



DEPARTMENT OF SOCIOLOGY

Winter 2018

SOC2260B Section 530

SOCIOLOGY OF LAW

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Office Hours: Friday after class

Class times: Friday 930-1230PM in BR 19

Course Description

This course explores at the social construction of law starting with an overview of relevant classical and contemporary theories. How do varying perspectives, ideologies, and ways of life during particular eras impact the creation of laws and their implementation? How do particular acts or behaviours become the subject of social control? Questions, such as these, will be pondered and discussed over the first few weeks of class. The remaining portion of the course looks at contemporary research in the areas of social change, law, and the control of populations. For instance, we explore how social inequality shapes the creation of laws and how laws themselves generate structures of inequality.

Course Objectives

By the end of this course, students should:

- be familiar with the sub-discipline of the sociology of law; (Core Competencies: Inquiry and Analysis)
- have an understanding of the connection between law and society; (Core Competencies: Inquiry and Analysis; Valuing; Social Awareness and Engagement)
- understand the Canadian legal system be aware of the influence of race, ethnicity, gender, immigration status, and social class on justice outcomes; (Core Competencies: Inquiry and Analysis; Valuing; Social Awareness and Engagement; Problem Solving)
- use knowledge on sociolegal theories to analyze contemporary problems of Canadian society; (Core Competencies: Inquiry and Analysis; Valuing; Social Awareness and Engagement)
- critically reflect on media reports concerning justice issues. (Core Competencies: Inquiry and Analysis; Self-Awareness and Development; Social Awareness and Engagement)

Prerequisite(s):

1.0 from Sociology courses at the 1000 level.

Required Text

Vago, S. & Nelson, A. *Law and Society*. (4th Canadian ed.). Toronto, ON: Pearson, (2014).

Evaluation

Your grade for this course will be based on:

(1) Documentary Analysis (15%)

There will two documentaries shown in class this term. You must write a critical reflection on 1 of the films/documentaries shown, wherein 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 beyond a comprehensive overview of the documentary and delve in to the issues at hand.

Your assignments should be written in essay form and should be approximately 5 typed pages (double-spaced). Documentary analyses are due ONE WEEK after the film is shown in class. These will be discussed in more detail early on in the Winter 2017 term.

(2) Mid-term exam (40%):

The questions will include multiple choice and short-answer questions.

(4) Final exam (45%): Date TBA (During final exam period in April)

Similar to the mid-term exam, the final exam will include both multiple choice and short-answer questions. The final exam is non-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.

Conduct and Expectations

Lectures in this Course

By 4:00 PM on the day before each weekly class, the PowerPoint slides for that class will be posted on the WebCT course site. You should print out a copy and bring it to class. Lectures assume that students have done the readings listed for each week in advance of class. Accordingly, lectures will be paced assuming that everyone has hardcopies of the slides in front of them, and are capable of making 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, past experience suggests that some students who bring laptops to class use them to access the Internet. This can prove very distracting to the students around them. Accordingly, using your Laptop to access the Internet will be considered disruptive behavior and a violation under the Student Code of Conduct. Students caught violating this policy may be expelled from class lecture.

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.

COURSE OUTLINE

Date	Topic	Required Readings
<i>Jan. 12</i>	Course Introduction and Overview	Posted on OWL
<i>Jan. 19</i>	Law and Society	Ch. 1
<i>Jan. 26</i>	Theoretical Perspectives	Ch. 2
<i>Feb. 2</i>	Theoretical Perspectives (cont'd)	Ch. 2
<i>Feb. 9</i>	Documentary: G20	
<i>Feb. 16</i>	MID-TERM EXAM	
<i>Feb. 23</i>	SPRING BREAK	
<i>Mar. 2</i>	The Organization of Law	Ch. 3
<i>Mar. 9</i>	Lawmaking	Ch. 4
<i>Mar. 16</i>	Documentary	
<i>Mar. 23</i>	Law and Dispute Resolution	Ch. 6
<i>Mar. 30</i>	Mental Health and the Law	No readings
<i>Apr. 6</i>	The Law, Social Control and Social Change	Ch. 5, 7
<i>TBD</i>	Final Exam Scheduled by the Registrar's Office	

2017-18 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 for illness 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. Minor ailments typically treated by over-the-counter medications will not normally be accommodated. Documentation shall be submitted as soon as possible to the student's Academic Advisor indicating the period of illness and when the student should be able to resume academic responsibilities. Students must submit their documentation along with a request for relief specifying the nature of the accommodation being requested no later than two business days after the date specified for resuming 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.

A UWO Student Medical Certificate (SMC) is **required** if a student is seeking academic accommodation on medical grounds. This documentation should be obtained at the time of the initial consultation with the physician/nurse practitioner or walk-in clinic. A SMC can be downloaded from:

http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/medicalform.pdf. 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 documentation stating simply that the student "was seen for a medical reason" or "was ill" is **not** adequate to support a request for academic accommodation.

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 policy on requesting accommodation due to illness can be viewed at:

<http://westerncalendar.uwo.ca/2017/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, <http://brescia.uwo.ca/academics/registrar-services/> or the list of official dates <http://westerncalendar.uwo.ca/2017/pg7.html>). 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 (<http://westerncalendar.uwo.ca/2017/pg130.html>)

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

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

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 (<http://www.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 Student Academic Appeals under Academic Rights and Responsibilities in the Western Academic Calendar (<http://westerncalendar.uwo.ca/2017/pg112.html>).

Note that final course marks are not official until the Academic Dean has reviewed and signed the final grade report for the course. If course marks deviate from acceptable and appropriate standards, the Academic Dean may require grades to be adjusted to align them with accepted grading practices (http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/exam/evaluation_undergrad.pdf and http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/exam/finalgrades.pdf).

6. PREREQUISITES

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 prerequisite(s).

7. SUPPORT

Support Services

The Brescia University College Registrar's website, with a link to Academic Advisors, is at <http://brescia.uwo.ca/academics/registrar-services/>. The website for the Student Development Centre at Western is <http://www.sdc.uwo.ca/>.

Mental Health and Wellness

Students may experience a range of issues that can cause barriers to your learning, such as increased anxiety, feeling overwhelmed, feeling down or lost, difficulty concentrating and/or lack of motivation. Services are available to assist you with addressing these and other concerns you may be experiencing. You can learn more about mental health and wellness at Brescia at <http://brescia.uwo.ca/life/mental-health-wellness/>. Students who are in emotional/mental distress should refer to Mental_Health@Western <http://www.uwo.ca/uwocom/mentalhealth/> for a complete list of options about how to obtain help.

Sexual Violence

All members of the Brescia University College community have a right to work and study in an environment that is free from any form of sexual violence. Brescia University College recognizes that the prevention of, and response to, Sexual Violence is of particular importance in the university environment. Sexual Violence is strictly prohibited and unacceptable and will not be tolerated. Brescia is committed to preventing Sexual Violence and creating a safe space for anyone in the Brescia community who has experienced Sexual Violence.

If you or someone you know has experienced any form of Sexual Violence, you may access resources at <http://brescia.uwo.ca/life/sexual-violence/>.

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.