



**Sociology 2266a (571)
Crime and Society
Fall/ Winter 2025-2026**

Instructor: L. Kennedy
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Course Information

Calendar Description:

The sociological aspects of crime in Canada. The measurement patterns, causes and social explanations of criminal behavior will be examined.

Prerequisite(s): 1.0 from Sociology courses at the 1000 level.

Extra Information: 3 lecture hours.

Course Weight: 0.50
Breadth: Category A
Subject Code: SOCIOLOG

Notice: Unless you have either the requisites for this course (fulfilment of pre-requisites, no anti-requisite conflicts), or special permission from your Dean to enrol 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.

Crime and Society
SOC2266A 571
Fall 2025

Instructor: Liam Kennedy

Email: lkenne56@uwo.ca

Student Hours: Thursday 11:30-12:30 and by appointment

Course Readings:

All journal articles are available at: <https://www.lib.uwo.ca/>

The required course text *Theories of Crime Through Popular Culture* is available for free via Western libraries: <https://ebookcentral.proquest.com/lib/west/detail.action?docID=6455976> **OR** it can be purchased here: <https://link.springer.com/book/10.1007/978-3-030-54434-8>

Course Goals, Teaching Philosophy, and Learning Outcomes:

This course is designed to encourage consistent critical engagement. It is also designed to help you acquire and hone a number of transferable research, analytical, and communication skills that will serve you well in graduate school and/or in the workforce. By the end of the term, successful students will:

- 1) identify and apply various systems of knowledge production, with a specific focus on the relationship of these systems to knowledge about crime and criminal justice;
- 2) relate social issues to the criminal justice system and articulate how broader social forces shape individual experiences of criminalization and victimization;
- 3) integrate scholarship from other disciplines (e.g. cultural studies, communications) to broaden criminological perspectives;
- 4) critically evaluate theoretical perspectives, existing research, and current issues related to crime, criminality, and the criminal justice system in local and global contexts;
- 5) investigate, imagine, and propose creative and/or evidence-based solutions to problems related to crime, criminality, and the criminal justice system;
- 6) demonstrate confidence in their ability to express their substantive knowledge & skills;
- 7) present criminological theories, issues, and/or perspectives in a clear and accessible manner using relevant written, oral, visual, and/or digital formats;
- 8) appreciate the connection between the local and the global as it relates to issues of crime and crime control;
- 9) propose strategies to address social inequality that impact criminalized and/or marginalized populations

Course Requirements:

Your academic performance in this course will be evaluated based on the following criteria:

Attendance & Participation	10%
Quizzes x 3	10% x 3 = 30%
In-Class Film Analysis	30%
Final Exam	30%

Attendance and Participation

Weekly; 10% of final grade

You are expected to have completed the required readings prior to each class and to come to class ready to listen attentively and participate in our discussions. Each class we will set aside time for in-class activities. Please bring paper and a pen/pencil to class each week. There will be 11 in-class activities over the course of the term and you need **only complete 10**; in other words, you may miss **ONE** class without it impacting this part of your grade. While the format of these activities will vary from week to week, the goal is always the same: getting you actively involved in your own learning and thinking critically about the material we are covering. These in-class activities are intended to be low-stress exercises that will also help prepare you for quizzes and assignments.

Quizzes

October 2, October 23, December 4; 30% of final grade

Multiple choice quizzes during class time.

In-Class Film Analysis

November 13; 30% of final grade

We will watch a film together in class. You will mobilize course content to comment on, critique, and analyze the film. You will have class time to respond to a set of questions designed to assess your understanding of and ability to apply course material.

Final Exam

Exam Period; 30% of final grade

Short answer and/or essay style questions designed to assess your ability to think critically about crime, criminology, and the criminal legal system.

Class Schedule:

Class 1 – September 4

Introduction to the course

Class 2 – September 11

What is Crime? What is Criminology? And What are Some of the Correlates of Crime + Victimization?

Required Reading: N/A

Class 3 – September 18

Measuring Crime & Framing Crime

Required Readings:

<https://www.cnn.com/2021/07/14/us/crime-data-reporting-united-states-homicide-increase/index.html> &
<https://johnhoward.ca/blog/misrepresenting-the-data-on-crime/>

Class 4 – September 25

Early Theories of Crime + Bio(social) + Psychological Theories of Crime

Required Reading:

Rafter, Nicole. 2008. "Criminology's Darkest Hour: Biocriminology in Nazi Germany." *The Australian and New Zealand Journal of Criminology* 41(2): 287-306.

