

**THE UNIVERSITY OF WESTERN ONTARIO  
BRESCIA UNIVERSITY COLLEGE  
Sociology 2260B – 530  
SOCIOLOGY OF LAW**

**Time:** 8:30 am to 11:30 am, Wednesday, Room 18

**WINTER 2012**

**Course Instructor:** Mr. Ronald C. George, BA, (Diploma with Honours Standing – Sociology), LLB, LLM, Doctoral Candidate

Phone: 519-330-6353

Email: [rgeorg24@uwo.ca](mailto:rgeorg24@uwo.ca), [ronaldgeorge@hotmail.com](mailto:ronaldgeorge@hotmail.com)

**Course Description:**

This course will focus on an examination and analysis of the interplay of law and society in Canada. It will examine new trends, concerns and controversies from social control to social change. The course will cover a broad range of subjects dealing with every aspect of law, including the law's beginnings and how it is intricately connected to the normative values of society. From a sociological perspective there will be a combined description and analysis of critical issues from a variety of theoretical positions. Students will progress methodically through the material by starting at conceptualizations and function of law then concluding with an analysis of methods of inquiry and the impact of sociology on social policy. Between the beginnings and endings of the study students will be exposed to other subjects which include; theoretical perspectives, the organization of law, lawmaking, law and social control, law and dispute resolution, law and social change and the legal profession. Additionally, the study will take a brief look at a perspective of Canadian Indigenous people on the concept and role of law.

**Prerequisite(s):** Sociology 1020 or Sociology 1021E

Unless you have either prerequisite for the course or written special permission from your Dean to enrol in it, you will 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.

**Class Attendance:** Any student who is absent too frequently from class, may be debarred from taking the required examinations in the course pursuant to the policies attached herein.

**Required Text:** Vago, Steven & Nelson, Adie, *Law and Society, 3rd Canadian Edition*, Toronto, Pearson Canada, 2011

**Additional Readings:** *May be assigned throughout the course*

**Evaluation Procedures:**

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| 1. Mid-Term Exam – Feb. 15, 2012 (2 hours) | 40% |
| 2. Final Exam – April 2012 (TBD) (3 hours) | 60% |

### **Detailed Course Outline:**

*Students, please note that the course outline is subject to revision. That is, throughout the term, circumstances may arise that will alter the ordering of the topics, the pace at which we move through the material and so on. **It is your responsibility to do all required readings, to attend class and to participate in all class discussions scheduled.** If, for whatever reason, you are unable to attend class, please consult your colleagues in order to catch up on any administrative details, or course content that you may have missed.*

## **READING LIST**

### **January**

18 – Introduction to the Course. *The Principles of Sociology and the Law*

25 – Chapter 1; *Introduction*, pgs.1 to 24

### **February**

01 - Chapter 2; *Theoretical Perspectives*, pgs. 25 to 58

08 - Chapter 3; *The Organization of Law*, pgs. 59 to 117

15 - *1 hour review & Mid-Term Exam (2 hrs.)*

22 - *Reading Week*

29 - Chapter 4; *Lawmaking*, pgs. 118 to 146

### **March**

07 - Chapter 5; *Law and Social Control*, pgs. 147 to 191

14 - Chapter 6; *Law and Dispute Resolution*, pgs. 192 to 232

21 - Chapter 7; *Law and Social Change*, pgs. 233 to 267

28 - Chapter 8; *The Legal Profession*, pgs. 268 to 309

### **April**

04 - Chapter 9; *Researching Law in Society*, pgs. 310 to 330, and *Review (1.5 hrs.)*

### **Final Exam (TBD)**

### **Course Specific Policies:**

**Cell Phones and Computers:** Out of respect for your colleagues and the instructor, please refrain from using cell phones during class time. Ensure that they have been turned off before entering class. Similarly, computers are to be used only for note-taking and class related activities. If a student is found to be surfing the net, chatting, looking at photos etc., he/she may be asked to leave the class.

**Academic Accommodation:** For academic accommodation to be considered for any course component it is the responsibility of the student to approach the academic advisor. The request for accommodation will be decided by the academic advisor in consultation with the instructor. In the case of a request for academic accommodation the student is directed to consult with the policies governing requests for academic accommodation outlined in the Academic Policies.

## BRESCIA UNIVERSITY COLLEGE ACADEMIC POLICIES AND REGULATIONS

### 1. POLICY REGARDING MAKEUP EXAMS AND EXTENSIONS OF DEADLINES

When a student requests academic accommodation (e.g., extension of a deadline, a makeup exam) for work representing 10% or more of the student's overall grade in the course, it is the responsibility of the student to provide acceptable documentation to support a medical or compassionate claim. All such requests for academic accommodation **must** be made through an Academic Advisor and include supporting documentation. Academic accommodation on medical grounds will be granted only if the documentation indicates that the onset, duration and severity of the illness are such that the student could not reasonably be expected to complete her academic responsibilities. Appropriate academic accommodation will be determined by the Dean's Office in consultation with the student's instructor(s). Please note that personal commitments (e.g., vacation flight bookings, work schedule) which conflict with a scheduled test, exam or course requirement are not grounds for academic accommodation.

