



The University of Western Ontario
Department of Sociology
SOCIOLOGY 3260B-001
Law and Society
Winter 2026

Delivery Method – In-Person

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

Course Description:

This course examines the institutions and processes of the law, and how they operate in contemporary society. Issues engaged are social control, law and culture, knowledge, violence, governance, diversity, and social change.

Prerequisite(s): 1.0 from: [Sociology 1020](#), [Sociology 1021E](#), [Sociology 1025A/B](#), [Sociology 1026F/G](#), [Sociology 1027A/B](#).

Unless you have either the requisites for this course or written special permission from your Dean to enroll in it, you may be removed from this course and it will be deleted from your record. This 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): [Sociology 2260A/B](#).

Course Objectives and Learning Outcomes:

By critically analyzing the law and drawing on different theoretical perspectives, students can seek to examine/answer such questions as: what is the nature of the relationship between law and society? What is the purpose of law? Why are some activities and relationships regulated through law while others are not? Whose interests does the law represent? Can the law affect social change? How or can the law address social inequality? Students will develop and strengthen their skills in class attendance, effective and collaborative discussion skills, including active learning, critical thinking, constructive questioning, academic writing, and respectful dialogue.

Course Material:

The following text is required for this course and is available in both print and e-book versions from the UWO Bookstore at the following link: https://bookstore.uwo.ca/textbook-search?campus=UWO&term=W2024B&courses%5B0%5D=001_UW/SOC3260B

Textbook: S. Baglay (2015) "Introduction to the Canadian Legal System". Pearson.

Additional Assigned Readings will be posted on Brightspace, placed on reserve at Weldon Library, and/or handed out in class.

Communication:

Students are responsible for checking the course [OWL Brightspace](#) site on a regular basis for news and updates. This is the primary method by which information will be disseminated to all students enrolled in the course.

Students are required to read the course syllabus in full. Regular attendance is expected, and students are responsible for staying up to date with course materials and announcements. Important updates and communications will be provided in class and posted on the course OWL Brightspace site (<https://westernu.brightspace.com/d2l/login>). It is your responsibility to attend class and check the course site frequently, as this is the primary platform for distributing course information.

If you have questions or would like to discuss course content, please speak with me before, during, or after class. Outside of class, you may contact me via email at bkobaya@uwo.ca to arrange a meeting during office hours. You can expect a response within 24-48 hours on Mondays to Fridays between 9-5PM (EST). Prior to emailing me, please consult the syllabus, your class notes, course announcements, and any other supplementary material posted on Brightspace to see if your question has already been answered. The instructor and TA reserve the right not to respond to emails asking questions whose answers are already available on Brightspace or have been covered in class.

All communication must be professional and respectful. Please ensure your email is clearly written, free of spelling and grammatical errors and not composed in text-message style. Use your official UWO account when contacting the instructor or TAs. The email subject heading must include 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.

Course Schedule and Readings:

The reading list and weekly schedule is available on the course Brightspace site

Method of Evaluation:

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

Assignment: worth 25%

Midterm Examination: worth 35%

Final Examination: worth 40% (during final exam period TBA)

Evaluation Breakdown:

Examination: The midterm examination is worth 35% of your final course grade and will be held on Wednesday February 11, 2026 during the regularly scheduled class time. The final exam is worth 40% of your final course grade and will be held during the final exam period.

All exams are closed book and may include multiple choice, true and false, fill in the blank, and/or short answer questions. Exam content will draw from lectures, readings, and any supplementary material provided throughout the course. Details regarding the exam format will be provided the week prior to each examination. If you miss a class where exam details are provided, it is your responsibility to connect with a classmate to catch up on what you have missed. Please do not email the instructor or the TA to request this information, as these emails will not be responded to.

In accordance with university policy, instructors may designate one assessment per course per term that requires supporting documentation for academic consideration. In this course, the Midterm Examination on Wednesday, February 11, 2026, has been designated as such. As a result, a self-attestation will not be accepted for this examination. Students seeking academic consideration for either the Midterm Examination or Final Examination must provide supporting documentation to their Home Faculty Academic Counselling Office, within 48-hours of the missed assessment. It is your responsibility to follow up with the instructor about a missed evaluation. Emails must include your full name and student number, and the subject line must include the course code. Academic considerations may not be granted to students who fail to abide by the above requirements.

N.B. Course professor or teaching assistant(s) may not be available to respond to questions during the makeup exams. Students should also 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. In this course, the makeup examinations, for all examinations, may be essay format only.

N.B. There will be only one makeup examination for each scheduled examination. The makeup examinations may be essay format only and will be held during the Department Makeup Exam (date TBA). Failure to write a makeup exam, without an academic accommodation, will result in a zero grade for that evaluation.

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.

Class Assignment: There will be one assignment worth 25% of your final course grade and will be due at the start of class on Wednesday, March 4, 2026. Details regarding the assignment will be provided prior to the assignment due date. A handout will be posted on Brightspace with additional details and answers to questions being provided during our lecture times. If you

do not attend these lectures, it is your responsibility to reach out to a classmate to catch up on what you have missed. Please do not email the instructor or the TA for this information as these emails may not be responded to.

