



Sociology 2260a (570)
Sociology of Law
Fall/ Winter 2026-2027

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.



**SOCIOLOGY OF LAW
SOC2260A, Section 570
(Fall 2026)**

**King's University College at Western University
Department of Sociology**

Instructor: Jennie Reynolds (jnugent5@uwo.ca)

Office Hours: Tuesdays from 130pm-230pm OR 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. Understand the sub-discipline of the sociology of law
2. Critically assess the connection between law and society
3. Evaluate the Canadian legal system and 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.

Course Textbook

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>). Textbook cost: \$85 (180 days) - \$155 (Lifetime).

Course Evaluation

Test #1 (25%)
Test #2 (25%)
Final Exam (30%)
Critical Response Assignment (20%)

(1) Test #1 (25%) and Test #2 (25%): There will be 2 tests administered throughout the term, followed by a final exam. Each test will include both multiple choice questions as well as short-answer questions. The tests will NOT be cumulative and will cover lecture, reading, and exercise material covered in each “chunk” or section of the course and the questions will be distributed evenly across the topics. The tests will be administered in person during regular class time, and you will have 2 hours to complete each test (i.e. 230-430pm). **Test #1 will be written on Oct. 20th** from 830-1030am, and **Test #2 will be written on Nov. 17th** from 830-1030pm. *The Tests will require formal documentation for academic consideration.*

(2) Critical Response Assignment (20%): 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 (MLA or APA referencing style, size 12 font, 1” margins, no additional spacing between paragraphs). Students will upload their reflections on Brightspace via the Assessments tab. Due dates are included on the schedule below, and there will be more information presented in class and posted on Brightspace.

(3) Final Exam (30%): The final exam will be written in person and will be made up of material covered in the course after the second test (in other words, it will not be cumulative). This will be outlined, in detail, as the term progresses. The final exam will be mixed format (multiple choice and short/long answer responses). The final exam will take place during the December exam period (scheduled by the Registrar).

Academic Integrity and Course Expectations

Lectures in this Course

Prior to the start of each class, the PowerPoint slides will be posted on the BrightSpace course site. Lectures will be paced assuming that everyone has a copy of the slides in front of them and can make additional notes as the lecture proceeds. The format also leaves ample time and opportunity for questions and discussion.

Policy on Laptops in Class

If you own a laptop, it can be a very effective tool for taking notes in class. Unfortunately, experience suggests that some students who bring laptops to class use them to access the Internet in ways that are disruptive to the class (i.e. using the internet for things that are not related to the course). This can prove very distracting to the students around them. Accordingly, accessing the internet in a way that is unrelated to the course/disruptive to others will be considered disruptive behavior and a violation under the Student Code of Conduct.

Policy on Cell Phones

Kindly turn off your cell phones and other electronic devices during lecture. You will have more than sufficient time during the break to check your messages. Students who are warned about their cell phones and persist in using them during lecture may be expelled from class.

Policy Related to the use of AI

Artificial Intelligence (AI) tools, including but not limited to writing assistants (e.g., ChatGPT, Grammarly) and translation services (e.g., Google translate), in this course is prohibited and considered a scholastic offence and subject to the penalties for a scholastic offence outlined in the Academic Calendar.

**When you use AI to do your work, you are submitting work for academic credit that is not your own.*

Notice of Turnitin Analysis

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. Use of the service is subject to the licensing agreement, currently between The University of Western Ontario and Turnitin.com (<http://www.turnitin.com>).

Course Schedule

Date	Weekly Topic & Required Readings	Due Dates
Week 1 Sept. 15	Course Introduction and Overview	
Week 2 Sept. 22	Law and Society Chapter 1	CR#1 Options released/posted on Brightspace
Week 3 Sept. 29	Theoretical Perspectives (PART I) Chapter 2	
Week 4 Oct. 6	Theoretical Perspectives (PART II) Chapter 2 (continued)	
Week 5: FALL BREAK [Oct. 13 th]		
Week 6: TEST#1 [Oct. 20 th from 830-1030am]		
Week 7 Oct. 27	The Organization of Law Chapter 3	Oct. 27 by 11:59pm = last chance to submit CR #1 option
Week 8 Nov. 3	Lawmaking and Dispute Resolution Chapters 4 and 6	CR#2 Options released/posted on Brightspace
Week 9 Nov. 10	Special Topic: Social Inequality and Law Documentary (TBA)	
Week 10: TEST #2 [Nov. 17 th from 230pm-430pm]		
Week 11 Nov. 24	Special Topic: Mental Health and the Law Readings on Brightspace + Documentary	
Week 12 Dec. 1	The Law, Social Control & Social Change Chapter 5, Chapter 7	Dec. 1 st by 11:59pm = last chance to submit CR #2 options
Week 13 Dec. 8	The Legal Profession & Course Conclusions Chapter 8	
Final exam to be held during Kings' official examination period.		

