term=N2024&courses[0]=650_UW/SOC2266A

*Recommended Readings:* Students are strongly encouraged to engage with any additional/suggested material as these will help to contextualize the lecture material and provide further examples. These articles can be accessed via Western Library and/or posted on the course Brightspace site in the "Course Readings" folder.

1. Samuels-Wortley, K. (2021). To serve and protect whom? Using composite counter-storytelling to explore Black and Indigenous youth experiences and perceptions of the police in Canada. *Crime & Delinquency, 67*(8), 1137-1164.
2. Owusu-Bempah, A., Jung, M., Sbaï, F., Wilton, A.S., & Kouyoumdjian, F. (2023). Race and incarceration: The representation and characteristics of Black people in provincial correctional facilities in Ontario, Canada. *Race and Justice, 13*(4), 530-542.
3. Pager, D. (2003). The mark of a criminal record. *American Journal of Sociology, 108*(5), 937-975.
4. Wiley, S.A., Love, H., & Emmett, K.A. (2020). Indigenous over-representation in Canada's youth correction system: An assessment of regional variability. *Canadian Journal of Criminology and Criminal Justice, 62*(2), 22-43.
5. Government of Canada (2023). Spotlight on *Gladue*: Challenges, experiences, and possibilities in Canada's Criminal Justice System. Available at: https://www.justice.gc.ca/eng/rp-pr/jr/gladue/p3.html
6. Long, L.J. (2021). The ideal victim: A critical race theory (CRT) approach. *International Review of Victimology, 27*(3), 344-362.
7. Ricciardelli, R., Spencer, D.C., & Dodge, A. (2021). "Society wants to see a true victim:" Police interpretations of victims of sexual violence. *Feminist Criminology, 16*(2), 216-235.
8. Carbone-Lopez, K., Slocum, L. A., & Kruttschnitt, C. (2016). "Police wouldn't give you no help": Female offenders on reporting sexual assault to police. *Violence Against Women*, *22*(3), 366-396.
9. Matsuda, K.N., Melde, C., Taylor, T.J., Frenz, A., & Essenzen, F-A. (2013). Gang membership and adherence to the "Code of the Street." *Justice Quarterly, 30*(3), 440-468.
10. Mitchell, M.M., Fahmy, C., Pryooz, D.C., & Decker, S.H. (2017). Criminal crews, codes, and contexts: Differences and similarities across the Code of the Street, convict code, street gangs, and prison gangs. *Deviant Behavior, 38*(10), 1197-1222.
11. Albanese, J. (2021). Organized crime vs. White-collar crime: Which is the bigger problem? *Academic Letters*, article 310. https://doi.org/10.20935/AL310
12. Ballucci, D. & Patel, M-G. (2022). Digital media 'changes the game': Investigating digital affordances impacts on sex crime and policing in the 21st century. *Information, Communication & Society,* DOI: 10.1080/1369118X.2022.2113422

**Communication:** 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.

- **How to contact me**: The best way to contact me is via email (mharpe22@uwo.ca). *Please put the course code as your subject line.* From Monday to Friday, I will usually respond within 24 hours. Emails received over the weekend will be promptly responded to the following Monday. Alternatively, students can also email me to arrange an appointment to meet via Zoom.
- **How to Get Important Information:** Visit the course Brightspace site, see the course outline, and key dates and class materials. It is strongly encouraged for students to check the course Brightspace site regularly to properly engage with course material, to not miss any important announcements, and to receive any course-related updates.

**Delivery format & Technical Support:**

This course will be delivered online using an asynchronous format (not in "real time"). Lectures will be recorded and posted on the course page via Brightspace every Monday by 1:00pm (EST). To participate in this course,

students will need the following resources:
- High speed Internet access with a standard, up-to-date browser (e.g., Google Chrome, Mozilla Firefox, Safari)
- Constant and reliable access to their Western University email and Brightspace site as these are the official methods of communication for this course

If you are experiencing problems with Brightspace, please contact the WTS Help Desk at (519) 661-3800. For hours and additional contact information please visit [www.uwo.ca/wts/helpdesk/](www.uwo.ca/wts/helpdesk/). Troubleshooting and help information is available for students: [https://OWL Brightspacehelp.uwo.ca/](https://OWL Brightspacehelp.uwo.ca/)

**Method of Evaluation:** The evaluation methods described in the course outline are essential requirements for the course.

### *Evaluation Breakdown:*

| Description | Weight | Due Date |
|---|---|---|
| Self-reflection Assignment | 10% | May 10th by 11:59pm |
| Course Test 1 & 2 | 30% each; 60% | May 24th & June 16th by 11:59pm |
| Critical Film/TV Analysis | 30% | June 7th by 11:59pm |
| | 100% | |

### *Department Grading Guidelines:*

Sociology courses at the 2000 level are expected to have means in the range of 70-75% (As not to exceed Bs).

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.

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

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.

### *Expectations:*

Students are expected to keep updated on the course material. Because we do not have a "fixed" meeting day, each of our weeks will start on Mondays. Students must actively check the course site and their university emails for communications from the instructor. Students are expected to actively engage in all course activities throughout the semester, which include reading and viewing of all course material as well as completing course discussion questions and activities (both graded and ungraded). Remember, this course is not self-paced — there are specific deadlines and due dates listed in the "Class Schedule" section of the syllabus to which you are expected to adhere. It is the student's responsibility to keep track of the weekly course schedule of topics, readings, participation, activities, and midterms/examinations.

