



Sociology 2257 A/B
Deviance and Social Control
Fall/ Winter 2025-2026

Instructor: N. Cushing
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Course Information

Calendar Description:

This course covers theories of deviant behaviour and social control. We will examine how particular behaviours come to be defined as deviant and how norms, values and rules are socially constructed. We will also examine the consequences of formal and informal deviant behaviours and the responses they elicit.

Antirequisite(s): [Sociology 2259](#).

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.

Sociology 2257b
King's University College
Winter 2026

Instructor: Neisha Cushing

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Teaching Assistant: Brodan Murphy

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Office Hours: by zoom appointment

Course Description:

This course begins with helping students to understand how the study of “deviants” and deviant behaviour has changed and developed over time: from theories of demonology and evil (pre-scientific approaches), the theoretical and empirical developments of the classical era, and the positivistic, interaction, and critical perspectives. Each paradigmatic shift and theoretical development explore how people have been categorized as ‘normal’ or ‘deviant’ on the basis of various attributes, behaviours, and changes in epistemology. What are the forces at play in determining who is considered deviant and who is considered ‘normal’?

This course will examine various sociological theories and debates regarding conformity and deviation; labelling processes; and aspects of ‘formal control’ in the form of ideology and moral entrepreneurship. Who labels people deviant? Why? How? We will examine some of these issues/theories in conjunction with important issues of today. Students will be encouraged to be reflective about how they participate in social deviance as both conformists and deviants and to be critical of the construction of normative orders. Finally, it is the goal of this course to assist students in finding the study of deviance both engaging and sociologically interesting.

Learning Outcomes: By the end of the course, students should be able to:

- Understand that what is considered ‘deviant’ changes over time, is related to issues of power, and changes in society
- Understand deviance from the perspectives of the main sociological paradigms
- Think critically about definitions and categories of deviance and their impacts on individuals, groups, and society
- Apply theories of deviance to both personal experiences and larger social issues

Mode of Instruction: In person, 3 hours per week (2 hours of lecture, one hour of tutorial)

Course Material:

Required Textbook: Deviance and Social Control: A Sociological Perspective (3rd edition) by Michelle Inderbitzin, et al. (2021) published by Sage Books.

Cost: eBook is \$102.00. Print version is \$215.00 (look for used copies!)

Note: print copies be found on Abebooks.com for \$67.45 and on Biblio.com it's priced at \$66.17. Older editions of the text are acceptable for students who attend class regularly.

Required Text: Stigma: Notes on the Management of Spoiled Identity by Erving Goffman (1963) published by Simon and Schuster.

Note: there are a lot of used copies of this contemporary classic floating around for as low as \$10.00, as well as digital downloads (and word is that you can find these for no cost).

Methods of Evaluation:

Midterm..... 30% (March 4th, 2026)

Attendance/ Tutorial Participation..... 15% (Weekly starting January 21st)

Written Research Report..... 20% (Due anytime in February)

Final Essay..... 35% (Due anytime between April 6th and April 9th)

Midterm: the March 4th midterm will be multiple choice and cover all of the material taken up to the week before the test. The test should take no longer than 2 hours to complete.

Tutorial & Participation: Students will be put into tutorial groups and each week will be given an assignment where they are required to work as a team and submit the groups findings and conclusions electronically to earn participation marks.

Written Research Report: Each student will be required to submit a 5-page sociological research report in the month of February, choosing a topic from a provided list or a topic of their choosing. This assignment requires you to both research a topic and apply sociological theory to an issue that falls under the umbrella of 'deviant behaviour'. A detailed project outline will be posted to the course's Brightspace page.

Final Essay: The final paper will be grounded in Erving Goffman's theory of Stigma. It is both an exercise in theory application and provides students with an opportunity to apply what they have learned in this course. A detailed essay outline will be provided on the course's Brightspace page. NOTE: Students must submit a final paper in order to pass the course. Students must also

have a passing grade on the final paper in order to pass the course. Late papers will only be accepted with supporting documentation.

Attendance: Attendance will be taken twice each class: once at the beginning of lecture and again at the beginning of tutorial. 5% is earned by attending all scheduled lectures and tutorials. 10% is earned by participating in weekly group tutorials.

NOTE: Students who do not attend class regularly run the risk of being denied the opportunity of submitting a final paper and failing the course. Attending class is strongly encouraged. Students who are not attending will be given notice to improve their attendance.

Course Schedule:

<u>Date:</u>	<u>Topic</u>	<u>Reading</u>
Jan. 7 th	Intro to the course & the academic study of deviance (no tutorial, but a full lecture)	Forward XIX-XX and Chapter 1
Jan. 14 th	Pre-Scientific Explanations of Deviance (3 rd hour film)	No Reading
Jan. 21 st	Classical Explanations of Deviance (tutorial #1)	Digital Reading on Brightspace
Jan. 28 th	Biological Explanations of Deviance (tutorial #2)	Digital Reading on Brightspace
Feb. 4 th	Functionalism: Anomie & Strain Theories (tutorial #3)	Chapter 4
Feb. 11 th	Labelling Theories (tutorial # 4)	Chapter 8
Feb. 18 th	READING WEEK	
Feb. 25 th	Conflict Theory (tutorial #5)	Chapter 9
March 4 th	MIDTERM	
March 11 th	Differential Association/Social Learning Theories (tutorial #6)	Chapter 6
March 18 th	Stigma Lecture One (tutorial #7)	Goffman 1 & 2

March 25 th	Stigma Lecture Two (tutorial #8– about the final paper)	Goffman 3 & 4
April 1 st	Monster City (no tutorial)	No Reading
April 8 th	WORK DAY for final paper (no in person 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 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.

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

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/

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 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

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, 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.