



## Course Outline – Sociology of Law

### School of Behavioural and Social Sciences

#### General Information

Course #: SOC2260B

Section #: 530

Term: WINTER 2023

Year: 2022-23

Delivery: *In Person*

#### Instructor Information

Name: Jennifer Reynolds

E-mail: [jnugent5@uwo.ca](mailto:jnugent5@uwo.ca)

Office hours for students: By Appointment (via ZOOM)

#### Course Description

An analysis of the legal institutions and processes in contemporary society.

Prerequisite(s): 1.0 from Sociology courses at the 1000 level.

#### Required Course Materials

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> )

## Learning Outcomes

By the end of this course students should have gained a solid understanding of the main facets of law and the ways in which it operates in the social context in 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.

## Brescia Competencies

By the end of this course, students should:

1. Be familiar with the sub-discipline of the sociology of law; (Core Competencies: Inquiry and Analysis)
2. Have an understanding of the connection between law and society; (Core Competencies: Inquiry and Analysis; Valuing; Social Awareness and Engagement)
3. 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)
4. Use knowledge on sociolegal theories to analyze contemporary problems of Canadian society; (Core Competencies: Inquiry and Analysis; Valuing; Social Awareness and Engagement)
5. Critically reflect on media reports concerning justice issues. (Core Competencies: Inquiry and Analysis; Self-Awareness and Development; Social Awareness and Engagement)

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.

## Teaching Methodology and Expectations of Students

### Course Delivery

This course will be administered in person on Monday's from 8:30-11:30am in BR-201.

All of the important information/resources for this course will be available via the OWL website for our course (lectures, extra readings, documentary links, etc.). Each week will have "checklist" provided to make sure that you are keeping up with the material/tasks that are assigned each week. You will also use our OWL site for engaging in class discussion, uploading your completed exercises and assignments, reviewing feedback on graded materials, and checking your marks.

### E-mail

If you have any questions, comments, or concerns regarding the course please email me. I will do my best to return all emails within 24 hours.

If you would like to schedule a Zoom meeting with me, please send a request via email and use "SOC2260B Brescia" as part of the subject line.

I also encourage people to setup and use their UWO e-mail account for school business and check your account regularly for course announcements.

### Office Hours

I will be holding online office hours using Zoom by appointment. If you would like to schedule a time to meet, please e-mail me with a list of times that you are available, and with a brief description of what you would like to discuss. Please do not hesitate to contact me for any reason – whether it be related to the course, related to future prospects (interest in graduate school, career aspirations), chatting about sociology or events in general – I am here for you and happy to answer any questions you may have.

Zoom is a webconferencing app that is free to Western students. Instructions for downloading and running Zoom can be found at: <https://wts.uwo.ca/zoom/>. IMPORTANT: When logging in to Zoom, select *Sign In with SSO*. On the Sign In with SSO screen, enter *westernuniversity*, then click Continue. You will login to Zoom using your Western user ID and password.

## Copyright and Intellectual Property

PowerPoint lecture slides and notes, lists of readings, in-class activities, assignment guidelines, and other components of the course materials are typically the intellectual property of the instructor. Unauthorized reproduction through audio-recording, video-recording, photographing, sharing on social media, or posting on course-sharing websites is an infringement of copyright and is prohibited. Such action may be considered a Code of Conduct violation and lead to sanctions.

## Evaluation

Your grade for this course will be based on:

### (1) Participation (10%)

In order to receive marks for participation, you must partake in discussion during class time and (occasionally) via the OWL forums (in groups) throughout the term. Please be kind and respectful of one another, particularly when there are sensitive topics/issues discussed or when differing opinions emerge (it was always completely fine to play “devil’s advocate” even if it is not your direct opinion).

### (2) Midterm Exam (30%)

The mid-term exam will cover any material covered in class OR assigned for each week leading up to it. It will be mixed format and include both multiple choice/true and false questions as well as short answer responses. The mid-term will be written in class on Monday February 13th from 8:30am-10:30pm.

### (3) 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 (APA referencing style, size 12 font, 1” margins, no additional spacing between paragraphs). Students will upload their reflections on OWL via the Assignments tab. Due dates are included on the schedule below, and there will be more information presented in class and posted on OWL.

### (4) Final Exam (40%)

The final exam will be written in person and will be made up of the second half of the material covered in the course (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 April exam period (scheduled by the Registrar).

