



The University of Western Ontario
SOCIOLOGY 4451F-001
Policing and Society
Fall 2021-2022
Online course

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Course Description: This course provides a comprehensive introduction to the sociology of policing through descriptive, empirical, and theoretical research. It offers a balanced overview of who the police are, what they do, and their interactions with different social institutions and groups. Special attention is given to problems and controversies related to policing.

Although this is a fourth-year course, much of the course content will be entirely new and/or more significantly detailed than content from any previous introductory classes. Thus, this course will be lecture-based, through taped lectures and podcasts that students **can access at their own pace and on their own schedule**. There will be no required meetings. I am, however, easily available through email, Teams or Zoom and so we can always make time to go over any content or work through any issues that come up!

Prerequisite(s): Enrolment in fourth year of one of the Honors Specializations or Honors Double Major in Sociology or Criminology.

Unless you have either the requisites for this course or written special permission from your Dean to enroll in it, you may be removed from this course and it will be deleted from your record. The 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.

Antirequisite(s): None.

Learning Outcomes:

Students will develop new knowledge and perspectives on the role of police and policing in society through exposure to both academic research and officer experience. Objectives include:

1. Understanding the historical role of the police and how it has changed over time
2. Acquiring a general sense of the vast body of literature and academic approaches to studying the police
3. Developing a specialized area of knowledge about policing through writing an essay on a chosen topic.
4. Understanding how policing can be shaped by political, social, and economic conditions.

Required Text(s):

None.

Evaluation

Podcast assignments (3 x 20)	60 marks
Comment	30 marks
What do we know about policing assignment: September 17	10 marks

What do we know about policing assignment (DUE DATE: September 17, 2020)

Please email me a list of 20 questions that you would like answered during this class. I will not only try to answer as many of these questions as I can in a taped response, but I will also be evaluating them in terms of the degree of thought that went into the questions you raised for me to answers. Try to avoid basic questions such as, 'why do I have to have a speeding ticket?' in favour of questions like, 'do the FBI and the RCMP do the same thing?' or 'how do they police transnational crime?'. I'm also open to questions about basic police powers, procedure and policy, as long as it's a thoughtful question. What I'm evaluating you on is the apparent degree of thought you put into thinking about what you asked.

Podcast Assignment (DUE DATES: September 30, October 31, November 30. Although we can be reasonably flexible with these dates, please note I cannot accept work later than **December 3, 2020**):

I am asking you to turn in **3 reviews** of the 3 of the Reducing Crime Podcasts (<https://www.reducingcrime.com/podcast>). For these reviews, you will be expected to provide a succinct two page (single spaced) brief on the key takeaways or messages you learned from listening to the podcast. A lot of this content will tie into ideas, concepts, research from class, so ***make sure that, when possible, you draw links between the podcast and what you learned from lectures provided for in this class.*** Of course, I am happy to accept your work by email.

Comment on What You Learned (DUE DATE: December 10th)

You will be expected to hand in a 6-8 page comment piece in relation to **two** of the topic areas covered in this class. What I'm looking for is to see:

Detailed knowledge of a topic (including references to concepts, ideas, papers and/or discussions from class – **this is your chance to show what you learned**);

You may argue for or against something, compare or contrast two different perspectives or types of policing – I leave that choice up to you. As always, please feel free to float your ideas past me, and be assured that I will set aside time in class to discuss the assignment and where everyone is at.

Course content

I have taped a series of lectures for this seminar that are available to you in two different formats!

For access to the visual and audio version of the lecture, you can simply download the material through OWL. **Where possible I include the PowerPoints for you to access; however, some of these were lost thanks to a computer crash.**

For access to a more portable audio version, you can find links to various audio versions (Spotify,

Apple podcasts, Google podcasts, etc.) on <https://anchor.fm/can-sebp-knowledge-incubator>

Overview

Course Introduction – September 10th Microsoft Teams meeting at 1pm. I will send everyone a Teams meeting invite through your UWO email account. If you can't make it, do NOT worry! I have also taped a greeting for OWL that goes over many of the same things and we can always email or schedule a time for any unanswered questions.

Policing philosophies

Community Oriented Policing

Problem Oriented Policing

Evidence Based Policing

Broken Windows Policing

Policing strategies

Focused Deterrence

Crime Hot Spots

Rational Choice & Nudge Theory

COMPSTAT

Policing issues & controversies

The Politics of Policing

Street checks

Unfounded rates

Important Policies

Policies for Assignment Deadlines:

Have all of your assignments turned in by December 6th. Assignments will not be accepted after this date without notification from Academic Counselling that you have provided written documentation of a valid reason as to why you are unable to complete your work during the term.

A Note on Plagiarism:

Students must write their assignments in their own words. Whenever students take an idea from another author, they must acknowledge their debt both by using quotation marks where appropriate and by proper referencing such as footnotes or citations. Plagiarism is a major scholastic offence (the Scholastic Offence Policy can be viewed in the Western Academic Calendar).

Plagiarism Checking:

All required papers may be subject to submission for textual similarity review to the commercial plagiarism detection software under license to the University for 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 (www.turnitin.com).

Policy on Accommodation for Medical Illness

Western's policy on Accommodation for Medical Illness can be found at www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/accommodation_medical.pdf.

Students must see the Academic Counsellor and submit all required documentation in order to be approved for certain accommodation: http://counselling.ssc.uwo.ca/procedures/medical_accommodation.html

Accessibility Options:

Please contact the course instructor if you require material in an alternate format or if you require any other arrangements to make this course more accessible to you. You may also wish to contact Services for Students with Disabilities (SSD) at 519 661-2111 x 82147 for any specific question regarding an accommodation.

Information regarding accommodation of exams is available on the Registrar's website:

www.registrar.uwo.ca/examinations/accommodated_exams.html

Scholastic Offences

Scholastic offences are taken seriously and students are directed to read the appropriate policy, specifically, the definition of what constitutes a Scholastic Offence, at the following web site:

www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/scholastic_discipline_undergrad.pdf

Mental Health

Students who are in **emotional/mental distress** should refer to Mental Health@Western (http://uwo.ca/health/mental_wellbeing/index.html) for a complete list of options how to obtain help.

Grading guidelines

Sociology 1020 and 1021E

Means in the range of 68-72%

Sociology courses at the 2100

Means in the range of 70-75%

Sociology courses at the 2200 level

Means in the range of 69-73%

Sociology courses at the 3300-level (including Soc 3300a and 3302b)

Means in the range of 73-80%

Sociology courses at the 4400-level

Means in the range of 78-82%