



**Sociology 2266a (670)**  
**Crime and Society**  
**Fall/ Winter 2025-2026**

**Instructor: J. Fairbairn**  
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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.

**King's University College**  
**SOC2266A 670 - Crime & Society**  
**Fall 2025**

Instructor: Dr. Jordan Fairbairn

Email: jfairba4@uwo.ca

Office hours: Mondays 10-11am on Zoom and by appointment

**Course description:** This course will explore questions such as: What is crime? Who is criminalized? How are understandings of crime situated within specific historical, social, and political contexts? In introducing criminology and the sociological study of crime, we will work to move beyond common sense assumptions about crime and society towards understanding the complexity of various issues and challenges in defining crime, counting crime, preventing and responding to crime, and conducting criminological research.

**Course learning outcomes:**

1. Understand how crime is socially defined and how our understanding of crime changes over time;
2. Recognize how the intersections of race/racism, class/poverty, gender/patriarchy, and other social categories and systems relate to criminalization;
3. Understand how crime is measured and be able to identify trends in Canadian crime rates according to these measures;
4. Differentiate between and explain major theoretical perspectives used to understand crime;
5. Apply sociological and criminological theories and concepts to analyze case studies and current issues discussed in class and in readings.

**Mode of instruction:** This is an online asynchronous course with a required **in-person** final exam, to be scheduled during the final exam period.

**Course textbooks/materials:** Boyd, Neil. (2024). "Understanding Crime in Canada: An Introduction to Criminology". Third Edition – Emond. Available for purchase or e-book rental through the Western Bookstore: [https://bookstore.uwo.ca/textbook-search?campus=KC&term=W2025A&courses%5B0%5D=670\\_KC/SOC2266A](https://bookstore.uwo.ca/textbook-search?campus=KC&term=W2025A&courses%5B0%5D=670_KC/SOC2266A)

A copy of the course textbook will be placed on Course Reserve in the King's Library. Older editions can be used but it is strongly recommended you consult the Course Reserves copy of the book for new chapters in the 3<sup>rd</sup> edition. Additional readings and course materials will be posted on the course Brightspace page. Please get in touch with me if you have barriers to accessing the course textbook.

**Methods of evaluation:**

The overall course grade will be calculated as listed below:

- Discussion activities – 10%
  - Complete activities on four separate weeks (Posts 1 & 2 due Oct 20, posts 3 & 4 due Dec 6).
- Quizzes – 15% (3 quizzes x 5% each)
  - Quiz 1 – Covers weeks 1 – 3. Opens Wed Oct 1, 10am; closes Thurs Oct 2, 10am.
  - Quiz 2 – Covers weeks 4 – 6. Opens Wed Oct 22, 10am; closes Thurs Oct 23, 10am.
  - Quiz 3 – Covers weeks 7 – 9. Opens Wed Nov 19, 10am; closes Thurs Nov 20, 10am.
- Proposal - Critical reflection assignment – 10%
  - Due Friday Oct 3 at 4pm
- Critical reflection assignment – 25%
  - Due Fri Nov 15 at 4pm
- **Cumulative final exam – 40% - IN PERSON - TBA – Scheduled during the final exam period**

### **Academic Considerations:**

- Quizzes will be graded best 2 out of 3. Because there is an option to miss one quiz, there are no further academic accommodations for quizzes.
- An optional 72-hour extension can be applied to the critical reflection proposal and/or the critical reflection paper without late penalty or documentation. Any assignments submitted later than Monday October 6 at 4pm (proposal) and Monday Nov 18 at 4pm (final critical reflection assignment) require formal academic consideration.

### **Academic Integrity:**

- *Link to Western Scholastic Discipline policy:*  
[https://uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic\\_policies/appeals/scholastic\\_discipline\\_undergrad.pdf](https://uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/scholastic_discipline_undergrad.pdf)
- **AI tools:** Within this course, it is expected that students have conceptualized and created their own discussion posts, assignment proposals, and final assignments. Assignments produced by generative AI tools such as ChatGPT are not permitted to be submitted as part of work for evaluation. Grammar checking and translation tools are permitted. While AI tools may be used for topic selection ideas (e.g. choosing a research topic, finding a news story for an assignment), we will discuss AI & ethics in early weeks of the course to help inform your decisions about how and when to use AI for your own studying and understanding of course material. Coursework submitted with the unauthorized use of AI will be subject to academic discipline. As with all aspects of the course, students are encouraged to reach out to me if you have any questions or concerns at all.
- **Turnitin:** All required assignments will be submitted for textual similarity review to the commercial plagiarism detection software under license to the University for the detection of plagiarism.