A hardcopy of the assignment must be submitted in person on Wednesday, March 5, 2026 at the beginning of class. Students must also upload their assignment to turnitin via the Assignment tab on Brightspace on Wednesday, March 5, 2026 at beginning of class. Students are expected to submit the assignment by the deadline listed (Wednesday, March 5, 2026). 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 the 72 hours deadline, a late penalty of 10% per day will be subtracted from the assessed grade. The flexibility window applies to all students, including those with academic accommodations through Accessibility Education. As flexible deadlines are used in this course, requests for academic consideration will not be granted. Papers submitted after March 15, 2026, at 1:30PM, without an academic consideration, will be given a "0" grade for this evaluation.

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 or on Zoom. 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

Requests to review graded assignments or examinations are to be made within two weeks of the grade being released. All reviews must take place in person; evaluations will not be discussed via Zoom or email. Students seeking a re-evaluation of grades must first meet with the TA or instructor who graded the work. If after meeting, the student wishes to proceed with a formal re-evaluation, they must submit a formal written request (written in essay style format) stating exactly why they feel that a mark is not justified. Requests must be based on reasons that are rooted in the specific course content and keeping in mind the 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, disappointment based on effort invested, need for a higher grade to meet academic or program requirements, among others. N.B. If a re-evaluation is granted, the entire assignment or exam will be re-graded - not just the portion the student believes were scored improperly. Note, the instructor or TA may identify errors or issues that were not previously noted. As a result, the final mark may go down, rather than up. The revised mark stands.

Electronic Devices:

Laptops may be used in class only for taking lecture notes. Using laptops, cell phones or other devices to browse the internet, send messages, or make calls during class is disruptive to the learning environment. Per the Student Code of Conduct, students who use their electronic devices for any reason other than to take lecture notes are considered to be engaging in disruptive behaviour. Students caught violating this policy will be asked to leave the class and/or reported for disruptive behaviour. Please be mindful and respectful when using electronic devices in the classroom.

Course Policies:

Classroom Conduct and Expectations

This class is committed to upholding the principles of academic and intellectual freedom and mutual respect. Some readings and content will include topics that may include sensitive, difficult, and/or challenging issues that may be triggering and/or upsetting. I ask all students to contribute to a respectful, inclusive, and thoughtful classroom environment. Racist, sexist, or other derisive comments whether intentional or otherwise will not be tolerated.

The recording of lectures, tutorials, virtual meetings, or any online course content is strictly prohibited unless explicit permission is granted by the instructor, TA, and any students involved. Unauthorized recording is grounds for serious academic and/or legal consequences.

All course content, including lectures, slides, and assignments, is the intellectual property of the instructor and protected by copyright. Thus, these materials may not be recorded, copied, shared, posted online, or sold without prior written consent from the instructor.

Regular attendance is critical to your success in 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.

The instructor and TA do not provide lecture notes. Powerpoint slides will be posted on Brightspace in advance of class. The slides are meant to support your note-taking, they are not a substitute for attending class. It is the student's responsibility to create a full complement of notes. Do not email the Instructor or the TA asking for information about classes you missed. We reserve the right not to respond to such emails. If you are absent, late, or leave early, it is your responsibility to connect with a classmate to exchange notes and to review any missed materials or announcements. It is strongly recommended that you "buddy-up" with another student early in the term in case you need to catch-up.

Use of Generative Artificial Intelligence (AI):

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

Academic Offences: Scholastic offences are taken seriously and students are directed to read the appropriate policy, specifically, the definition of what constitutes a Scholastic Offence, at the following website: https://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/scholastic_discipline_undergrad.pdf

Students must write their assignments in their own words. Whenever students take an idea from another author, they must acknowledge their debt both by using quotation marks where appropriate and by proper referencing such as footnotes or citations. Plagiarism is a major scholastic offence.

All required papers may be subject to submission for textual similarity review to the commercial plagiarism detection software under license to the University for detection of plagiarism. All papers submitted for such checking will be included as source documents in the reference database for the purpose of detecting plagiarism of papers subsequently submitted to the system. Use of the service is subject to the licensing agreement, currently between The University of Western Ontario and Turnitin.com (<https://www.turnitin.com/>).

Students are expected to retain all research notes, rough drafts, essay outlines, and other materials used in preparing assignments. In the unlikely event of concerns being raised about the authenticity of any assignment, your instructor may ask you to produce these materials; an inability to do so may weigh heavily against you.

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.

Copyright: Students may not record or distribute any class activity, including conversations during office hours, without written permission from the instructor, except as necessary as part of approved accommodations for students with disabilities. Any approved recordings may only be used for the student's own private use.

