



**The University of Western Ontario**  
**SOCIOLOGY 2257A-001**  
**Deviance and Social Control**  
**Fall 2025**

**Delivery Method: In person**

**Instructor:** Sean Waite, PhD

**Department of Sociology**

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**Course Description:** This course covers theories of deviant behaviour and social control. We will examine how particular behaviours come to be defined as deviant and how norms, values and rules are socially constructed. We will also examine the consequences of formal and informal deviant behaviours and the responses they elicit.

**Prerequisite(s):** 0.5 Sociology course at the 1000 level.

Unless you have either the prerequisites 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. 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 2259.

**Course Objectives and Learning Outcomes:**

This course provides foundational knowledge in the field of deviance and social control, including theory, concepts, and methods. At the end of this course students will:

1. Understand the theoretical development and scientific study of deviance, including concepts, terms, and theorists.
2. Understand the research methodologies, and ethical implications, for conducting research in the field of deviance.
3. Understand why deviance is natural, inevitable, and, at times, beneficial.
4. Appreciate the strengths and weaknesses of both subjective and objective approaches to deviant behavior.
5. Understand and apply concepts from Erving Goffman's *Stigma: Management of Spoiled Identity*.
6. Develop critical thinking skills and be able to appreciate alternative perspectives in the study of deviance, even those that one may find objectionable.

**Course Material:**

1. Bereska, Tami. 2024. *Deviance, Conformity, and Social Control in Canada*. 6<sup>th</sup> edition Pearson Publishers. \$95.00 (EBook) or \$65.00 (EBook, 180 day rental) – at Western Bookstore.
  - a. Note: bookstore incorrectly lists this as 7th edition.
2. Goffman, Erving. 1963. *Stigma: Notes on the management of spoiled identity*. Toronto: Simon & Schuster. \$25.99 (physical copy) – at Western Bookstore (or Amazon).
3. Additional articles and/or book chapters on the detailed reading list.

### Communication:

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

Email is not suitable for questions requiring considerable exposition. These questions are suited for in-person exchange during office hours. Office hours are drop-in and first come, first serve. Students are responsible for checking the course Brightspace site on a regular basis for news and updates. This is the primary way information will be disseminated to students, other than lecture hours.

### Method of Evaluation:

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

|                                |                    |     |
|--------------------------------|--------------------|-----|
| Midterm examination (in-class) | October 21, 2025   | 40% |
| Final examination              | During exam period | 60% |

#### *Midterm / Final Examination*

The examinations will consist of roughly 75 (midterm) and 100 (final) multiple-choice questions. The midterm will be administered **during class time** in our **regular lecture room**. Students will have two hours to complete the midterm and three hours to complete the final examination. These are closed book examinations and no electronic devices are permitted. The final examination will be written during the final exam period, with the date and location determined by the registrar's office. The final exam will be cumulative but there will be greater focus on material from the second half of the course. No electronic devices, books, cheat sheets, dictionaries or aids are permitted during the examination.

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.

**Please note** that 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**. Students with academic consideration for an examination will either be provided a make-up examination date or will have their grade re-weighted to the final (i.e. 100% cumulative final), at Professor Waite's discretion. The make-up exam will be scheduled by your professor and may or may not be in the same format, length, duration, or cover the same content as the missed examination. Those who provide supporting documentation for a midterm examination absence must contact Professor Waite for further instructions. Those who miss an examination without supporting documentation will receive a zero.

### Artificial Intelligence:

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

### Electronic Devices:

Electronic devices are permitted in class; however, their use must not interfere with your peers learning or interrupt my lecture. In the event your electronic devices interrupt the classroom, you may be asked to leave.

**Recording devices:**

Recording devices are not permitted in my class. Some of the topics we discuss will 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 accommodation, please see me.

**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](https://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/scholastic_discipline_undergrad.pdf)

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

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

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

Computer-marked multiple-choice tests and/or exams may be subject to submission for similarity review by software that will check for unusual coincidences in answer patterns that may indicate cheating.

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

**Absence from Course Commitments:** Students must familiarize themselves with the [Policy on Academic Consideration](#) – Undergraduate Students in First Entry Programs [https://uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic\\_policies/appeals/academic\\_consideration\\_Sep24.pdf](https://uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/academic_consideration_Sep24.pdf)

Students missing course work for medical, compassionate or extenuating circumstances can request academic consideration by completing a request using the Student Absence Portal (SAP) [https://registrar.uwo.ca/academics/academic\\_considerations/index.html](https://registrar.uwo.ca/academics/academic_considerations/index.html) . Students are permitted one academic consideration request per course per term without supporting documentation. Note that supporting documentation is always required for academic consideration requests for examinations scheduled by the office of the registrar (e.g. December and April exams) and for practical laboratory and performance tests typically scheduled during the last week of the term. Students should also note that the instructor may designate one assessment per course per term that requires supporting documentation. This designated assessment is described in the course outline. Supporting documentation for academic considerations for absences due to illness must include the completed Western Student Medical Certificate (SMC) <https://registrar.uwo.ca/academics/pdfs/student-medical-certificate.pdf> or, where that is not possible, equivalent documentation by a health care practitioner. Students must request academic consideration as soon as possible and no later than 48 hours after the missed assessment.

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

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

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

**Religious Accommodation:** Students should review the policy for Accommodation for Religious Holidays [https://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic\\_policies/appeals/accommodation\\_religious.pdf](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](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](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](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](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](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](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](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>