### **Discussion posts:**

Students must complete 4 discussion posts (worth 2.5% each). Two posts must be completed by October 15 for two separate weeks during Weeks 1-6 and two posts must be completed by December 6 for two separate weeks for Weeks 7-12. Forum topics will open on Friday each week and will remain open for two weeks (except for Week 12). While not required, you are encouraged to thoughtfully respond to your classmates' discussion posts during the semester, and up to 2% in bonus discussion post marks will be applied to the course grade for students who engage in and generate discussion in online forums (approximately 8-10 discussion post responses throughout the semester). Posting expectations are covered in more depth on Brightspace.

### **Quizzes:**

There will be three online quizzes held throughout the course for a total of 15% of the final grade (grade calculated based on highest two quiz grades). Each quiz will be open for a 24 hour window. Further detail about the quizzes will be posted to Brightspace.

### **Proposal & final critical reflection assignment:**

This is a staged assignment and both components (proposal and final assignment) must be submitted to complete the course. Your project will critically examine a criminological topic in the Canadian news media by applying course material to a news story that was published sometime in 2025.

Your proposal should be approximately 500 words and your final critical reflection assignment should be approximately 1250 words. The project should reflect your ability to apply theoretical concepts, engage with course material, and critically analyze a criminological topic. I am open to alternative ways of presenting your work – while the proposal must be a written paper, you are free to propose an alternative format for your final assignment (e.g. visual imagery with an audio explanation; educational tool or social media campaign; podcast;

news product). This must be discussed in advance with the instructor or TA. Further detail about the project will be posted to Brightspace.

### **Final exam:**

A cumulative final exam worth 40% of your final grade will take place **in person** during the exam period at the end of the semester. Further information will be provided in lecture and on Brightspace.

### **Dates, topics, and required readings:**

*In addition to the textbook chapters outlined below, a number of additional required readings and/or required media content will be posted on our course Brightspace page.*

## **PART 1: CRIME & SOCIETY**

Week 1 (Sept 10) - Introduction to the course and the sociological study of crime

- Read Boyd, Ch 1

Week 2 (Sept 17) – Framing Crime

- Read Boyd, Ch 2

Week 3 (Sept 24)

- Read Boyd, Ch 3 & 4

Week 4 (Oct 1) – Gender, crime, and victimization

- Read Boyd, Ch 5 & 11

Week 5 (Oct 8) – Race & criminalization

- Read Boyd, Ch 6

## **PART 2: EXPLANATIONS OF CRIME**

Week 6 (Oct 15) - Early theories of criminology, crime choice theories

- Read Boyd, Ch 7 & 13

Week 7 (Oct 22) - Sociological approaches to crime & crimes of morality

- Read Boyd, Ch 10 & 17

Week 8 (Oct 29) - Sociological approaches to crime (continued) & violent crime

- Read Boyd, Ch 14

November 5 - READING WEEK (No lecture)

Week 9 (Nov 12) - Critical, feminist, and queer criminology

- Read Boyd, Ch 12

## **PART 3: PATTERNS OF CRIME**

Week 10 (Nov 19) – Property crime & corporate crime

- Read Boyd, Ch 16

Week 11 (Nov 26) – Organized crime & gangs

- Read Boyd, Ch 18

Week 12 (Dec 3) – White-collar crime, cybercrime, and terrorism & course wrap up

- Read Boyd, Ch 19

# 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 Consideration for Student Absence**

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.

In some cases, where instructors have built flexibility into their assessments, this flexibility will already address consideration needs.

Requests for academic consideration should be directed to the Academic Advising Office of your faculty/college of registration. 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.kings.uwo.ca/kings/assets/File/currentStudents/courses\\_enrollment/exams\\_and\\_tests/SMC-Feb-2025.pdf](https://www.kings.uwo.ca/kings/assets/File/currentStudents/courses_enrollment/exams_and_tests/SMC-Feb-2025.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.

For further information, please see:

[https://uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic\\_policies/appeals/academic\\_consideration\\_Sep24.pdf](https://uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/academic_consideration_Sep24.pdf)

##### **Absences from Final Examinations**

If you miss the Final Exam, 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 Exam).

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.

## **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/](https://www.uwo.ca/health/mental_wellbeing/)

Academic Support Services at King’s University College:

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

### **GBSV Support:**

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/>

You can reach someone supports at Kings by emailing [Care@kings.uwo.ca](mailto:Care@kings.uwo.ca) or calling 519-930-4640 to reach a social worker who can offer help.

You can also reach Western’s Gender-Based Violence & Survivor Support Case Manager by [email](#) or by calling 519-661-3568.

Further supports can be found on this website: <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](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](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, including generative AI (ChatGPT, translation tools, grammar-checking tools) are permitted in the course. 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/Originality Reports - 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 in 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.