



Sociology 3359f (570)
Gender, Violence, and Digital Media
Fall/ Winter 2025-2026

Instructor: Kobayashi, Brenda

Email: bkobaya@uwo.ca

Course Information

Calendar Description:

This course examines the intersections of gender, violence, and digital media from a variety of theoretical and critical perspectives. We explore how emerging media impact gendered violence and how gender shapes both media representations of violence and digital media design.

Prerequisite(s): [Sociology 2266A/B](#) and third or fourth year standing in a module in Sociology or Criminology.

Extra Information: 3 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.

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Course information:

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Course description: This course examines the intersections of gender, violence, and digital media from a variety of theoretical and critical perspectives. We explore how emerging media impact gendered violence and how gender shapes both media representations of violence and digital media design.

REQUISITES: Prerequisite(s): Sociology 2266A/B and third or fourth year standing in a module in Sociology or Criminology

Course learning outcomes: This course critically explores the relationship between the media and violence, with particular attention to the ways in which violence is conceptualized as a gendered phenomenon. Drawing on a diverse body of scholarly research, the course examines the representation of gendered violence in media, as well as the processes of its production and consumption. Through engagement with a range of theoretical perspectives, students will examine the intersection of gender and violence, analyze how gender influences both the portrayal and visibility of violence within media narratives.

Mode of Instruction: In-person

Course textbooks/materials:

Boyle, Karen (2005). Media and Violence: Gendering the Debates. SAGE Publications: London
<https://us.sagepub.com/en-us/nam/media-and-violence/book227132>

Additional Textbook: TBA

Additional Readings will be posted on Brightspace course site

Method of evaluation:

Presentation: worth 25%

Critical Reflection Paper: worth 20%

Participation: worth 20%

Final Term Paper: 35%

Evaluation Breakdown:

Presentations: Students will do one presentation (worth 25% of final course grade) based on the required course readings assigned for the week of their presentation. The presentation must engage with the key themes of the assigned readings for that week and align with the broader themes of this course. **Detailed guidelines and a signup sheet will be provided during the first class.** Presentations will begin in Week 2 and **students must sign up during the first**

week of classes; therefore, attendance during Week One is mandatory.

In accordance with university policy, instructors may designate one assessment per course per term that requires official supporting documentation for academic consideration. In this course, the presentation has been designated as that assessment. As a result, **students cannot submit a self-attestation for accommodations related to the presentation.**

Critical Reflection Paper: Students will submit one critical reflection paper (worth 20% of final course grade), **due the beginning of class one week after their scheduled presentation.** As due dates are tied to individual presentation dates, they will vary from student to student. Additional details will be provided during the first class. Assignments must be submitted by the stated deadline. However, to allow for illness or extenuating circumstances, students are permitted to submit their assignment up to 72 hours past the deadline without academic penalty. Submissions made beyond the 72-hour window will incur a late penalty of 10% per day. Because flexible deadlines are used for this assignment, requests for academic consideration will not be granted. This policy applies to all students, including those registered with Accessibility Education. Assignments must be submitted to Turnitin via the Assignment tab on Brightspace with an additional copy emailed to the instructor and TA. Please note that due to the built-in flexibility, the instructor reserves the right to deny academic consideration beyond the 72-hour extension window.

Class Participation: This course meets for 3 hours per week. This is an upper year course and as such students are required and expected to attend all classes and to come prepared having read all the required readings. It is mandatory that students play an active role during class discussions and presentations. Additional expectations will be provided during the first class. Students are permitted to miss one class without penalty.

Final Term Paper: Students are required to complete a final term paper on a topic that is of their choice and relevant to the course content. The paper must present a clear argument rather than a descriptive overview. The final paper should be approximately 2000 words in length (about 8 double-spaced pages), formatted with standard 1" margins and 12-point font. A title page and bibliography must be included as separate pages. Proper academic referencing is mandatory. The final paper is worth 35% of your final course grade. Essays must be submitted in two formats: electronically via turnitin on Brightspace and as a printed hard copy submitted in person at the beginning of class on **Thursday, November 27, 2025.** Students are expected to meet the submission deadline. However, in cases of illness or extenuating circumstances, a grace period of up to 72-hours past the deadline is allowed without academic penalty. Submissions made beyond the 72-hour window will be subject to a late penalty of 10% per day. Because this course includes built-in deadline flexibility, requests for academic consideration to waive late penalties will not be granted. This policy applies to all students, including those registered with Accessibility Education.

