



Western University

# SOCIOLOGY 2266B

## Crime and Society

**Winter 2022**

**Tuesday 9:30 am -12:30 pm**

**Location: TBD**

**Instructor: Dr. Sean Waite**

Office Hours: Tuesdays 2:00pm-3:00pm  
Department of Sociology, Office: SSC 5401

Email: [swaite3@uwo.ca](mailto:swaite3@uwo.ca)

*Western University is located on the traditional lands of the Anishinaabek (Ah-nish-in-a-bek), Haudenosaunee (Ho-den-no-show-nee), Lūnaapéewak (Len-ahpay-wuk) and Chonnonton (Chun-ongk-ton) Nations, on lands connected with the London Township and Sombra Treaties of 1796 and the Dish with One Spoon Covenant Wampum. With this, we respect the longstanding relationships that Indigenous Nations have to this land, as they are the original caretakers. We acknowledge historical and ongoing injustices that Indigenous Peoples (First Nations, Métis and Inuit) endure in Canada, and we accept responsibility as a public institution to contribute toward revealing and correcting miseducation as well as renewing respectful relationships with Indigenous communities through our teaching, research and community service.*

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### Course Description

Criminology is an interdisciplinary field built around the scientific study of crime and criminal behaviour, including their form, causes, legal aspects, prevention, and control. This course provides a comprehensive introduction to the sociological aspects of crime in Canada. The measurement patterns, causes and social explanations of criminal behaviour will be examined.

**Prerequisites:** 1.0 from: Sociology 1020, 1021E, 1025A/B, 1026F/G, 1027A/B.

### Course Organization

Class time will combine lectures, class discussions and possibly short films.

### Learning Outcomes

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 controlling crime.

## Methods of Evaluation

Research Proposal:	February 8, 2022	10%
Midterm Exam:	March 1, 2022	35%
Research Paper:	March 22, 2022	20%
Final Exam:	During Exam Period	35%

## Required Text

1. [Schmallegger, Frank and Rebecca Volk. 2017. \*Canadian Criminology Today 6<sup>th</sup> edition\*. Toronto: Pearson. \\$106.95](#)  
*Note: We are using the 6th edition. Physical copies are available in the bookstore. Digital copied can be purchased online.*
2. Reiman, Jeffrey and Paul Leighton. 2013. *The Rich Get Richer and the Poor Get Prison: Ideology, Class and Criminal Justice*. Tenth Edition. Boston: Pearson. (Used copies of older editions can be purchased online for roughly \$20.00; new \$53.83 online)
3. Articles or book chapters assigned in the detailed reading list, excluding those marked optional.

*Previous editions of the Schmallegger and Volk text are also available; however, it is your responsibility to know the content in the editions assigned above.*

## Optional Readings

1. Beckett, Katherine and Theodore Sasson. 2004. *The Politics of Injustice: Crime and Punishment in America*. Thousand Oaks: Sage.
2. Goffman, Alice. 2014. *On the Run: Fugitive Life in An American City*. Chicago: University of Chicago Press.
3. Alexander, Michelle. 2012. *The New Jim Crow: Mass Incarceration in the Age of Colorblindness*. New York: The New Press.

## Evaluation Breakdown

### *Midterm and Final Exam*

This course will consist of two examinations (midterm and final). Both will be predominantly multiple-choice questions but they may also contain true or false, fill-in-the-blank or short answer questions. The detailed format of the exams, including the number of questions, will be provided prior to the exam date. **The final exam will be cumulative but there will be a far greater focus on material from the second half of the course.** The material on the exams will cover lectures, discussions, films, documentaries and readings.

### *Research Paper*

Students will write an original research paper on any criminological topic of their choosing. Please see the teaching assistant if you are concerned about the suitability of your topic. You are expected to integrate at least one criminological theory into your analysis and consider how age, class, race/ethnicity and gender relate to your topic. Papers should be between 8 and 10 double-spaced pages and include a minimum of 8 peer-reviewed sources. Students must also complete a self-assessment form and attach it to the back of the term paper. I will provide more information about the self-assessment in class.

