



The University of Western Ontario
Department of Sociology
SOCIOLOGY 3463F-001
Crime and the City
Fall 2025

Delivery Method – In-Person

Instructor: Dr. Sam Ghebrai, PhD (they/them)
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This is a DRAFT copy only. Please see the course site for the final version.

Course Description: This course draws on the rich history of sociological research to explore the relationship between crime, disorder, and urban spaces. We examine how cities are impacted by shifting demographics, economic marginalization, racial segregation, gentrification, and revitalization.

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:

At the end of this course, students will be able to:

- Explain the extent and nature of crimes occurring across major Canadian cities.
- Interrogate the process of criminological research, including the data and methods used by scholars.
- Identify, evaluate, and apply major theories on topics related to crime in the city.
- Produce insightful, sociological analyses of crime-related news and current events.
- Distinguish between personal opinion and critical analysis in argumentation.
- Critically analyze scholarly texts in essay format.

Course Material:

- **Required Text(s):** None. All required course readings are either available electronically through Western Libraries OR will be posted on Brightspace.

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.

Office hours: I am available for in-person office hours on Wednesdays from 1:00pm to 2:00pm. If you are looking to book an appointment with me outside of my office hours, please e-mail me at sghebrai@uwo.ca.

Be sure to use your UWO e-mail account when communicating with me. E-mails from other accounts will not receive replies. All e-mail correspondence should be professionally prepared, spell- and grammar-checked, and not written in "text message" format. The subject heading must include the course title. Begin your e-mail with a salutation such as "Hello Dr. Ghebrai" or "Hi Professor Ghebrai". Sign off the e-mail with your full name and student number. You can expect a response from me within 24 hours, between 9:00am-5:00pm on weekdays.

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.

In-class activities and discussions	Throughout the semester, starting on Wednesday September 17 (8 x 2.5%; see description below for details).	20%
Midterm examination	In-class, on Wednesday October 29.	20%
Sociological analysis of current events	Due 11:59pm on any Wednesday between October 8 and December 3 (see description below for details).	15%
Essay outline	Due Wednesday November 12 @ 11:59pm (with flexible deadline).	10%
Final essay	Due Wednesday December 3 @ 11:59pm (with flexible deadline).	35%

Students enrolled in this class should understand the level of autonomy and self-discipline required to succeed in a third-year course. It is the student's responsibility to regularly complete all coursework (i.e., finish readings, complete all written assignments, attend and take notes on lectures, stay on top of important deadlines and dates, etc.).

While attendance is not an explicit part of the method of evaluation as listed below, if you do not attend class, you cannot demonstrate your understanding of the course material during in-class discussions and/or engage with your colleagues. To receive a passing grade in this course, you must attend a minimum of 80% of classes. This requirement will be waived only in exceptional circumstances with documentation.

In-class activities and discussions (8 x 2.5% = 20%)

Every week, students will be invited to participate during the lecture or break into smaller groups to engage in class activities and discussions. Participation marks will be based on consistent engagement in weekly in-class activities. With 10 substantive lectures (i.e., excluding course introduction, midterm, reading week), students are awarded 2.5% each week for participation, for a total of 20% of the overall course grade. Students will be permitted to miss **TWO** weeks **WITHOUT** penalty, and students who participate in all 10 substantive lectures may be entitled to a bonus mark of 2%. If students miss more than 2 substantive lectures, they will receive a grade of zero on each missed week. Please note, because not all elements of this assessment are required in the calculation of the final course grade, the instructor reserves the right to deny academic consideration for these missed elements. More information on participation will be provided in week 1.

Midterm examination (20%)

The midterm examination will take place **in class**, on **Wednesday October 29**. You will have 3 hours to complete the examination. The examination will cover all course materials (i.e., readings, lectures, class discussions, videos, etc.) from **September 10 to October 22**. The examination will include multiple choice questions as well as short answer questions. The use of electronic devices is strictly **prohibited** during the examination (i.e., smart watches, earbuds/AirPods, cellphones, laptops, etc.). More details about the examination will be provided in lectures, especially leading up to the midterm examination.