Class 5 – October 2

Strain, Subculture, Social Disorganization

Required Reading: Text chapter 5 & 11

Quiz #1

Class 6 – October 9

Interactionist Perspectives + Control & Life-Course Theories

Required Reading: Text chapter 3, 10, 12, & 13

Class 7 – October 16

Deterrence and Rational Choice Perspectives

Required Reading: Text chapter 9

Class 8 – October 23

Conflict, Feminist, & Queer Perspectives

Required Reading: Text chapter 16

Quiz #2

Class 9 – October 30

Contemporary Critical Criminology

Required Reading: Text chapter 15

Class 10 – November 6

Fall Reading Week

NO CLASS

Class 11 – November 13

In-Class Film Analysis

Class 12 – November 20

Decolonizing Criminology

Required Reading:

Jago, Robert. 2017. "The Deadly Racism of Thunder Bay." *The Walrus*, 11 Dec. Available at:

<https://thewalrus.ca/the-deadly-racism-of-thunder-bay/>

Class 13 – November 27

Abolition and Abolishing Criminology

Required Reading:

Mokhtari, Mitra. 2024. "Markers of entanglement: Survival strategies within the neoliberal university and the promise of carceral futures." *Punishment & Society* 26(1): 128-146.

Class 14 – December 4

Recap, Q&A, & Final Exam Prep

Required Reading: N/A

Quiz # 3

Academic Considerations:

- Students may use the student absence portal if they miss one quiz. If their request for academic consideration is approved, then that one missed quiz will be re-weighted.
- Academic consideration for the in-class film analysis requires submission of formal supporting documentation. Students who are granted academic consideration for this assignment will complete a 4-5 page film analysis based on a list of films provided by the instructor (due via Brightspace on November 27th at 9am).

Academic Integrity / Remote Proctoring:

- Link to Western Scholastic Discipline policy:
https://uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/scholastic_discipline_undergrad.pdf
- Student use of generative AI tools (e.g., ChatGPT, grammar-checking tools like Grammarly) is not permitted for any work submitted in this course. Unauthorized use of AI will be subject to academic discipline. The use of translation aids is permitted.
- All required papers may be subject to submission for textual similarity review to the commercial plagiarism detection software under license to the University for the detection of plagiarism.

King's University College
General Course Policies
2025-2026

1. Academic Accommodations, Consideration for Absences

Academic Accommodation (Accessibility)

Accessibility Services works to ensure that academic programs are accessible to all students, and supports students who may have a condition related to, but not limited to, vision, hearing, mobility, different ways of learning, mental health, chronic illnesses, chronic pain, autism spectrum disorder, ADD/ADHD, and temporary conditions (beyond short-term academic consideration). Accessibility Services provides recommendations for accommodation based on medical documentation or psychological and cognitive assessment. The accommodation policy can be found here [Academic Accommodation for Students with Disabilities](#). Information on Accessibility Services at King's can be found [here](#).

Academic Considerations for Absence/Missed Assessments

If a student is unable to meet a course requirement due to substantial but temporary extenuating circumstances (medical or compassionate), they should follow the procedures below.

Requests for academic consideration should be directed to the Academic Advising Office of your faculty/college of registration using the extranet portal (www.extranet.uwo.ca). Requests must be made as soon as possible and no later than 48 hours after the missed assessment.

As a rule, documentation is required for academic consideration. For academic consideration requests on medical grounds, the Student Medical Certificate is available at https://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/medicalform.pdf.

Students are permitted one academic consideration request without supporting documentation per term per course.

Instructors may designate one assessment per half-course weight as requiring formal supporting documentation. Please refer to the course outline for each course.

In some cases, where instructors have built flexibility into their assessments, this flexibility will already address consideration needs and further consideration may be denied. Please refer to the course outline for each course.

Academic consideration for examinations scheduled by the Office of the Registrar always requires documentation.

The policy on academic consideration is found here:

https://uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/academic_consideration_Sep24.pdf

Absences from Final Examinations

If you miss the final examination, contact the Academic Advising Office of your faculty/college of registration as soon as you are able to do so. They will assess your eligibility to write the Special Examination (the name given by the University to a makeup final examination).

You may also be eligible to write the Special Exam if you are in a “Multiple Exam Situation” (e.g., more than 2 exams in 23-hour period, or more than 3 exams in a 47-hour period).

If a student fails to write a scheduled Special Examination, the date of the next Special Examination (if granted) normally will be the scheduled date for the final exam the next time this course is offered. The maximum course load for that term will be reduced by the credit of the course(s) for which the final examination has been deferred. See the Academic Calendar for details (under [Special Examinations](#)).