Here is the main evaluation criteria:

- The introduction very clearly outlines the issue / debate / problem and sets the stage for the thesis statement.
- The thesis statement is clear, concise, and perfectly defensible.
- A diverse range and adequate number of sources are used.
- The analysis reflects the writer's ability to engage in critical thinking about the literature and theory, beyond what was presented in the course material.
- At least one criminological theory is presented and used to support the author's thesis statement.
- The paper shows an in-depth understanding of the theory, beyond what was presented in lecture.
- The peer-reviewed literature clearly supports the thesis statement.
- The paper does an excellent job of weaving sociological factors such as age, race, class and gender into the arguments.
- The in-text citations are written correctly using ASA style.
- The reference list is written correctly using ASA style.
- Overall, the paper reflects a deep, nuanced understanding of the literature, theory and course material.
- Overall, the paper is richly developed, well-organized and clear.
- Overall, the writing style is clear, interesting and engaging.
- The writing flows easily, with well-chosen vocabulary and transitions between paragraphs.
- There are very few, if any, errors in grammar or punctuation.

There are some topics that students find particularly interesting and want to write about, such as *serial killers or mass murder*. These are indeed criminological topics but are often studied exclusively from the psychological and psychiatric perspective. Students who write on these topics must do so from a sociological perspective and integrate age, race/ethnicity, class and gender into their analysis. I strongly encourage students interested in these topics to see me during office hours before submitting their research proposals.

Students having difficulty choosing a topic are encouraged to write a term paper that answers the following question: Are tough on crime laws, such as mandatory minimum sentences, effective at reducing crime? In your answer be sure to incorporate two theories, counter arguments, and include a discussion on gender, age, race and class.

### *Research Proposal*

You must submit a two-to three-page research paper proposal on **February 8, 2022**. You should include a working thesis and at least five academic citations to demonstrate that you have started to review of the literature on your topic. This must be in *American Sociological Association (ASA)* format. References should be included on a separate page. You will be evaluated on the thoroughness of your proposal, the references cited, ASA style and the relevancy of your topic.

### *Formatting Requirements*

Marks may be deducted if you do not follow these instructions:

<p>Times New Roman font</p> <p>12-point font size</p> <p>If your name in OWL does not match your given name, please be sure to include your student number.</p> <p>Title pages are optional.</p>	<p>1 inch (2.54cm) margins on all sides</p> <p>Pages should be numbered in the right side of the footer starting on the first page of text, not the title page</p> <p>Pages should be stapled, no paper clips, no folders, no glue, no tape, no gum, or other inventive ways of holding papers together</p>	<p>Paragraph spacing should be double-spaced.</p> <p>Your full name should appear in the right side of the header.</p> <p>ASA (American Sociological Association) style.</p>
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### **Clickers**

As a way to maximize student engagement and participation during class, we will be using iClickers. This is a ***free app*** (Western has purchased a university subscription) that can be downloaded on your smart phone, tablet or laptop. There are ***no marks attached*** to the use of iClicker. This is simply a fun way to engage and participate with the class. Please create an iClicker account by visiting <https://www.iclicker.com/>. You can also download the app for your smart devices. Again, this is free and you do not need to purchase anything to use this software. Your participation is voluntary and all responses will be anonymous. The data will not be used for evaluation purposes.

### **How to Contact Me**

- In person: during office hours
- By telephone: 519-661-2111 x. 87689
- By email: [swaite3@uwo.ca](mailto:swaite3@uwo.ca)

If you have questions regarding the course, material, or readings, please ask during class. There will be other students with the same question. I do NOT respond to emails that require a considerable amount of detail to answer. These questions are best suited for in-person office hours. I am typically available for 10 minutes after each class for quick questions.

### **How to get important information**

Make sure to check the course OWL site regularly for course updates, cancellations, and other course-related postings. You are also responsible for any emails I send to your Western email account. Please be sure that you can receive and access emails from this account.