*Evaluation Details:*

1. **Self-reflection assignment:** In this assignment, students will reflect on their personal experiences, beliefs, and biases related to crime and the criminal justice system. Here, students will engage in a critical self-reflection to consider the preconceived notions they have before they start this course and speculate how they might evolve during the course. Cumulatively, the assignment should be approx. 2-3 pages (double-spaced, 12-pt Times New Roman font, one-inch margins). Since this is a self-reflection assignment, students are not required to use external sources. All work should be done independently as submissions may be run through TurnItIn to detect plagiarism as well as similarity to classmates. Late assignments will be deducted 2% per day late (including weekends), and will no longer be accepted after 5 days late. More details on the reflection assignment will be posted on the course Brightspace site.

2. **Course Test 1 & 2:** Both tests will consist of a series of multiple-choice, true/false, and short answer questions. The detailed format of the tests, including the number of questions and what to expect, will be provided before the test dates via the course Brightspace site. Course Test 1 will be posted on the Thursday the week it is scheduled at 12:00pm and will remain open for 36 hours (closing Friday at 11:59pm). Course Test 2 will take place during the term exam period, with the test posted on the Saturday the week it is scheduled at 12:00pm and will remain open for 36 hours (closing Sunday at 11:59pm). However, once a student begins each quiz, they will have 90 minutes to complete it. The tests are not cumulative (e.g., test one will cover weeks 1 to 3 and test two will cover weeks 4 to 6). More details on the course tests will be posted on the course Brightspace site.

3. **Critical film/TV analysis:** For this assignment, students will be required to produce a critical/ argumentative essay analyzing an example of crime/the criminal justice system present in a film or TV show of their choosing. A critical film/TV analysis is <u>NOT a film/TV summary</u>. Instead, students will use clear examples from the film/show to provide evidence of specific criminological concepts and theories examined in class — specifically, students will apply one theory and three concepts in their write-up. Students should also be focusing their attention on how the correlates of crime (e.g., gender, age, race/ ethnicity, and social class) relate to their topic/arguments. Importantly, this is <u>NOT a film review</u> (do not discuss whether you liked or did not like the film/show). This assignment is argumentative and critical (back up arguments with facts/evidence rather than just opinions). Cumulatively, the assignment should be approx. 5-7 pages (double-spaced, 12-pt Times New Roman font, one-inch margins). Not included in the final page count, students will also include a title page and reference page with all references in APA (7th ed.) format. This reference list should include a *minimum* of 5 sources (not including the course textbook). All resources must be cited and referenced properly. Class lectures should not be cited as resources – students are expected to find scholarly research/literature and resources to support their claims. References should include high quality sources (e.g., academic journal articles, books). All work should be done independently as submissions may be run through TurnItIn to detect plagiarism as well as similarity to classmates. Late assignments will be deducted 5% per day late (including weekends), and will no longer be accepted after 6 days late. More details on the critical film/TV analysis will be posted on the course Brightspace site.

**Late assignments, re-evaluations, and extra credit policies:**

- **Late and missed assignments:** Students need to be mindful of deadlines and submit their work on-time. Please see the "Evaluation Details" section for late policies on written assignments. If an extension is required for legitimate reasons (e.g., medical illness, extreme personal hardship, etc.), documentation may be required. In regard to course quizzes/tests, students with an approved accommodation for their absence will be required to complete a makeup test. 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 evaluation. Regarding late and missed assignments/evaluations, please consult the university policies for more details.

- **Assignment and test reevaluations:** Any review of course evaluations should be done within one week of the mark being released. Students who wish to seek re-evaluation of their grade must justify why they feel the mark is not justified. Such reasoning must be based on the specific course content and by keeping in mind the expectations for the specific method of evaluation and course overall. Please note that the course instructor reserves the right to adjust the mark both upwards and downwards. The revised mark will stand.

- **Extra credit and other grading requests:** Students are welcome to consult with the course instructor about any matters concerning their progress and success in this course. *It is important to note that there are no re-dos or supplemental or make-up work in this course.*

<span style="color:purple">**Student Absences:**</span>

If you are unable to meet a course requirement due to illness or other serious circumstances, please follow the procedures below.

*Assessments worth 10% or more of the overall course grade:*

For work totalling 10% or more of the final course grade, students must provide valid medical or supporting documentation to their Home Faculty Academic Counselling Office as soon as possible.

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.

<span style="color:purple">**Other important information:**</span>

- **Course content — *important disclaimer*:** Some readings, discussions, and other course content will include topics that some students may find offensive, uncomfortable, triggering, and/or traumatizing. All students are asked to help to create an atmosphere of mutual respect and sensitivity. Students are encouraged to speak to the course instructor and/or seek additional support as needed.
- **Lecture materials:** The course instructor will post the lecture slides on Brightspace in advance of each class. This material will help guide students through the lecture recording; however, they are not complete notes and are not a substitute for the recorded lecture. Rather, students should be creating a complete set of notes by following along through the posted slides and making additional notes as they engage with the lecture recording, including additional resources like videos, discussion questions, etc. that are part of the class material.
- **Re-distributing course materials/content:** All course content created by a faculty member is considered the faculty member's intellectual property. It should not be distributed, shared in any public domain, or sold by a student or other third party without written consent of the course professor.
- **Using AI-related technologies:** While the use of AI tools are useful for gathering information and preliminary research purposes, students are encouraged to critically evaluate the obtained information, exercise independent thinking, and engage in original research to synthesize and develop their own ideas, arguments, perspectives, etc. The use of AI tools can serve as a starting point for exploring a topic, but students are expected to uphold academic integrity by appropriately attributing all sources of information by citing sources appropriately and avoiding plagiarism. Thus, all written assignments should reflect the students own thoughts, research, and independent work.

## Important Policies

Please review the Department of Sociology "Important Academic Policies" document https://sociology.uwo.ca/undergraduate/courses/Academic_Policies.pdf for additional information regarding important policies.

- Scholastic Offences

- Plagiarism

- Copyright

- Academic Accommodation

- Accessibility Options

- Mental Health

2023-2024