**KING'S UNIVERSITY COLLEGE
GENERAL COURSE POLICIES
2026-27**

1. Academic Accommodations (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 at [Academic Accommodation for Students with Disabilities](#). Information on Accessibility Services at King's can be found [here](#).

2. Academic Consideration for Student Absences

Students must be approved to write a makeup exam or for an extension of the assignment deadline. If you need to miss an exam or the deadline for the assignment, please follow these instructions.

There are two ways to seek academic consideration:

(i) Academic consideration based on medical or compassionate grounds

If a student is unable to meet a course requirement due to substantial but temporary extenuating circumstances (medical or compassionate grounds), they should contact the Academic Advising Office. As a rule, documentation is required for academic consideration.

For academic consideration requests on medical grounds, the Student Medical Certificate (SMC) is the appropriate documentation. The SMC is available at <https://registrar.uwo.ca/academics/pdfs/student-medical-certificate.pdf>

- King's students: The Academic Advising Office website is located in DLH 104. The Academic Advising website is <https://mykings.ca/intranet/app/#/academics/academic-advising>.
- If your home faculty is Huron or at Western, please submit your documentation to your faculty's academic counselling office.
- Requests must be made as soon as possible, and no later than 48 hours after the missed assessment.

You may submit requests for academic consideration through the **Student Absence Portal**, linked on this website: <https://mykings.ca/intranet/app/#/academics/academic-advising/academic-consideration-requests-and-student-absence-portal>.

(ii) Academic consideration through an undocumented absence

Students are permitted one academic consideration request without supporting documentation per term per half-course (0.5) weight.

- Note that instructors may designate one assessment per half-course weight as requiring supporting documentation. Please refer to the course outline to confirm this which assessment has been designated as requiring documentation for consideration (that is, exempt from undocumented absences).
- Undocumented absences can not be used as the basis for academic consideration for December or April exams.

If an instructor has built flexibility into their assessments (e.g., “complete 8 of 10 quizzes”), this flexibility will already address consideration needs and thus academic consideration may be denied.

For further information on the academic consideration policy, please see

https://uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/academic_consideration_Sep24.pdf

c) Absences from Final Exams

If you miss the Final Exam, **contact your Academic Advising Office** 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 (i.e., you are scheduled to write 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](#)).

d) Religious Accommodations

Students should consult the University’s list of recognized religious holidays, and should give notice in writing to the instructor and their 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.

3. Support Services

Accessibility, Counselling and Student Development at King's University College:

<https://mykings.ca/intranet/app/#/student-supports-and-services/accessibility-services>

Students experiencing emotional or mental health distress can access services at King's University College: <https://kings.uwo.ca/campus-life/student-supports/>

Good2talk is an online and phone resource for students, available 24/7, with services in English, Mandarin, and French: <https://good2talk.ca>, 1-866-925-5454

MentalHealth@Western provides a complete list of options on how to obtain help:

<https://www.uwo.ca/health/mental-health/index.html>

Academic Support Services at King's University College: <https://kings.uwo.ca/academics/academic-supports/>

4. Statement on Gender-Based Sexual Violence

King's and Western are committed to reducing incidents of gender-based sexual violence (GBSV) and providing compassionate support to anyone who is going through or has gone through these traumatic events. If you are experiencing or have experienced GBSV (either recently or in the past), you will find information about support services for survivors, including emergency contacts at the following website: [Mental Health and Wellness at King's](#).

You can reach supports at King's 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 (health@uwo.ca) or by calling 519-661-3568. Additional support services can be found <https://www.uwo.ca/health/gbsv/support/index.html>

5. 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://kings.uwo.ca/sites/2025/assets/files/campus/Kings_Code_of_Student_Conduct.pdf

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.

6. 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 https://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/scholastic_offences.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 you instructor to check which tools, including generative AI (ChatGPT, translation tools, grammar-checking tools) are permitted in each course.** Note that although some courses may permit the use of such tools, it does not mean use of such tools 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.

7. 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.

8. 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.

9. 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.