



The University of Western Ontario
SOCIOLOGY 3260B-001
Law and Society
Winter 2025

Delivery Method - in-person

Instructor: Dr. Brenda Kobayashi

Department of Sociology
Email: bkobaya@uwo.ca

This is a DRAFT 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 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): 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?

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 (Currently listed at \$129.55)

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 expected and required to read the course syllabus in its entirety. Students are also responsible for attending class and reading the course outline in its entirety. 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.

If you have a question or would like to discuss course content, please speak with me before, during, or after class. Outside of class, please email me at bkobaya@uwo.ca to set up a time to meet 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 read the course outline, review your class notes, announcements, and any other supplementary material posted on Brightspace to see if your question has already been answered. Students are expected to adhere to professional and courteous email etiquette. Emails should be professionally prepared, spell- and grammar-checked and not written in “text message” format. All communications must be written from your UWO account. The subject heading must read 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.

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)

Evaluation Breakdown:

Examination: The midterm examination is worth 25% of your final course grade and will be held on **Wednesday February 5, 2025 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. The examinations in this course will be closed book and **may** include multiple choice, true and false, fill in the blank, and/or short answer questions. The examinations will cover all material covered in the lectures, readings, and any

supplementary material provided. Details regarding the exam format will be provided the week before the upcoming examination date. 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. **N.B.** Makeup quizzes and exams may be in **essay format**.

Instructors are permitted to designate one assessment per course per term as requiring supporting documentation to receive academic consideration. For this course the following assessment has been designated as requiring supporting documentation: Midterm Examination on Wednesday, February 5, 2025. Thus, students are not eligible to submit a self-attestation accommodation for the midterm or the final examinations.

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 5, 2025**. 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 assignments must be submitted in person on Wednesday, March 5, 2024 at the beginning of class. Students must also upload their assignment to turnitin via the Assignment tab on Brightspace on **Wednesday, March 5, 2024** at beginning of class. Students are expected to submit the assignment by the deadline listed (Wednesday, March 5, 2024). 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 10% 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.

Please note that because the submission deadline for this assessment [Class Assignment] already includes flexibility in the form of [72-hour submission window] the instructor reserves the right to deny academic consideration for assignments which are submitted following the end of the period of flexibility.

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. 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

Any request of assessment re-evaluation is to be done within two weeks of the mark being released. Students who seek a re-evaluation of grades must justify in detail and in writing why they feel that a mark is not justified. The request must be based on reasons rooted in the specific course content and keeping in mind my expectations for the class. The assessment will be re-graded in its entirety, not simply the portion the student believes were scored improperly. Note, in the course of remarking an assessment the instructor or TA may discover errors or defects that were not originally detected and as a result it is possible that a student's revised mark may go down, rather than up. The instructor reserves the right to adjust the mark both upwards and downwards. The revised mark stands. See additional information provided on the Assignment handout for re-evaluation of assignments.

Makeup Examinations and Missed Evaluations

As stated, students are not eligible to submit a self-attestation accommodation for the midterm or final examination. If you miss an examination or evaluation due to illness or for any other unforeseen reason, please notify me within 24 hours. Students must provide valid medical or supporting documentation to their Home Faculty Academic Counselling Office as soon as possible.

Students with an approved absence from an in-class test or exam will be required to write a makeup exam. There will be **only one makeup examination** for each scheduled examination. The makeup examination for the in-class midterm examination will be held during the Department Makeup Exam scheduled on **TBA**. Failure to write the exam, without an academic accommodation, will result in a zero grade for that evaluation.

Students with an approved absence from an in-class test or exam will be required to write a makeup exam. Course professor or teaching assistant(s) may not be available to respond to questions during the makeup exam. Students should be aware that the make-up test will not necessarily be in the same format, be of the same duration, or cover the same material as the original test. **Makeup exams may be essay format.**

Special Examination

Regarding a missed final examination, students must provide valid medical or supporting documentation to their Home Faculty Academic Counselling Office as soon as possible. Academic Counselling will determine eligibility to write a Special Examination (the name given by the University to a makeup Final Exam). The makeup examination (Special Examination) for the final examination will be held

during the Department Makeup exam scheduled on **TBA**. The locations TBA. Failure to write the exam, without an academic accommodation, will result in a zero grade for that evaluation.

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.

Students with an approved absence from an in-class test or exam will be required to write a makeup exam. Course professor or teaching assistant(s) may not be available to respond to questions during the makeup exam. Students should be aware that the make-up test will not necessarily be in the same format, be of the same duration, or cover the same material as the original test.

