



Sociology 2260b (670)
Sociology of Law
Fall/ Winter 2025-2026

Instructor: J. Reynolds
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Course Information

Calendar Description:

An analysis of the legal institutions and processes in contemporary society.

Antirequisite(s): [Sociology 3260A/B](#).

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.



**Department of Sociology
WINTER 2026
Sociology 2260B Section 670**

SOCIOLOGY OF LAW

Instructor: Jennie Reynolds

E-mail: jnugent5@uwo.ca

Office Hours: By appointment via ZOOM

Course Description

This course provides students with a solid understanding of the main facets of law and the ways in which it operates in contemporary Canadian society. Students should be able to identify and critically assess both the historical formation of law as well as its progression over time, both in Canada and internationally. In addition, students will gain an understanding of differing theories and perspectives used in sociology to understand and explain law in society.

Course Outcomes

By the end of this course, students should:

1. Be familiar with the sub-discipline of the sociology of law
2. Have an understanding of the connection between law and society
3. Understand the Canadian legal system be aware of the influence of race, ethnicity, gender, immigration status, and social class on justice outcomes
4. Use knowledge on sociolegal theories to analyze contemporary problems of Canadian society
5. Critically reflect on media reports concerning justice issues.

This course will not only be helpful to students who major in the social sciences, but also to counsellors, social workers, police officers, teachers, parents and students of law.

Required Texts

Vago, S. & Nelson, A. *Law and Society*. (5th Canadian ed.). Toronto, ON: Pearson, (2018).

(*You can obtain an electronic copy via Vital Source here:

<https://www.vitalsource.com/en-ca/products/law-and-society-steven-vago-v9781315443102>)

Evaluation

Your grade for this course will be based on:

(1) Participation in Group Forums (5 x 3% = 15%)

To receive marks for participation, you must partake in discussion via the forums on Brightspace throughout the term. Over the course of the term there will be 8 opportunities to engage in the forums (not including week 1 which is just an Introduce Yourself forum). Of these 8 weeks, you must participate in 5 (in other words, your best 5 marks will be counted). To do well, you must critically engage with the topic, material, and with your peers (meaning you should comment on at least 1 of your peers' posts the weeks that you participate). Discussion posts should be a minimum of 250 words.

The forums will be open on **Mondays at 12:00AM** and will end on **Sundays at 11:59PM**. Late submissions will not be accepted, as you have 7 days to complete this task. You are required to submit an original post by Friday at 11:55pm, and a follow-up/engagement post (with peers) by the deadline of Sunday at 11:59PM. More details on this will be provided during Week 1.

Note: The class will be broken down into smaller groups of 6-7 (via random assignment in Brightspace). This will allow for more ease of engaging with your peers – rather than having to scroll and sift through 60 other students' responses to the questions.

Please be kind and respectful of one another, particularly when there are sensitive topics/issues discussed or when differing opinions emerge (it is always completely fine to play “devil’s advocate” even if it is not your direct opinion).

(2) Critical Response/Analysis (25%)

Critical Response #1 due date: February 8th by 11:59pm.

Critical Response #2 due date: March 29th by 11:55pm.

This term, students will write one critical response assignment. This could include something to watch (documentary, video on YouTube), something to read (a case study, a short article (journal, newspaper, online), or something to listen to (a podcast, etc). Over the term, I will provide TWO different opportunities for students to submit the assignment based on pre-determined topics that will be distributed a few weeks before the deadlines. The reflection is to be 5-6 double spaced pages (APA referencing style, size 12 font, 1” margins, no additional spacing between paragraphs). Students will upload their assignments on Brightspace.

*More details to follow.

(3) Mid Term Exam (30%) & (4) Final Exam (30%)

The exams will include multiple choice and long-answer/essay questions and are NOT cumulative.

The mid-term will be written on THURSDAY FEB. 12th between 9am-9pm (once started students will have 2 hours to complete the exam). The final exam will be scheduled by the Registrar's Office during the April exam period.

The exams will be administered online via Brightspace. More details surrounding the exams will be given during week 1.

The Midterm will require formal documentation for academic consideration.

Course Schedule

Date	Weekly Topic & Required Readings	Due Dates
Week 1 Jan. 5-11	Course Introduction and Overview <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • PDFs on OWL 	
Week 2 Jan. 12-18	Law and Society <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Chapter 1 	CR#1 Options released (Brightspace) DISCUSSION FORUM #1
Week 3 Jan. 19-25	Theoretical Perspectives (PART I) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Chapter 2 	DISCUSSION FORUM #2
Week 4 Jan. 26-Feb. 1	Theoretical Perspectives (PART II) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Chapter 2 (continued) 	DISCUSSION FORUM #3
Week 5 Feb. 2-8	The Organization of Law Chapter 3	Feb. 8 by 11:59pm = last chance to submit CR #1
Week 6: MID-TERM EXAM [Thurs. February 12 th between 9am-9pm]		
Week 7: READING WEEK [Feb. 16-22]		
Week 8 Feb. 23-Mar. 1	Lawmaking and Dispute Resolution <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Chapters 4 and 6 	DISCUSSION FORUM #4
Week 9 Mar. 2-8	Special Topic: Social Inequality and Law <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Documentary (TBA) 	CR#2 Options released (Brightspace) DISCUSSION FORUM #5
Week 10 Mar. 9-15	Special Topic: Mental Health and the Law <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Readings on OWL + Documentary 	DISCUSSION FORUM #6
Week 11 Mar. 16-22	The Law and Social Control <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Chapter 5 	DISCUSSION FORUM #7
Week 12 Mar. 23-29	The Law and Social Change <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Chapter 7 • “Winning the War on Drugs” 	Mar.29 th by 11:59pm = last chance to submit CR #2
Week 13 Mar. 30-Apr.5	The Legal Profession and Course Conclusions Chapter 8	DISCUSSION FORUM #8
Final exam to be held during Kings’ official examination period.		

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.