### **Important Policies**

#### *Policies for Assignment Deadlines*

For each day your proposal is late, there is a penalty of 1/10. For each day your research paper is late, there is a penalty of 1/20. There are no late penalties for students who submit Self-Reported Absence

(SRA) or receive academic accommodations from Social Science Academic Counselling:

<https://counselling.ssc.uwo.ca/connect/index.html>.

I only grant *extensions* for student who submit an SRA or receive an accommodation recommendation from Western's Social Science Academic Counselling:

<https://counselling.ssc.uwo.ca/connect/index.html>.

### *A Note on 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 (the Scholastic Offence Policy can be viewed in the Western Academic Calendar).

### *Plagiarism Checking*

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 ([www.turnitin.com](http://www.turnitin.com)).

### *Policies on Examinations*

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.

### *Policy on Laptops and other Electronics/Phones in Class*

Laptops are permitted in class, but if it is observed that students are on social networking sites such as Facebook or Twitter, they will be told to close the lid and they will not be permitted to use it for the remainder of the class. Cellphones may be used for Clicker engagement.

### *Policy on Accommodation for Medical Illness*

Western's policy on Accommodation for Medical Illness can be found at

[www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic\\_policies/appeals/accommodation\\_medical.pdf](http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/accommodation_medical.pdf).

Students must see the Academic Counsellor and submit all required documentation in order to be approved for certain accommodation: [counselling.ssc.uwo.ca/procedures/academic\\_consideration.html](https://counselling.ssc.uwo.ca/procedures/academic_consideration.html).

### *Academic Consideration for Missed Work*

Students who are seeking academic consideration for missed work during the semester may submit a *Self-Reported Absence (SRA)* form online provided that the absence is **48 hours or less** and the other conditions specified in the [Senate policy](#) are met. Two important exceptions to this rule: SRAs will NOT be allowed for final examinations or assessments worth more than 30% of a given course. Students

whose absences are expected to last **longer than 48 hours**, or where the other conditions detailed in the policy are not met (e.g., work is worth more than 30% of the final grade, the student has already used 2 self-reported absences, the absence is during the final exam period), may receive academic consideration by submitting a [Student Medical Certificate](#) (for illness) or other appropriate documentation (for compassionate grounds) to your Home Faculty Academic Counselling office.

All students pursuing academic consideration, regardless of type, must contact their instructors no less than 24 hours following the end of the period of absence to clarify how they will be expected to fulfill the academic responsibilities missed during their absence. Students are reminded that they should consider carefully the implications of postponing tests or midterm exams or delaying submission of work, and are encouraged to make appropriate decisions based on their specific circumstances.

[www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic\\_policies/appeals/accommodation\\_illness.pdf](http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/accommodation_illness.pdf)

### *Accessibility Options*

Please contact the course instructor if you require material in an alternate format or if you require any other arrangements to make this course more accessible to you. You may also wish to contact Services for Students with Disabilities (SSD) at 519 661-2111 x 82147 for any specific question regarding an accommodation. Information regarding accommodation of exams is available on the Registrar's website:

[www.registrar.uwo.ca/academics/examinations/accommodated\\_exams.html](http://www.registrar.uwo.ca/academics/examinations/accommodated_exams.html)

### *Scholastic 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 web site:

[www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic\\_policies/appeals/scholastic\\_discipline\\_undergrad.pdf](http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/scholastic_discipline_undergrad.pdf)

### *Mental Health*

Students who are in **emotional/mental distress** should refer to Mental Health@Western ([www.uwo.ca/health/mental\\_wellbeing/](http://www.uwo.ca/health/mental_wellbeing/)) for a complete list of options how to obtain help.

### *Make-up Exams*

Make-up exams will be granted with approved documentation only. If you have a conflict with one of the exam dates, it is your responsibility to discuss it with the Academic Counseling office as soon as possible, but no later than one week before the regularly scheduled exam and provide documentation of the conflict. If approved, you will be allowed to write a make-up exam scheduled by our department. This makeup exam may or may not be in the same format as the original exam.

