



Sociology 3366f (570)
Gangsters and the Mob
Fall/ Winter 2026-2027

Instructor: J. Reynolds

Email: jnugent5@uwo.ca

Course Information

Calendar Description:

This course is designed to acquaint the student with the history, theory and practices of traditional organized crime. Subjects to be covered include the Mafia, organized crime in a global context, and other prominent groups, including pirates.

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

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.



GANGSTERS AND THE MOB
SOC3366F Section 570 (Fall 2026)
King's University College at Western University
Department of Sociology

Instructor: Jennie Reynolds (jnugent5@uwo.ca)

Office Hours: Fridays 2:30pm-3:30pm OR by appointment via ZOOM

Course Description

This course is designed to make students familiar with basic and advanced knowledge concerning the nature and impact of illicit enterprise. We will be looking at some of the major organized crime groups operating internationally: the Italian Mafia, Columbian Cartel, Mexican Cartel, Irish Mafia, etc. At the end of the semester, the student should have acquired suitable skills to identify the sustaining characteristics of criminal organizations and to talk and write intelligently about various policy approaches to combating and studying criminal enterprises.

Learning Outcomes

Upon completion of this course, students should:

1. Understand the evolution of organized crime in Canada.
2. Critically assess sociological and criminological theories as they relate to organized crime.
3. Understand the progression of legislation and definitions surrounding organized crime and gang behavior.
4. Assess critically the impact that policy and legislation have on organized crime and criminals.
5. Understand the major organized crime groups on an international level, with more specific knowledge of how these groups began and continue to operate in Canada.

Required Text

Schneider, S. (2016). *Iced: The Story of Organized Crime in Canada*.

****NOTE:** This is an ebook and is available via:

Amazon: <https://www.amazon.ca/dp/B01FDAKIVM/keywords=al%20capone?tag=harpercanada-20>

Apple Books: <https://books.apple.com/ca/book/iced/id1116691396?ign-mpt=uo%3D4>

Google Play: <https://play.google.com/store/search?q=9781443429900&c=books&pli=1>

Kobo: [https://www.kobo.com/ca/en/ebook/iced-](https://www.kobo.com/ca/en/ebook/iced-8?utm_medium=Affiliate&utm_campaign=HarperCollins.com&utm_term=harpercanada&ranMID=37217&ranEAID=MdXm68JZJz8&ranSiteID=MdXm68JZJz8-3nDgXBWXX05U.CsB6QY7Kg&siteID=MdXm68JZJz8-3nDgXBWXX05U.CsB6QY7Kg)

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Textbook cost: \$11.99 (Amazon eBook)

Course Evaluation

Participation (10%)
Documentary Analyses (2 x 20%= 40%)
Mid-term Exam (25%)
Final Exam (25%)

(1) **Participation** (10%): To receive marks for participation, you must partake in class discussion throughout the term. It is essential that you come to class prepared, having reviewed your notes from the previous week, and having read the required readings for the week. It will be difficult to engage in the discussion if you have not adequately prepared for class, so please ensure you do so.

(2) **Documentary Analysis** (2 x 20 = 40%): There will be several documentaries shown in class throughout the course of the term. You must choose to write critical reflections on any TWO of the documentaries shown, where you think critically while analyzing the issue outlined in the movie, ensuring that you relate it to course material. To do well on this assignment, you are expected to go well beyond a comprehensive overview of the documentary and delve in to the key themes/topics/cases as they apply to course material. Your assignments should be written in essay form and should be approximately 5 typed pages (double-spaced). **The documentary analyses are due ONE WEEK after they are shown in class** (i.e. if a documentary is shown on Friday Sept. 17th the analysis would be due on Friday Sept. 25th by 11:59pm via Brightspace).

**NOTE: While 6(ish) documentaries will be shown in class, you are only expected to write an analysis on 2 of them. With that being said, I will take your best 2 marks, so if you complete more than 2 you would receive the 2 highest grades.*

(3) **Mid-term exam** (25%): The questions on the mid-term exam will include both multiple choice and short-answer questions (no essays will be written on the exams). It will be written on **Friday October 22nd from 11:30pm-1:30pm** in our usual classroom.

The mid-term exam will require formal documentation for academic consideration.

(4) **Final exam** (25%) Date TBA (During final exam period in December)

Similar to the mid-term exam, the final exam will include both multiple choice and short-answer questions. The final exam is not cumulative.

The examinations will cover a variety of course material (lectures, assigned readings, films shown in class, discussions etc.). Students are responsible for material covered in class regardless of whether they are present for each class. It is important to note that you are responsible for taking lecture notes/accessing notes from fellow students. It might be helpful to make contact with a peer early in the course in case it becomes necessary for you to miss a class. It will also be your responsibility to access/view any films that may be shown during a class in which you miss.

Academic Integrity and Course Expectations

Lectures in this Course

Prior to the start of each class, the PowerPoint slides for that class 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 OUTLINE

Date	Topic	Required Readings/ Other	To do/Submit
Week 1 <i>Sept. 11</i>	Course Introduction Defining Organized Crime		
Week 2 <i>Sept. 18</i>	Early Organized Crime: Piracy and Outlaws	Textbook: Chapters 1 & 2 <i>Documentary: Nigerian Pirates</i>	
Week 3 <i>Sept. 25</i>	Historical Roots of Illicit Enterprise in Canada	Textbook: Chapters 3, 5 <i>Documentary: Misbehavin'</i>	<i>DA: Nigerian Pirates (by 11:59pm Sept. 25)</i>
Week 4 <i>Oct. 2</i>	Organized Crime: Illicit Enterprise	Textbook: Chapters 6, 7, 8	<i>DA: Misbehavin' (by 11:59pm Oct. 2)</i>
Week 5 <i>Oct. 9</i>	Theoretical Approaches to Organized Crime	Readings on Brightspace	
Week 6 <i>Oct. 16</i>	FALL BREAK <i>Oct. 12-16th</i>		
Week 7 <i>Oct. 23</i>	MID-TERM EXAM <i>Oct. 22nd from 11:30am-1:30pm</i>		
Week 8 <i>Oct. 30</i>	The Italian Mafia	Textbook: Chapter 13 <i>Documentary: Rizzuto Crime Family</i>	
Week 9 <i>Nov. 6</i>	The Irish Mafia	Readings on Brightspace <i>Documentary: Whitey Bulger</i>	<i>DA: Rizzuto Crime Family (by 11:59pm Oct. 30)</i>
Week 10 <i>Nov. 13</i>	The Columbian Cartels	Textbook: Chapter 12 <i>Documentary: Pablo Escobar</i>	<i>DA: Whitey Bulger (by 11:59pm Nov. 13)</i>
Week 11 <i>Nov. 20</i>	The Mexican Cartels	Readings on Brightspace <i>Documentary: El Chapo</i>	<i>DA: Pablo Escobar (by 11:59pm Nov. 20)</i>
Week 12 <i>Nov. 27</i>	“Other” OCG: Outlaw Motorcycle Gangs and	Readings on Brightspace <i>Documentary: Hells Angels & Rock Machine</i>	<i>DA: El Chapo (by 11:59pm Nov. 27)</i>
Week 13 <i>Dec. 4</i>	Course Conclusions	Readings on Brightspace	<i>DA: Hells Angels & Rock Machine (by 11:59pm Dec. 4)</i>
TBD	Final Exam (December exam 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.