



The University of Western Ontario
SOCIOLOGY 3358G-001
Women and Crime
Winter 2026
Delivery Method - in-person

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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): 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 is designed to introduce students to key topics and issues surrounding women's involvement in the criminal justice system, with a focus on both criminalized women and women as victims. Topics include the treatment of incarcerated women, law enforcement's response to missing and murdered Indigenous women and girls, the portrayal of violent women in the media, sentencing of women with mental illness, and the criminalization of sex work. Through the analysis of various case studies, students will examine the construction of female deviance and the broader social, economic, and political factors that impact women's experiences within the criminal justice system.

Course Material:

Required: Barker, J. & Tavcer, D.S. (2022). Women and the Criminal Justice System: A Canadian Perspective (Third Edition). Edmond Publishing.

You can purchase from the bookstore here: [Custom Textbook Link](#)

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
Attendance & Participation	N/A	10%	See the ' Class Participation & Attendance ' <i>Description and Requirements</i> ' section of this outline
Online Quizzes	Wednesdays by 9:30 am	5% Each (25 % Total of Final Grade)	See the ' Bi-weekly Online Quizzes ' <i>Description and Requirements</i> ' section of this outline
Critical Reading Summary	11:59 pm night prior to class	15%	See the ' Critical Reading Summary ' <i>Description and Requirements</i> ' section of this outline
Research Proposal	Feb 25	15%	See the ' Research Proposal ' <i>Description and Requirements</i> ' section of this outline
Final Paper	April 1	35%	See the ' Final Paper ' <i>Description and Requirements</i> ' section of this outline

1) Class Participation & Attendance – 10%

Attendance will be taken occasionally throughout the term. Students are expected to attend class regularly and participate in discussions and in-class activities, which will count towards your final grade.

2) Quizzes – 5% each (25% of final grade)

The course comprises of online quizzes (MC, T/F) after each module. There will be **FIVE** quizzes worth 5% each, for a total of 25% of your final grade. I encourage you to review the posted slides and take notes during class, as some material will only be discussed in person. Each quiz is due prior to class **on Wednesday at 9:30 am**. Please review the weekly schedule for specific dates. Quizzes will remain open for one week, and as such, extensions will not be granted.

3) Critical Reading Summary – 15%

Throughout the term, students are required to submit a 1-page (single spaced) summary of an assigned reading/chapter AND 2 critical questions about the reading/chapter. 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 Tuesday night prior to week 4's class.

4) Research Paper Proposal – 15%

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 an annotated bibliography of five academic sources you will be using in your final paper. This is due February 25th by 11:59 pm on OWL Brightspace. More details/rubric will be released closer to due date.

5) Research Paper – 35%

This assignment is designed to encourage an in-depth examination of the intersection of gender, law, and crime through the analysis of a real-world case or issue involving women's experiences within the criminal justice system. **Students are required to select a case or a broader topic related gender and the CJS.** The paper should begin with a clear thesis statement or research question, followed by relevant literature of the chosen topic, and end with proposed recommendations or solutions.

Possible case or topic areas include, but are not limited to: the treatment of Indigenous women in the CJS, the treatment of women with mental illness, Mothers and mothering within the CJS, sex work and the law, Gender-based Violence (including IPV), Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls (MMIWG), police negligence in sexual assault cases, and the treatment of female youth (e.g., Ashley Smith case).

Papers should be 2500-3000 words, excluding the 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.

Course Schedule and Readings:

Class Date	Readings	Topics
Unit One: Overview of Women and the CJS		
Week 1 (Jan 7)	Ch. 1 + 5	Introduction to Women and the CJS
Week 2 (Jan 14)	Ch. 2	Theoretical Perspectives on Female Criminality
Unit Two: Criminalized Women		
Week 3 (Jan 21)	Ch. 3 + 4	Black, Racialized and Indigenous Women and the CJS *Quiz due Jan 21
Week 4 (Jan 28)	Ch. 6	Female Youth + Ashley Smith Case
Week 5 (Feb 4)	Ch. 7	Violent Women + *Quiz due Feb 4
Week 6 (Feb 11)	Ch. 8 p. 208-219 & John Howard Society of Ontario. (2021). <i>Broken Record: The continued criminalization of mental health issues</i> . https://johnhoward.on.ca/wp-content/uploads/2021/01/Broken-Record.pdf	Women with Mental Illness

No Class- Study Week (Feb 17-20)		
Unit Three: Women as Victims		
Week 7 (Feb 25)	Ch. 9 & Bruckert, C. & Law, T. 2018). Chapter 5: Sexual Assault: Laws, Scripts, and Victim Blaming. In <i>Women and gendered violence in Canada: An intersectional approach</i> (p. 109-128).	Sexual Assault & IPV *Research Proposal Due Feb 25
Week 8 (March 4)	1. Bruckert, Chris, & Hannem, Stacey. (2013). Rethinking the prostitution debates: transcending structural stigma in systemic responses to sex work. <i>Canadian Journal of Law & Society</i> , 28(1), 43-64. 2. McCluskey, M. (2023). OnlyFans: The Celebritization of Online Sexual Labour. <i>Canadian Graduate Journal of Sociology and Criminology</i> , 6(1).	Sex Work + Reproductive Rights *Quiz due March 4
Week 9 (March 11)	Ch. 10	Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women & Girls
Unit Four: Women in Media + Working in the CJS		
Week 10 (March 18)	1. Scheuneman Scott, I., & Kilty, K. (2016). "When She Cracks": The Visual (Re)Construction of "Deadly Women" in Infotainment Media. <i>The Annual Review of Interdisciplinary Justice Research</i> . 72- 97. 2. Chesney-Lind, M., & Eliason, M. (2006). From invisible to incorrigible: The demonization of marginalized women and girls. <i>Crime Media Culture</i> , 2(1), 29-48.	Women in the Media *Quiz due March 18
Week 11 (March 25)	Ch. 11, 12	Women working in the CJS
Week 12 (April 1)	Ch. 13	Women working in the CJS part 2 *Final Paper Due April 1
Week 13 (April 8)	No Readings	Catch up day (if needed) *Quiz Due April 8

(*) = Quiz Due

(*) = Assignment Due

Artificial Intelligence: The use of generative artificial intelligence (AI) tools 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 containing content generated by AI tools (including, but not limited to, ChatGPT) will receive a grade of zero. Please note that paid versions of Grammarly use advanced AI technology and are not permitted; however, basic, non-AI grammar or spell-check tools may be used.

Review of Grades: All grades are final and not subject to negotiation. If a student believes their work was not assessed in accordance with the rubric, they may submit a formal, written request for a grade review. The request must clearly demonstrate how the submitted work meets the criteria outlined in the grading rubric, with reference to relevant sections of the assignment. Requests should focus on the assessment criteria rather than effort or expectations. All review requests will be considered carefully, and the instructor's decision after review will be final.

Open Door Policy/Mental Health: I am a huge advocate for mental health. If you are struggling in any way, I highly encourage you to take a rest or come speak to me. My door is always open.

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](https://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/academic_consideration_Sep24.pdf) – Undergraduate Students in First Entry Programs
https://www.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 test/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>