Note: *Instructors are permitted to designate one assessment per course per term as requiring supporting documentation to receive academic consideration. For this course, the midterm examination on October 29 has been designated as requiring supporting documentation.*

Sociological analysis of current events (15%)

On any Wednesday between **October 8** and **December 3**, students will be required to submit **ONE** sociological analysis of a newspaper article assigned for that week. Your assignment should be roughly 3 pages, double-spaced, normal margins (2.54cm), 12-point Times New Roman font, and in APA-style formatting. In the analysis, you will draw on (1) one of the theories covered from the course, and (2) the assigned readings and news article of the week, to analyze the themes, ideas, or concepts discussed in the lecture/readings. **Students may choose any Wednesday between October 8 and December 3 to submit their analysis, but it must be submitted no later than the end of day for that particular lecture.** For example, if a student wishes to complete the analysis for Wednesday October 22, they must submit the assignment no later than 11:59pm on October 22. Students who wish to submit the assignment earlier than the lecture date are more than welcome to do so. More information about the assignment, including a detailed rubric and supporting documents, are available in the **“Sociological analysis of current events”** tab on Brightspace.

Essay outline (10%)

The essay outline is due by 11:59pm on **Wednesday November 12, with a flexible deadline of Friday November 14 @ 11:59pm**. The outline should be no longer than 300 words, excluding references. In your outline, present (1) the main argument of your essay and (2) the headings that constitute the outline of your paper. Under each heading, provide a few sentences on what each section will entail, with supporting in-text citations. Note that this is not meant to be a draft of the final paper, but it must be thorough enough to indicate what your essay is about. Provide a title that accurately represents the content of your proposed paper. Guidelines for preparing the essay outline will be available in the **“Essay”** tab on Brightspace.

Final essay (35%)

The final essay is due by 11:59pm on **Wednesday December 3**, with a flexible deadline of **Friday December 5 @ 11:59pm**. The essay will consist of a critical analysis on a crime-related topic covered in the course. Assignments are expected to be roughly 2000-2500 words, double-spaced, normal margins (2.54cm), 12-point Times New Roman font, and in APA-style formatting. Full instructions about the assignment, including a detailed rubric and supporting documents, are available in the “**Essay**” tab on Brightspace.

*For each assignment, students are expected to submit the assignment by the deadline listed. Should illness or extenuating circumstances arise, students are permitted to submit their **essay outlines** and **final essay** up to 48 hours past the deadline without academic penalty. Should students submit their assessment beyond 48 hours past the deadline, a late penalty as indicated on the assignment outlines will be subtracted from the assessed grade. As flexible deadlines are used in this course, requests for academic consideration will not be granted.*

Important Dates:

- Sept 4: First day of classes
- Sept 12: Last day to add/drop a course without fee penalty; courses dropped after this date will have “WDN” on transcript
- Sept 30: National Day for Truth and Reconciliation
- Oct 13: Thanksgiving Day
- Oct 29: In-class midterm
- Nov 3 – Nov 9: Fall reading week
- Nov 12: Annotated essay outline due before midnight
- Dec 1: Last day to drop course and receive “WDN” on transcript. After this date, withdrawals will receive an “F” on transcript
- Dec 3: Last day of class; final essays due before midnight

Use of Generative Artificial Intelligence (AI):

Within this course, students are permitted to use AI tools exclusively for information gathering and preliminary research purposes. These tools are intended to enhance the learning experience by providing access to diverse information sources. However, it is essential that students critically evaluate the obtained information, exercise independent thinking, and engage in original research to synthesize and develop their own ideas, arguments and perspectives.

The use of AI tools can serve as a starting point for exploring a topic, with students expected to uphold academic integrity by appropriately attributing all sources of information and avoiding plagiarism. Essays, written assignments and/or lab reports should reflect the student’s own thoughts and independent written work. Students should also generate their own figures (e.g., graphs, diagrams) rather than using AI generated ones. By adhering to these guidelines, students contribute to a responsible and effective learning environment that promotes critical thinking, independent inquiry and all of 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.

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

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

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. 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. 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 and the Registration and Progression policy 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.

Support Services:

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

[Faculty Academic Advising](#) - Please visit your Home Faculty Academic advising webpage for information regarding adding/dropping courses, important dates, academic considerations for absences, appeals, exam conflicts, and many other academic related matters https://registrar.uwo.ca/faculty_academic_counselling.html.

[USC services](#) 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, 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

[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>