If supporting documentation is from a family physician, Hospital Urgent Care Centre or Emergency Department, or a walk-in clinic a UWO Student Medical Certificate (SMC) is **required**. To download an SMC go to <https://studentservices.uwo.ca/secure/index.cfm> and follow the link under "Medical Documentation". Documentation should be obtained at the time of the initial visit. If it is not possible to have an SMC completed by the attending physician, the student must request documentation sufficient to demonstrate that her ability to meet academic responsibilities was seriously affected. Please note that under University Senate regulations document-ation stating simply that the student "was seen for a medical reason" or "was ill" is **not** considered adequate to support a request for academic accommodation. All documentation is to be submitted to an Academic Advisor.

Whenever possible, requests for academic accommodation should be initiated in advance of due dates, examination dates, etc. Students must follow up with their professors and Academic Advisor in a timely manner.

The full statement of University policy regarding extensions of deadlines or makeup exams can be found at <http://www.westerncalendar.uwo.ca/2011/pg117.html>.

### 2. ACADEMIC CONCERNS

If you feel that you have a medical or personal problem that is interfering with your work, contact your instructor and Academic Advisor as soon as possible. Problems may then be documented and possible arrangements to assist you can be discussed at the time of occurrence rather than on a retroactive basis. Retroactive requests for academic accommodation on medical or compassionate grounds may not be considered.

If you think that you are too far behind to catch up or that your work load is not manageable, you should consult an Academic Advisor. If you consider reducing your

workload by dropping one or more courses, this must be done by the appropriate deadlines (refer to the Registrar's website, [www.registrar.uwo.ca](http://www.registrar.uwo.ca), for official dates). You should consult with the course instructor and the Academic Advisor who can help you consider alternatives to dropping one or more courses. *Note that dropping a course may affect OSAP eligibility and/or Entrance Scholarship eligibility.*

The Dean may refuse permission to write the final examination in a course if the student has failed to maintain satisfactory academic standing throughout the year or for too frequent absence from the class or laboratory.

### **3. ABSENCES**

**Short Absences:** If you miss a class due to a minor illness or other problems, check your course outline for information regarding attendance requirements and make sure you are not missing a test or assignment. Cover any readings and arrange to borrow notes from a classmate. Contact the course instructor if you have any questions.

**Extended Absences:** If you have an extended absence, you should contact the course instructor and an Academic Advisor. Your course instructor and Academic Advisor can discuss ways for you to catch up on missed work and arrange academic accommodations, if appropriate.

### **4. POLICY ON CHEATING & ACADEMIC MISCONDUCT**

Students are responsible for understanding the nature of and avoiding the occurrence of plagiarism and other academic offences. Students are urged to read the section on Scholastic Offences in the Academic Calendar. Note that such offences include plagiarism, cheating on an examination, submitting false or fraudulent assignments or credentials, impersonating a candidate, or submitting for credit in any course without the knowledge and approval of the instructor to whom it is submitted, any academic work for which credit has previously been obtained or is being sought in another course in the University or elsewhere. Students are advised to consult the section on Academic Misconduct in the Western Academic Calendar.

If you are in doubt about whether what you are doing is inappropriate or not, consult your instructor, the Student Services Centre, or the Registrar. A claim that "you didn't know it was wrong" is not accepted as an excuse.

The penalties for a student guilty of a scholastic offence (including plagiarism) include refusal of a passing grade in the assignment, refusal of a passing grade in the course, suspension from the University, and expulsion from the University.

#### **Plagiarism:**

Students must write their essays and assignments in their own words. Whenever students take an idea or a passage 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 academic offence (see Scholastic Offence Policy in the Western Academic Calendar).

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.

**Computer-marked Tests/exams:**

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. Software currently in use to score computer-marked multiple-choice tests and exams performs a similarity review as part of standard exam analysis.

**5. PROCEDURES FOR APPEALING ACADEMIC EVALUATIONS**

All appeals of a grade must be directed first to the course instructor. If the student is not satisfied with the decision of the course instructor, a written appeal signed by the student must be sent to the Department Chair. If the response of the department is considered unsatisfactory to the student, she may then submit a signed, written appeal to the Office of the Dean. Only after receiving a final decision from the Dean may a student appeal to the Senate Review Board Academic. A Guide to Appeals is available from the Ombudsperson's Office, or you can consult an Academic Advisor. Students are advised to consult the section on Academic Rights and Responsibilities in the Western Academic Calendar.

**6. PREREQUISITES AND ANTIREQUISITES**

Unless you have either the prerequisites for a course or written special permission from your Dean to enroll in it, you will be removed from the 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.

Similarly, you will also be deleted from a class list if you have previously taken an antirequisite course unless this has the approval of the Dean. These decisions may not be appealed. You will receive no adjustment to your fees in the event that you are dropped from a course because you have taken an antirequisite course.

**7. SUPPORT SERVICES**

The Brescia University College Registrar's website, with a link to Academic Advisors, is at [http://www.brescia.uwo.ca/academics/registrar\\_services/index.html](http://www.brescia.uwo.ca/academics/registrar_services/index.html).

The University of Western Ontario Registrar's website is at <http://www.registrar.uwo.ca/index.cfm>

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Portions of this document were taken from the Academic Calendar, the Handbook of Academic and Scholarship Policy and the Academic Handbook of Senate Regulations. This document is a summary of relevant regulations and does not supersede the academic policies and regulations of the Senate of the University of Western Ontario.