Religious Accommodation

Students should consult the University's list of recognized religious holidays, and should give notice in writing to the instructor and Academic Advising Office if a course requirement will be affected by a religious holiday/observance. Notice must be given as early as possible, and no later than two weeks prior to an examination, and one week prior to a midterm test date. It is the responsibility of such students to inform themselves concerning the work done in classes from which they are absent and to take appropriate action.

For policy on accommodation for religious holidays, see:

https://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/accommodation_religious.pdf

2. Support Services

Accessibility, Counselling and Student Development at King's University College:

<https://www.kings.uwo.ca/current-students/student-services/>

Students experiencing emotional or mental health distress can access services at King's University College: <http://www.kings.uwo.ca/current-students/campus-services/student-support-services/personal-counselling/>

Good2talk is a good online and phone 24/7 resource for students and is available in English, Mandarin, and French: <https://good2talk.ca>, 1-866-925-5454

MentalHealth@Western provides a complete list of options about how to obtain help:

https://www.uwo.ca/health/mental_wellbeing/

Academic Support Services at King's University College:

<https://www.kings.uwo.ca/current-students/academic-resources/>

King's is committed to reducing incidents of gender-based and sexual violence and providing compassionate support to anyone who has gone through these traumatic events. If you have experienced sexual or gender-based violence (either recently or in the past), you will find information about support services for survivors, including emergency contacts at:

<https://www.kings.uwo.ca/about-kings/safe-campus/gender-and-sexual-violence/>

See also https://www.uwo.ca/health/student_support/survivor_support/get-help.html

University Students' Council offers many valuable support services for students, including the health insurance plan: <http://westernusc.ca/services/>

3. Statement on Use of Electronic Devices

Use of Electronic Devices: Unless explicitly stated otherwise, you are not allowed to have a cell phone, or any other electronic device, with you during tests or examinations. Unauthorized possession of such a device during a test or examination constitutes an academic offence.

Use of Laptops, Tablets, and Smartphones in the Classroom: King's University College at Western University acknowledges the integration of new technologies and learning methods into the curriculum. The use of electronic devices such as laptop computers, tablets, or smartphones can contribute to student engagement and effective learning. At the same time, King's recognizes that instructors and students share jointly the responsibility to establish and maintain a respectful classroom environment conducive to learning.

The use of electronic devices by students during lectures, seminars, labs, etc., shall be for matters related to the course at hand only. Students found to be using electronic devices for purposes not directly related to the class may be subject to sanctions under the Student Code of Conduct; see <https://www.kings.uwo.ca/current-students/student-affairs/code-of-student-conduct1/>

Inappropriate use of electronics (e.g., laptops, tablets, smartphones) during lectures, seminars, labs, etc., creates a significant disruption. As a consequence, instructors may choose to limit the use of electronic devices in these settings. In addition, in order to provide a safe classroom environment, students attending in-person class sessions are strongly advised to operate laptops with batteries rather than power cords.

4. Statement on Academic Offences

King's is committed to academic integrity. Scholastic offences are taken seriously and students are directed to read the appropriate policy, specifically, the definition of what constitutes a Scholastic Offence, is posted at http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/scholastic_discipline_undergrad.pdf

It is expected that students will submit work that is truly their own, completed without external assistance (human or artificial) except as explicitly permitted by the course instructor. Check with your instructor on what tools are permitted in the course, including generative AI (e.g. ChatGPT, translation tools, grammar-checking tools). Because a tool is permitted in one course, that does not mean it is permitted in other courses.

All required papers may be subject to submission for textual similarity review to the commercial plagiarism detection software under license to the University for the 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; see <https://elearningtoolkit.uwo.ca/tools/TurnItIn.html>

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.

5. Copyright of Course Material

Lectures and course materials, including PowerPoint presentations, tests, outlines, and similar materials are protected by copyright. Faculty members are the exclusive owner of copyright in those materials they create. Students may take notes and make copies for their own use. Students may not allow others to reproduce or distribute lecture notes and course materials publicly (whether or not a fee is charged) without the express written consent of a faculty member. Unauthorized sharing of class content is subject to academic discipline.

Similarly, students own copyright of their own original papers and exam essays. If a faculty member wishes to post a student's answers or papers on the course website, they should ask for the student's written permission.

6. Use of Recordings

Participants in this course are not permitted to record the sessions, except where recording is an approved accommodation and/or the participant has the prior written permission of the instructor. Unauthorized recording and/or sharing of class content is subject to academic discipline.

7. Policy on Attendance

Any student who, in the opinion of the instructor, is absent too frequently from class or laboratory periods in any course, will be reported to the Dean of the Faculty offering the course, after due warning has been given. On the recommendation of the department concerned, and with the permission of the Dean of that Faculty, the student will be debarred from taking the regular examination in the course.