Absence from Course Commitments: Students must familiarize themselves with the [Policy on Academic Consideration](#) – Undergraduate Students in First Entry Programs https://uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/academic_consideration_Sep24.pdf

Students missing course work for medical, compassionate or extenuating circumstances can request academic consideration by completing a request using the Student Absence Portal (SAP) https://registrar.uwo.ca/academics/academic_considerations/index.html . 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 scheduled 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 in the course outline. Supporting documentation for academic considerations for absences due to illness must include the completed Western Student Medical Certificate (SMC) <https://registrar.uwo.ca/academics/pdfs/student-medical-certificate.pdf> or, where that is not possible, equivalent documentation by a health care practitioner. Students must request academic consideration as soon as possible and no later than 48 hours after the missed assessment.

Once the request and supporting documentation have been received and reviewed, appropriate academic consideration, if granted, shall be determined by the instructor in consultation with the academic advisor, in a manner consistent with the course outline. Students with an approved absence from an in-class test or exam will be required to write a makeup exam, unless otherwise specified in the course outline. The course instructor or teaching assistant(s) may not be available to respond to questions during the makeup text/exam. Students should be aware that the make-up test/exam will not necessarily be in the same format, be of the same duration, or cover the same material as the original test/exam.

Note: missed work can *only* be excused through one of the mechanisms above. Being asked not to attend an in-person course requirement due to potential COVID-19 symptoms is **not** sufficient on its own. Students should check the Western website to see what directives for Covid are to be followed. Western has been and will continue to follow directives established by the Middlesex-London Health Unit. That directive will state whether students should or should not come to campus/class and any other requirements (e.g., masks are mandatory). Please check on your own and do not email the instructor, the Department Undergraduate Advisor/Coordinator or the Faculty Academic Counselling Office.

Students who fail to write a make-up test or special examination will receive a grade of zero on that assessment. No other make-up opportunities will be provided unless further academic consideration is granted by the student's Home Faculty Academic Counselling office.

Religious Accommodation: Students should review the policy for Accommodation for Religious Holidays https://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/accommodation_religious.pdf. Where a student will be unable to write examinations and term tests due to a conflicting religious holiday, they should inform their instructors as soon as possible but not later than two weeks prior to writing the examination/term test. In the case of conflict with a midterm test, students should inform their instructor as soon as possible but not later than one week prior to the midterm.

Contingency plan for an in-person class pivoting to 100% online learning: In the event of a COVID-19 resurgence or University approved emergency 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 Brightspace 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.

Code of Student Conduct: It is the responsibility of every student to read the Code and familiarize him or herself with its contents. The Code is available at http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/code_of_conduct.pdf. Sanctions for non-compliance range from a warning or reprimand to expulsion from the University.

Student Responsibility: Students in a degree program must select courses in accordance with the published requirements. Students are responsible for ensuring that their selection of courses is appropriate and accurately recorded, that all course prerequisites have been successfully completed, and

that they are aware of any antirequisite course(s) they may have taken. Students must familiarize themselves with the Student Responsibility for Course Selection policy https://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/general/academic_counselling.pdf and the Registration and Progression policy https://uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/registration_progression_grad/registration_progression.pdf. Students are responsible for the successful completion of the Graduation Requirements for their degree program https://uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/registration_progression_grad/graduation.pdf.

Support Services:

Office of the Registrar Services <http://www.registrar.uwo.ca>

[Faculty Academic Advising](#) - Please visit your Home Faculty Academic advising webpage for information regarding adding/dropping courses, important dates, academic considerations for absences, appeals, exam conflicts, and many other academic related matters https://registrar.uwo.ca/faculty_academic_counselling.html.

[USC services](#) offers information about student the health/dental plan, Bus Pass, food support services, Peer support Centre etc <http://westernusc.ca/services/>.

[Mental health](#) – Students who are in emotional/mental distress should refer to Mental Health@Western <http://www.uwo.ca/uwocom/mentalhealth/> for a complete list of options about how to obtain help.

[Health & Wellness Services](#) – Registered part-time and full-time students can book a physical health appointment at <https://www.uwo.ca/health/shs/index.html>. Additional on-campus services are also available <https://www.uwo.ca/health/shs/services/index.html>.

[Accessible Education](#) provides supports and services to students with disabilities at Western, in all programs and faculties. Students with disabilities or accessibility challenges should work with Accessible Education (formerly SSD) http://academicsupport.uwo.ca/accessible_education/index.html, which provides recommendations for accommodation based on medical documentation or psychological and cognitive testing.

[Gender-Based and Sexual Violence](#) – Western is committed to reducing incidents of gender-based and sexual violence (GBSV) and providing compassionate support to anyone who is going through or has gone through these traumatic events. If you are experiencing or have experience GBSV (either recently or in the past), you will find information about support services for survivors, including emergency contacts at the following website: http://uwo.ca/health/student_support/survivor_support/get-help.html

[Western Libraries](#) – Visit the many library locations on campus. Western Libraries provide access to material in physical and digital formats <https://www.lib.uwo.ca/catalogue/index.html>. Research support is available <https://www.lib.uwo.ca/research/index.html>.

[Writing support](#) – Online writing resources, writing support and writing modules are available <https://writing.uwo.ca/undergrads/>

Bookstore: Search for Textbook availability and cost <https://bookstore.uwo.ca/textbook-search>