Classroom Conduct and Additional Information:

This class will conduct itself on the principles of academic and intellectual freedom and mutual respect. Some readings and content will include topics about sensitive, difficult, and/or challenging issues that may be triggering and/or upsetting. I ask all students to help create an atmosphere of mutual respect and sensitivity during the lecture and discussion periods. Racist, sexist, or other derisive comments, intentional or otherwise will not be tolerated.

Recording of lectures, tutorial or virtual meetings or online course content without the explicit consent of the Professor, TA, and students involved is grounds for serious academic and/or legal discipline. All course content created by a faculty member is considered the faculty member’s intellectual property; it should not be distributed, shared in any public domain, or sold by a student or other third party without prior written consent of the faculty member.

Class attendance is critical to getting the most of 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.

I do not post or handout my lecture notes. I will post powerpoint slides on Brightspace in advance of each class; however, these slides are intended only to aid in note-taking. They are not complete notes and are not a substitute for attending lectures. It is the student's responsibility to create the full complement of notes from each class.

If you miss class, are late or leave early, it is your responsibility to catch up on anything and everything that occurs during class (e.g., arrange with a classmate to exchange lecture notes, discussions, handouts, videos, guest speakers, class announcements, etc.) It is a good idea to "buddy up" with a classmate in order to exchange notes, if you must miss a class, are late, or leave early as I do not post or handout lectures notes.

A laptop can be an effective tool for taking notes in class. However, it is distracting to the instructor, TA, speakers, and other students when students use their laptops or cellphones to access the Internet and/or make personal calls and/or send and receive messages during lectures. Students who use their laptop and/or cellphone during the class for any reason other than to take lecture notes are considered to be engaging in disruptive behaviour under the Student Code of Conduct. Students caught violating this policy may be asked to leave the class lecture.

Course Schedule and Readings:

A detailed weekly course schedule along with assigned readings will be provided in the first lecture and will also be posted on Owl.

Artificial Intelligence:

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

The use of ChatGPT or other AI services, including translation and grammar-checking tools is strictly prohibited in all assessments, including assignments, discussion forums, essays, tests, and examination. Unauthorized use of any AI services will be subject to academic discipline. By adhering to these guidelines, students contribute to a responsible and effective learning environment that promotes critical thinking, independent inquiry and all them to produce original written contributions. The same principles also apply to the use of translation software to support the writing the essays and other written assessments. High AI and/or turnitin scores will be penalized.

Academic Policies:

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:

https://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/scholastic_discipline_undergrad.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 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 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 in the course outline. 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

https://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/medicalform.pdf or, where that is not possible, equivalent documentation by a health care practitioner.

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.

Missed Tests and Exams: Students with an approved absence from an in-class test will be required to write a make-up test. 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. Course professors may not be available to respond to questions during the make-up test/exam slots.

Students with an approved absence from a final exam in December or April will be required to write a makeup exam known as a Special Examination. Permission to write a Special Examination may be granted on the basis of compassionate or medical grounds with appropriate supporting documentation provided to the student's Home 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](#) .

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 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.

Accessibility Options: 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. The accommodation policy can be found here: https://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/Academic%20Accommodation_disabilities.pdf . Information regarding accommodation of exams is available on the Registrar's website: www.registrar.uwo.ca/academics/examinations/accommodated_exams.html .

Mental Health: Students who are in emotional/mental distress should refer to Mental Health@Western <https://www.uwo.ca/uwocom/mentalhealth> for a complete list of options about how to obtain help.

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 these traumatic events. If you are experiencing or have experienced GBSV (either recently or in the past), you will find information about support services for survivors, including emergency contacts at the following website

https://www.uwo.ca/health/student_support/survivor_support/get-help.html .To connect with a case manager or set up an appointment, please contact support@uwo.ca .

Additional resources:

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

Student Support Services <http://westernusc.ca/services>

Course Selection: 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 courses they may have taken.

If a student enrolls in a course for which they do not have the prerequisites, they may be removed from the course and have it deleted from their record. This decision may not be appealed. A student will receive no adjustment to their fees in the event that they are dropped from a course for failing to have the necessary prerequisites.

If a student takes a course that is antirequisite to a course previously taken, they will lose credit for the earlier course, regardless of the grade achieved in the most recent course.

Please visit your Home Faculty Academic Counselling webpage for information on adding/dropping courses, academic considerations for absences, appeals, exam conflicts, and many other academic related matters:

https://registrar.uwo.ca/faculty_academic_counselling.html .

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