



The University of Western Ontario
Department of Sociology
SOCIOLOGY 2222A-001
Drugs and Society
Fall 2026

Delivery Method – In-Person

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TA: TBA

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

Course Description:

This course considers the sociological significance of drugs and drug use in society. The historical, political and cultural underpinnings of drug policies and drug use are examined, while highlighting the social implications of policies that approach drugs and drug use from moral rather than empirical positions.

Pre-requisite(s): 1.0 from Sociology courses at the 1000 level.

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): The former Sociology 3313F/G.

Course Objectives and Learning Outcomes:

This course will explore the sociological nature of drugs in contemporary society. Students will be introduced to and will critically examine a range of sociological and criminological theories and research all of which will help to develop a deeper understanding of why some people use drugs while others refrain. Students will think critically about the social implications of policies and practices that approach drugs and drug use. Why are some drugs considered normal, socially acceptable while others are demonized?

Course Material:

Hathaway, A. (2015). "Drugs & Society". OUP.

https://bookstore.uwo.ca/textbook-search?campus=UWO&term=W2026A&courses%5B0%5D=001_UW/SOC2222A

Additional readings may be posted on Brightspace, handed out in class, or placed on reserve at Weldon library.

Communication:

Students are responsible for reviewing 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 these are the primary methods by which information will be disseminated.

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 where questions have been answered in the course syllabus, on Brightspace, and/or answered 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 are available on the course OWL Brightspace site.

Method of Evaluation:

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

In-Class Exam 1: worth 25%

In-Class Exam 2: worth 35%

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

Examinations

Examination 1 is worth 25% of your final course grade and will take place on **Wednesday, October 7, 2026 during the regularly scheduled class time**. Examination 2 is worth 35% of your final course grade and will take place on **Wednesday, November 11, 2026 during our regularly scheduled class time**. The final exam (date TBA), worth 40% of your final course grade will be scheduled during the final exam period.

The 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. **N.B.** Makeup quizzes and exams may be in **essay format only** and will be written with the Department Makeup Exam.

All requests for academic consideration are made to the Academic Advising office of the student's Faculty of Registration. If you receive an academic accommodation, you will be permitted to write the makeup exam. 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 exam on Wednesday November 11, 2026, has been designated as such. As a result, a self-attestation will not be accepted for the In-class Exam 2. Students seeking academic consideration for a missed evaluation must provide supporting documentation to their Home Faculty Academic Counselling Office, within 48-hours of the missed assessment. Examinations scheduled by the Office of the Registrar during official examination periods (December, April) always require formal supporting documentation.

There will be **only one makeup examination** for each scheduled examination. Failure to write the makeup exam will result in a zero grade for that evaluation. Please be aware that the course professor or teaching assistant(s) may not be available to respond to questions during the makeup exam. Additionally, the make-up test may be essay format only, may not be of the same duration, or cover the same material as the original test. 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. **See new Makeup Exam Policy.**

Grading Guidelines:

Grades for assessments, except the final exam and final course grade will be posted on Brightspace as they become available. In accordance with privacy regulations, evaluations and **grades will not be reviewed or discussed by email or Zoom**. All grade-related discussions must take place in person during office hours or by scheduled appointment. Final exam grades and final course grades will not be posted on Brightspace. Your final course grade will be released by the Registrar's Office and will be available on your Student Center. Students who wish to know their final exam grade can use their final course grade together with their other assessment grades to calculate your final exam grade.

University-wide grade descriptors

All evaluations are guided by Western's Undergraduate Grading Guidelines: For information about the university grading standards, refer to the Registrar's Handbook: Grading Standards.

N.B. To ensure the fairness and consistency for all students, no makeup assignments will be offered to improve low grades or final course marks. Requests for grade changes based on personal circumstances or future program requirements will not be considered.

Use of Generative Artificial Intelligence (AI):

All required evaluations may be subject to submission for textual similarity review to the commercial plagiarism detection software under license to the University for the 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 Western University, King's and Turnitin.com (<http://www.turnitin.com>). **The use of Chat GPT or other AI services, including translation and grammar-checking tools, is strictly prohibited in all assessments**, including discussion forms, essays, tests, and examinations. Unauthorized use of any AI services will be subject to academic discipline. Please note the Academic Dean has zero tolerance for scholastic offences. All required evaluations may be subject to *Link to Western Scholastic Discipline policy*:

https://uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/scholastic_discipline_undergrad.pdf

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 may 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.

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.

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.

2026-2027



Department of Sociology
Effective September 1, 2026.

Academic Policies

Scholastic Offences: Scholastic offences are taken seriously and students are directed to read the [Scholastic Offences](https://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/scholastic_offences.pdf) Policy, specifically, the definition of what constitutes a Scholastic Offence https://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/scholastic_offences.pdf.

