



**The University of Western Ontario**  
**Department of Sociology**  
**SOCIOLOGY 3358F-001**  
**Women and Crime**  
**Fall 2025**

**Delivery Method – In-Person**

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

**Course Description:** The objective of this course is to provide an overview of women's criminality. Throughout this course we will examine how the intersections of gender, race, ethnicity, and class inequality create and perpetuate crime.

**Prerequisite(s):** Registration in third year or above.

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):** none

**Course Objectives and Learning Outcomes:**

Students will be able to identify and explain the criminological perspectives and feminist theories of women's involvement in types of crime. They will explore the intersections of victimization and criminality, examining the unique characteristics of criminalized women and what sets them apart from other populations. The course will also evaluate how the correctional system responds to and often fails to meet the specific needs of women. Additionally, students will investigate how and why women and girls are disproportionately targeted within systems of power and control.

**Course Material:**

The following books are required and available at the University Bookstore.

[https://bookstore.uwo.ca/textbook-search?campus=UWO&term=W2025A&courses%5B0%5D=001\\_UW/SOC3358F](https://bookstore.uwo.ca/textbook-search?campus=UWO&term=W2025A&courses%5B0%5D=001_UW/SOC3358F)

Jane Barker and D. Tavcer, 2023 (3rd ed). Women and the Criminal Justice System: A Canadian Perspective.

Additional textbooks and readings: TBA

## **Communication:**

Students are responsible for checking 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 this is the primary platform for distributing course information.

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](mailto: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 OWL to see if your question has already been answered.

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 is available on the course Brightspace site.

## **Method of Evaluation:**

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

Presentation: worth 25%

Presentation Critical Reflection Paper: worth 15%

Participation: worth 10%

Short Written Assignment: worth 15%

Final Essay: 35%

Evaluation Breakdown:

**Presentations:** Students will do one group presentation that draws upon the assigned/required course readings scheduled for that week and is relevant to the course. Additional information and sign up for presentations will be provided during the first lecture. Sign-up for presentations will be done the first week of classes. Depending on the course enrollment, presentations will begin on Week 2 or Week 3. In accordance with university policy, instructors may designate one assessment per course per term that requires supporting documentation for academic consideration. In this course, academic consideration for the presentation requires submission of formal supporting documentation provided to their Home Faculty Academic Counselling Office within 48 hours of the presentation date. Unless extenuating

circumstances do not allow, please email myself and your fellow presenter(s) prior to the presentation date. A self-attestation will not be accepted for the presentation.

**Presentation Critical Reflection Paper:** One week after the presentation, each presenter will be required to submit a critical reflection paper. Expectations will be provided during the first lecture. The due dates will vary depending on the week you choose to present. The papers will be due at the start of class (9:30AM) one week after the presentation. Students should plan to submit by the deadline; however, no late penalty will be imposed for the first 72 hours after the deadline in the case of illness or extenuating circumstances. This flexibility deadline applies to all students, including students with accommodations through Accessibility Education. Because the submission deadline for this assessment already includes flexibility, students are not eligible to submit a self-attestation accommodation. Should students submit their assessment beyond 72 hours past the deadline, a late penalty of 10%/day will be subtracted from the assessed grade. As flexibility deadlines are used in this course, requests for academic consideration will not be granted. The instructor reserves the right to deny academic consideration for any assignment submitted past the flexibility deadline.

**Class Participation:** This course meets for 3 hours each week. Students are expected to attend all classes and arrive prepared, having completed the required readings in advance. Active engagement in class discussions, group activities, and presentations is a mandatory component of the course.

**Short Written Assignment:** To support engagement with the assigned readings, in-class presentations, and discussions, you will complete one short written assignment over the term. You may choose to one week between Week 3 and Week 9 to submit your paper. N.B. You cannot choose the same week you are scheduled to present. The assignment will be due at the start of class in the week following the week's topic you choose to write about. For example, if you choose to write about the topic discussed in Week 5, the paper is due at the start of class in Week 6. Due dates will vary depending on the week you choose to write about. Late or missed submissions will receive a grade of zero. There will be no extensions, self-attestation, or makeup options as this assignment offers built-in flexibility. The paper must be double-spaced and 1-2 pages (2 pages maximum) in length (the TA and/or instructor will stop reading after 2 pages). Include a separate cover page and bibliography will bring the page total to 3-4 pages. Additional details will be provided in the first lecture. Papers will be submitted to Turnitin on Brightspace with a hard copy to be submitted in person at the beginning of class.

**Essay:** Students will write a final essay on a topic related to the course that personally interests you and connects with themes discussed in the course. The final paper must go beyond summarizing what others have written. It must demonstrate your unique engagement with the topic, supported by a combination of self-reflection in the context of knowledge, and scholarly research. Term papers will be 5-6 pages (~1500 words) double-spaced with standard formatting and text size (1" margins and 12-font) with proper referencing. A title page and bibliography are to be included on additional pages. Students are permitted to draw on and use some course material; however, a substantial portion of sources are to come from reputable and scholarly sources beyond the course readings. Essays will be submitted to turnitin on Brightspace with a hard copy to be submitted in person (not electronically) at the beginning of class (9:30AM) on **Tuesday, November 25, 2025 at the start of class.** Students should plan to submit by the deadline; however, no late penalty will be imposed for the first 72 hours after the deadline in the case of illness or extenuating circumstances. Should students submit their assessment beyond the 72 hours past the deadline, a late penalty of 10%/day will be subtracted from the assessed grade. The flexibility deadline is provided to all students, including students with an academic accommodation with Accessibility Education. Because the submission deadline for this assessment already includes flexibility, students are not eligible to use a self-attestation accommodation for this evaluation and requests for

academic consideration will not be granted. The instructor reserves the right to deny academic consideration for any assignment submitted past the 72-hour window. Additional expectations will be provided during the first class. Late papers must be submitted to Turnitin via the Assignment tab on Brightspace with an additional copy emailed to the instructor and TA.

### **Use of Generative Artificial Intelligence (AI):**

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

### **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 review evaluations or discuss issues regarding grades via email or Zoom. If you wish to discuss your evaluations or 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**

Information regarding assessment evaluation will be provided on the course Brightspace page.

### **Electronic Devices:**

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. Additional details will be provided in class.

## Course Policies

Will be provided on the Owl Brightspace Page

### **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.

**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>