



Sociology 4409f (570)
Seminar in Criminological Theory and Research
Fall/ Winter 2025-2026

Instructor: L. Kennedy

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Course Information

Calendar Description:

This course will examine and critique a range of criminological theories that purport to explain criminal behavior, violence, definitions of crime, and criminal justice system responses. The various theories will be evaluated through in-depth reviews of relevant empirical research.

Antirequisite(s): [Sociology 4407F/G](#).

Prerequisite(s): [Sociology 2266A/B](#), and enrolment in third or fourth year of one of the Honours Specializations in Criminology or Sociology.

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.

King's University College
SOC4409F

Seminar in Criminological Theory and Research

Course information:

Instructor: Liam Kennedy

Contact Information: lkenne56@uwo.ca

Student hours: Friday 10:30-11:30 or by appointment

Course description: We will review a range of theories that attempt to explain crime, deviance, victimization, and punishment. In the first part of the course, we will consult the original works of many purportedly “foundational” scholars in the field of criminology, explore how these ‘classics’ have contributed to this area of study, and examine recent empirical research that is designed to assess the utility of these theories. In the second half of the course, we will evaluate ‘traditional’ or ‘mainstream’ criminology and engage with a range of critical perspectives. One of the major objectives here is to think critically about the discipline itself.

Course learning outcomes:

- 1) identify, apply, evaluate, and critique 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 relating to crime, criminality, and the criminal justice system in local and global contexts;
- 5) demonstrate confidence in their ability to express their criminological knowledge & skills;
- 6) present complex criminological theories, issues, and/or perspectives in a clear and accessible manner using relevant formats;
- 7) propose strategies to address social inequality that impact criminalized and/or marginalized populations;
- 8) deconstruct the connection between the local and the global as it relates to issues of crime and crime control

Mode of Instruction: *in-person*

Course textbooks/materials:

All journal articles are available via the library website. Other required readings are available for **free** from the instructor.

Method of evaluation:

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

Attendance & Participation	20%
In-Class Reading Journal 8x2%	16%
Presentation	15%

Research Statement	1%
Annotated Bibliography	18%
Notes/Rough Draft	2%
Workshop Presentation	3%
Final Paper	25%

Academic Considerations:

- 48-hour submission window for the annotated bibliography and research proposal. No late penalty for the first 48 hours post-deadline. 10% penalty per day following this.
- Research proposal requires formal documentation for academic consideration.

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 (such as ChatGPT and grammar-checking tools) is **not** permitted for any work submitted in this course. Unauthorized use of AI will be subject to academic discipline. The use of translation tools 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.

Schedule of Classes, Readings, Assessments:

Week 1 – Sept 5

Introduction to the Course

NO READINGS – review the syllabus and sign up for presentations

Week 2 – Sept 12

Deterrence & Routine Activities

Required Readings:

Beccaria - “On Crimes and Punishments”

Cohen and Felson – “Social Change and Crime: A Routine Activity Approach”

Week 3 – Sept 19

Social Disorganization, Strain, and Subculture

NOTE: research statement due

Required Readings:

Shaw and McKay – “Juvenile Delinquency and Urban Areas” + “Differential Systems of Values”

Merton – “Social Structure and Anomie”

Agnew – “Foundation for a General Strain Theory of Crime and Delinquency”

Cloward and Ohlin – “Delinquency and Opportunity”

Anderson – “The Code of the Streets”

Cohen – “The Content of the Delinquent Subculture”

Week 4 – Sept 26

Control & Life-Course

Required Readings:

Gottfredson and Hirschi – “General Theory of Crime”

Hirschi – “A Control Theory of Delinquency”

Sampson and Laub – “Crime and Deviance over the Life Course: The Salience of Adult Social Bonds”

Week 5 – Oct 3

Differential Association & Labelling

Required Readings:

Sutherland – “Differential Association”

Sykes and Matza – “Techniques of Neutralization”

Becker – “Outsiders”

Cohen – “Deviance and Moral Panics”

Lemert – “Primary and Secondary Deviation”

Tannenbaum – “The Dramatization of Evil”

Week 6 – Oct 10

Conflict, Feminist, and Queer Perspectives

NOTE: annotated bibliography due

Required Readings:

Chesney-Lind, Meda. 2020. “Feminist Criminology in an Era of Misogyny.” *Criminology* 58: 407-422.

Messerschmidt – excerpt from *Masculinities and Crime*

Quinan, CQ. 2025. “From Criminalization to Erasure: Project 2025 and Anti-Trans Legislation in the US.” *Crime, Media, Culture*.

Quinney – “Class, State, and Crime”

Week 7 – Oct 17

Convict Criminology

Required Readings:

Antojado, Dwayne and Tina McPhee. 2024. “Move Over and Make Space for Lived Experience Criminology: Why We Do “Lived Experience”.” *Journal of Criminology* 1-17.

Tietjen, Grant. 2019. “Convict Criminology: Learning from the Past, Confronting the Present, Expanding for the Future.” *Critical Criminology* 27: 101-114.

Week 8 – Oct 24

Decolonizing Criminology – Indigenous, Southern, and Rural Perspectives

Required Readings:

Carrington, Kerry, Russell Hogg, and Maximo Sozzo. 2016. “Southern Criminology.” *British Journal of Criminology* 56: 1-20.

Carrington, Kerry, Joseph F. Donnermeyer, and Walter S. DeKeseredy. 2014. “Intersectionality, Rural Criminology, and Re-imagining the Boundaries of Critical Criminology.” *Critical*

Criminology 22: 463-477.

Tauri, Juan and Chris Cunneen. 2024. "Critical Indigenous Criminology in Practice and Praxis."
Journal of Global Indigeneity 8(1).

Week 9 – Oct 31

Green Criminology & Cultural Criminology

Required Readings:

Brisman, Avi. 2015. "'Multicolored' Green Criminology and Climate Change's Achromatopsia."
Contemporary Justice Review 18(2): 178-196.

Ferrell, Jeff. "Trespass, Trash and Train." Available at:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=w6DnixxuDZs>

Week 10 – Nov 7

NO CLASS – FALL READING WEEK

Week 11 – Nov 14

Bodies, Disability, and Critiquing the Bio(social) turn

NOTE: Notes/Rough Draft Due

Required Readings:

Rocque, Michael and Chad Posick. 2017. "Paradigm shift or normal science? The future of
(biosocial) criminology." *Theoretical Criminology* 21(3): 288-303.

Thornycroft, Ryan and Nicole L. Asquith. 2021. "Crippling criminology." *Theoretical Criminology*
25(2): 187-208.

Walby, Kevin and Nicolas Carrier. 2010. "The rise of biocriminology: Capturing observable
bodily economies of 'criminal man'." *Criminology & Criminal Justice* 10(3): 261-285.

Week 12 – Nov 21

WORKSHOP

Week 13 – Nov 28

WORKSHOP

Week 14 – Dec 5

Final project Q&A

NOTE: FINAL ASSIGNMENT DUE 11:55pm

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.