Plagiarism: 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 the 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 Western University and 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.

Prior to any examination, students must turn their cellphones off and store them in their bags/coat at the front of the room. The use (or possession) of cellphones or other communications technologies during examinations is strictly prohibited. Those caught using a cell phone or other communication technologies, or even the physical possession of these technologies during an examination, will result in a zero on the examination in question. Similarly, the use (or possession) of these technologies during examination breaks (bathroom breaks during an exam) will also result in a zero. Intent does not matter. Forgetting to put away your cellphone or other communication technologies, whether during the examination or on examination breaks (bathroom breaks), are not justifications. It will result in a zero on the examination in question. In sum, your cellphones should never be seen or heard during an examination and should always be stored in your bags/coats at the front of the room.

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.

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

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. Students must ensure course prerequisites have been completed successfully or special permission from the Dean is obtained. Students who fail to do so will be removed from the course without adjustments to fees. The decision may not be appealed.

Student Responsibility for Course Selection:

https://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/general/academic_counselling.pdf

Registration and Progression:

https://uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/registration_progression_grad/registration_progression.pdf

Graduation Requirements:

https://uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/registration_progression_grad/graduation.pdf

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 regularly scheduled 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.

Procedure on makeup assessments for Social Science students and for courses offered by the Faculty of Social Science (Effective September 1, 2026):

If academic consideration is granted, students should consult the course outline for information regarding how the missed assessment will be addressed and follow any instructions provided by the instructor. At the instructor's discretion, the weight of a missed test/quiz or mid-term may be transferred to another assessment in the course, including the final exam, rather than requiring a makeup assessment. Reweighting is not available for missed final exams.

Students are entitled to **one makeup assessment opportunity** for a missed test/quiz, mid-term, or final exam supported by approved academic consideration. **No additional makeup opportunities will be provided.**

Makeup assessments represent the final opportunity to complete a missed course assessment. 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.

What happens if I miss a makeup assessment as a Social Science student or in a course offered by the Faculty of Social Science?

Students who miss a makeup assessment are not eligible for an additional makeup opportunity. Depending on their circumstances, they may:

1. Remain enrolled in the course and accept a grade of zero on the missed makeup assessment. Students should consult the course outline and calculate whether they can still achieve a passing grade in the course.
2. Withdraw from the course through [Student Center](#) before the [published drop deadline](#). A course dropped before the deadline will result in a withdrawal (WDN) without academic penalty. Part-time students should consult the Registrar's Office [refund schedule](#) to determine whether a tuition refund is available. Students enrolled full-time in 4.0-5.0 courses are generally not eligible for tuition refunds when a course is dropped.
3. If the published drop deadline has passed and the missed makeup assessment is supported by appropriate documentation, students may submit their documentation through the [Student Absence Portal](#) to request a **WDN (withdrawal without academic penalty)**. Approval is not automatic and remains subject to Faculty review. Requests for a second makeup assessment will not be considered.

Students are encouraged to carefully consider their ability to complete a makeup assessment as scheduled, as no further opportunities to complete the missed work will be available.

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 Advising Office.

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

Guidelines for Grades/Marks: The Department of Sociology has grade distribution guidelines that all instructors are expected to follow. Generally, and with few exceptions, this means that the number of A's in a course cannot exceed the number of B's, and class means are expected to fall within a prescribed percentage range. This means that your final grade depends on your ranking relative to your peers. Courses with grades falling outside this range may be adjusted, up or down. These guidelines do not prohibit a student achieving 95% or higher in all their courses, but it does mean that an entire course cannot be made up of students receiving 95%. This policy combats grade inflation, contributing to higher standards, and ensuring uniformity across all courses of the same level. Motivated and hard-working students receive grades well above the course averages. The use of grade guidelines, including any adjustments of grades, either up or down for this purpose, cannot be used as the basis of an appeal.

Sociology 1000-Level

A's not to exceed B's

Means in the range of 68-72%

Sociology 2000-Level

A's not to exceed B's

Means in the range of 70-75%

Sociology 3000-Level

Means in the range of 73-80%

Sociology 4000-Level

Means in the range of 78-82%

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** – information available regarding student health/dental plan, LTC 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](#) <https://www.uwo.ca/health/> 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>.
- **Accessible Education** provides support 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 on the Wellness and Wellbeing website <https://www.uwo.ca/health/gbsv/index.html>. To connect with a case manager or set up an appointment, please contact support@uwo.ca.
- **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 also available <https://www.lib.uwo.ca/research/index.html>.
- **Writing Support Centre** – Online writing resources, writing support and writing modules are available to undergraduate students <https://writing.uwo.ca/undergrads/>.
- **Bookstore:** Search for Textbook/course material availability and cost <https://bookstore.uwo.ca/course-materials-textbooks/course-materials-and-textbooks>.