If you miss an exam (this includes make-up exams) due to illness or for any other unforeseen reason, please notify me ([swaite3@uwo.ca](mailto:swaite3@uwo.ca)) within 24 hours of the missed exam. No documentation is required when you notify me, but I need to know that you missed the exam within 24 hours. You then must provide notification and documentation to your Academic Counselor within 48 hours. If your problem is medical in nature, you should be seen by your doctor on the date of the exam or on the date an assignment is due. If your Academic Counselor agrees that your reasons are legitimate and are supported by your medical doctor's documentation, you will be allowed to write a make-up exam.

If a student *misses a make-up exam* due to sickness or another documented reason, then the weight of the mid-term will be added to the weight of the final exam. In cases where there is no approved justification for the absence, the student will receive a grade of zero on the exam.

### *Recording Devices*

No recording devices can be used in class. Some of the topics we discuss may be sensitive. If students choose to share personal stories or experiences they should not worry that they are being recorded. If you require a recording device for medical or other reasons, please see me.

### *Lectures and Course Materials*

Lectures and course materials, including power point presentations, outlines, and similar materials, are protected by copyright. You may take notes and make copies of course materials for your own educational use. You may not record lectures, reproduce (or allow others to reproduce), post or distribute lecture notes, wiki material, and other course materials publicly and/or for commercial purposes without my written consent.

### *Grade Guidelines*

The Department of Sociology has grade guidelines that all instructors are required to follow. For courses at the 2200 level, the number of A's is not to exceed the number of B's, and class means are expected to fall in the range of 69% to 73%. This means that your final grade depends on your ranking relative to other students.

### Course Schedule and Readings

Week	Date	Topic	Readings
1	January 11, 2022	Introduction  What is criminology?	Course Outline  iClicker introduction  Schmalleger and Volk: Chapter 1
2	January 18, 2022	Crime Statistics	Schmalleger and Volk: Chapter 2  Ouimet, Marc. 1999. "Crime in Canada and in the United States: A Comparative analysis." <i>The Canadian Review of Sociology and Anthropology</i> . 36.3: 389-408.
3	January 25, 2022	Patterns of Crime	Schmalleger and Volk: Chapter 3  Pino, Nathan W. and Robert F. Meier. 1999. "Gender Differences in Rape Reporting." <i>Sex Roles</i> . 40(11/12): 979-990.  Statistics Canada. 2021. "After Five Years of Increases, Police-Reported Crime in Canada Was down in 2020, but Incidents of Hate Crime Increased Sharply." (11):13.  <b>Optional:</b> Moreau, Greg. 2020. "Police-Reported Crime Statistics in Canada, 2020."(85):1-66.  <b>Optional:</b> Graham, David A. 2021. "America is Having a Violence Wave, not a Crime Wave." <i>The Atlantic</i> . <a href="https://www.theatlantic.com/ideas/archive/2021/09/america-having-violence-wave-not-crime-wave/620234/">https://www.theatlantic.com/ideas/archive/2021/09/america-having-violence-wave-not-crime-wave/620234/</a>

Week	Date	Topic	Readings
4	February 1, 2022	Victimology: The Study of Victims	<p>Schmallegger and Volk: Chapter 4</p> <p>Cohen, Lawrence E and Marcus Felson. 1979. "Social Change and Crime Rate Trends: A Routine Activity Approach." <i>American Sociological Review</i>. 44(4): 588-608.</p> <p>Monreau, Greg. 2021. "Police Reported Hate Crimes in Canada, 2019." <i>Juristat</i>. Cat. No. 85-002-x.</p> <p>Conroy, Shana and Adam Cotter. 2017. "Self-reported sexual assault in Canada, 2014." <i>Juristat</i>. Ct. No. 85-002-x</p> <p><b>Optional:</b> Simpson, Laura. 2018. "Violent Victimization of lesbians, gays, and bisexuals in Canada, 2014." <i>Juristat</i>. Cat. No. 85-002-x.</p>
5	February 8, 2022	<p>Classical and Neoclassical Thought</p> <p>Biological Roots of Criminal Behaviour</p>	<p>Schmallegger and Volk: Chapter 5</p> <p>Schmallegger and Volk: Chapter 6</p> <p>Mocan, Naci and Erdal Tekin. 2010. "Ugly Criminals". <i>The Review of Economics and Statistics</i>. 92(1): 15-30.</p> <p><b>Optional:</b> Banning the Use of Gay and Trans Panic Defenses  <a href="https://williamsinstitute.law.ucla.edu/publications/model-leg-gay-trans-panic/">https://williamsinstitute.law.ucla.edu/publications/model-leg-gay-trans-panic/</a></p>
6	February 15, 2022	Psychological and Psychiatric Foundations of Criminal Behaviour	Schmallegger and Volk: Chapter 7
	February 22, 2022	<b>READING WEEK</b>	<b>READING WEEK</b>
7	March 1, 2022	Midterm Examination	Roughly 75 multiple-choice questions.