Grading Guidelines: 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.

Assignment Re-evaluation: Requests to review graded assignments or examinations are to be made within two weeks of the grade being released. All reviews must take place in person; evaluations will not be discussed via Zoom or email. Students seeking a re-evaluation of grades must first meet with the TA or instructor who graded the work. If after meeting, the student wishes to proceed with a formal re-evaluation, they must submit a written request stating exactly why they feel that a mark is not justified. Requests must be based on reasons that are rooted in the specific course content and keeping in mind the expectations for the class. The following are not grounds for a re-evaluation: the TA and/or Instructor is a hard marker, the assignment was too difficult, disappointment based on effort invested, need for a higher grade to meet academic or program requirements, among others. N.B. If a re-evaluation is granted, the entire assignment or exam will be re-graded - not just the portion the student believes were scored improperly. Note, the instructor or TA may identify errors or issues that were not previously noted. As a result, the final mark may go down, rather than up. The revised mark stands.

How to Contact Me:

If you have a question or would like to discuss course content, please see me before, during, or after class, or during office hours. Outside of class and/or office hours, email (bkobaya@uwo.ca) is my preferred method of contact. Please note, I do not discuss matters of grades, course content (e.g., definitions of concepts, theoretical perspectives, etc.) or matters of special accommodation by email. **Prior to emailing me, please read the course outline, announcements, and any other supplementary material posted on Brightspace in their entirety to see if your question has already been answered.**

All emails must be written professionally. This includes proper spelling and grammar and **not written in “text message” format.** Students are expected and required to be professional and courteous in their email. Emails **must be written from your UWO account.** The subject **heading must read the course title and section.** Sign the email with your **full name and student number.** You **can expect a response within 24-48 hours on Mondays to Fridays between 9-5PM (EST).** **Please consider and respect Instructors and TAs working hours.** Instructors and TAs reserve the right not to respond to emails that do not adhere to the above stated practices.

How to get important information:

Your first sources of information are the course syllabus and the Brightspace class site. Students are required and expected to read the course syllabus and any additional handouts in their entirety. Students are also required and expected to check Brightspace regularly to ensure that you are kept up to date on new and revised course content and announcements. 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 provide grades or discuss issues regarding grades via email or over Zoom. If you wish to discuss your grade(s) please contact or speak with me to set up an appointment, during office hours.

Classroom Conduct

This class will conduct itself on the principles of academic and intellectual freedom and mutual respect. Some readings and content will include topics about sensitive, difficult, and/or challenging issues that may be triggering or upsetting. I ask all students help create an atmosphere of mutual respect and sensitivity during lecture and discussion period. Racist, sexist, or other derisive comments, intentional or otherwise, will not be tolerated.

A laptop can be an effective tool for taking notes in class. However, it is distracting to the instructor, TA, and the 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.

Academic Integrity / Remote Proctoring:

Artificial Intelligence: All assignments must be completed independently, without the aid of artificial intelligence (AI). The use of ChatGPT or other AI services, including translation and grammar-checking tools is strictly prohibited in all assessments, including assignments, discussion forums, essays, tests, and examination. Unauthorized use of any AI services will be subject to academic discipline. By adhering to these guidelines, students contribute to a responsible and effective learning environment that promotes critical thinking, independent inquiry and all 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. High AI and/or turnitin scores will be penalized.

Tentative Class Schedule

Please note this is a tentative schedule. The final term paper due date, however, will not change.

The weekly readings will be provided the first week of classes.

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| Week 1: Sept. 4 | Introduction to Gender, Violence and Media Attendance is Mandatory |
| Week 2: Sept. 11 | Violence in the Media Presentations Begin |
| Week 3: Sept. 18 | The media/violence debates |
| Week 4: Sept. 25 | The media/violence debates cont'd. |
| Week 5: Oct. 2 | Reporting Violence |
| Week 6: Oct. 9 | Reporting Violence cont'd |
| Week 7: Oct. 16 | Narratives of Violence |
| Week 8: Oct. 23 | Seeing (as) Violence |
| Weeks 9: Oct. 30 | Courting Consumers, Legitimizing Exploitation and Narratives of Violence |
| Week 10: Nov. 6 | Reading Week |

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| Week 11: Nov. 13 | Screening Violence cont'd. |
| Week 12: Nov. 20 | Screening Violence cont'd. |
| Week 13: Nov. 27 | Tentative Speaker Final Term Papers Due |
| Week 14: Dec. 4 | Catch-up Class |

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.