Week	Date	Topic	Readings
8	March 8, 2022	The Meaning of Crime: Social Structure Perspective	<p>Schmallegger and Volk: Chapter 8</p> <p>Miller, Walter B. 1958. "Lower Class Culture as Generating Milieu of Gang Delinquency." <i>Journal of Social Issues</i>. 14(3): 5-19.</p> <p><b>Optional:</b> Merton, Robert. 1938. "Social Structure and Anomie." <i>American Sociological Review</i>. 3(5): 672-682.</p>
9	March 15, 2022	The Meaning of Crime: Social Process Perspective	<p>Schmallegger and Volk: Chapter 9</p> <p>Sykes, Gresham M. and David Matza. 1957. "Techniques of Neutralization: A Theory of Delinquency." <i>American Sociological Review</i>. 22(6): 664-670.</p> <p>Chambliss, William. J. "The Saints and the Roughnecks." <i>Society</i>. 11(1): 24-31.</p> <p><b>Optional:</b> Becker, Howard S. 1963 <i>Outsiders: Studies in the Sociology of Deviance</i>. New York: Free Press. Chapters 1 and 2.</p> <p><b>Optional:</b> Wiley, Stephanie A. and Finn-Aage Esbensen. 2016. "The Effect of Police Contact: does Official Intervention Result in Deviance Amplification?" <i>Crime and Delinquency</i>. 62(3): 283-307.</p>
10	March 22, 2022	<p>The Meaning of Crime: Social Conflict Perspective</p> <p>White-Collar and Organized Crime</p>	<p>Schmallegger and Volk: Chapter 10</p> <p>Barkan, Steven E. 2015. Chapter 13</p> <p>Piquero, Nicole Leeper, Stephen G. Tibbetts and Michael B. Blankenship. 2005. "Examining the role of differential association and techniques of neutralization in explaining corporate crime." <i>Deviant Behaviour</i>. 26:159-188.</p>

<b>Week</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Topic</b>	<b>Readings</b>
11	March 29, 2022	The Rich Get Richer and the Poor Get Prison (Part 1)  The New Jim Crow  On the Run	Reiman, Jeffrey and Paul Leighton. 2013. <i>The Rich Get Richer and the Poor Get Prison: Ideology, Class, and Criminal Justice</i> . Toronto: Pearson. Chapters 1, 2  Alexander, Michelle. 2012. <i>The New Jim Crow: Mass Incarceration in the Age of Colorblindness</i> . New York: The New Press. (Chapter 1)  Goffman, Alice. 2009. "On the Run: Wanted Men in a Philadelphia Ghetto." <i>American Sociological Review</i> . 74: 339- 357.
12	April 4, 2022	The Rich Get Richer and the Poor Get Prison (Part 2)	Reiman, Jeffrey and Paul Leighton. 2013. <i>The Rich Get Richer and the Poor Get Prison: Ideology, Class, and Criminal Justice</i> . Toronto: Pearson. Chapters 3, 4
13	<i>Exam Period</i>	<b>Final Examination</b>	Roughly 100 multiple-choice questions.