Evaluation Breakdown: (OG = Ongoing)

<b>Component</b>	<b>Weight</b>	<b>Date/ Deadline</b>	<b>Learning Outcome</b>	<b>Brescia Competencies</b>
<b>Participation</b>	10%	OG	All	All
<b>Midterm Exam</b>	30%	Feb. 13	All	1,2,3,4
<b>Critical Reflection</b>	20%	OG	All	All
<b>Final Exam</b>	40%	Apr. Exam Period	All	1,2,3,4

### Academic Accommodation

For course components worth 10% or more of the total course grade, please see the Academic Policies and Regulations section at the end of this course outline or consult the Academic Calendar.

For course components worth less than 10% of the total course grade, documentation will be required. Medical or other supporting documentation should be submitted to your Academic Advisor.

## Course Content

Date	Weekly Topic & Required Readings	Due Dates
<b>Week 1</b> Jan. 9	<b>Course Introduction and Overview</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>PDFs on OWL</li> </ul>	
<b>Week 2</b> Jan. 16	<b>Law and Society</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Chapter 1</li> </ul>	CR#1 Options released/posted on OWL
<b>Week 3</b> Jan. 23	<b>Theoretical Perspectives (PART I)</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Chapter 2</li> </ul>	
<b>Week 4</b> Jan. 30	<b>Theoretical Perspectives (PART II)</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Chapter 2 (continued)</li> </ul>	
<b>Week 5</b> Feb. 6	<b>Special Topic: Social Inequality and Law</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Documentary (TBA)</li> </ul>	Feb. 6 <sup>th</sup> by 11:55pm = last chance to submit CR #1 option
<b>Week 6: MIDTERM EXAM!</b> Feb. 13 <sup>th</sup> from 8:30am-10:30pm in BR-201		
<b>Week 7: Reading Week!</b> Feb. 21-25		
<b>Week 8</b> Feb. 27 <i>*ONLINE*</i>	<b>The Organization of Law</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Chapter 3</li> </ul>	<i>*NOTE: The lecture material for this week will be pre-recorded and posted on OWL*</i>
<b>Week 9</b> Mar. 6	<b>Lawmaking and Dispute Resolution</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Chapters 4 and 6</li> </ul>	CR#2 Options released/posted on OWL
<b>Week 10</b> Mar. 13	<b>Special Topic: Mental Health and the Law</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Readings on OWL</li> <li>Documentary</li> </ul>	
<b>Week 11</b> Mar. 20	<b>The Law and Social Control</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Chapter 5</li> </ul>	
<b>Week 12</b> Mar 27	<b>The Law and Social Change</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Chapter 7</li> </ul>	Mar. 28 <sup>th</sup> by 11:55pm = last chance to submit CR #2 options
<b>Week 13</b> Apr. 3	<b>The Legal Profession &amp; Course Conclusions</b> Chapter 8	
<b>Final exam</b> to be held during Brescia's official examination period.		

## 2022-23 BRESCIA UNIVERSITY COLLEGE ACADEMIC POLICIES AND REGULATIONS

### 1. POLICY REGARDING ACADEMIC ACCOMMODATION

The complete policy regarding Accommodation for Illness - Undergraduate Students can be found at [https://www.westerncalendar.uwo.ca/PolicyPages.cfm?Command=showCategory&PolicyCategoryID=1&SelectedCalendar=Live&ArchiveID=#Page\\_135](https://www.westerncalendar.uwo.ca/PolicyPages.cfm?Command=showCategory&PolicyCategoryID=1&SelectedCalendar=Live&ArchiveID=#Page_135)

Students who have long-term or chronic medical conditions which may impede their ability to complete academic responsibilities should seek Academic Accommodation through Student Accessibility Services ([https://www.westerncalendar.uwo.ca/PolicyPages.cfm?Command=showCategory&PolicyCategoryID=1&SelectedCalendar=Live&ArchiveID=#Page\\_10](https://www.westerncalendar.uwo.ca/PolicyPages.cfm?Command=showCategory&PolicyCategoryID=1&SelectedCalendar=Live&ArchiveID=#Page_10)).

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.

Students who experience an illness or extenuating circumstance sufficiently severe to temporarily render them unable to meet academic requirements may submit a request for academic consideration through the following routes:

1. For medical absences, submitting a **Student Medical Certificate (SMC)** signed by a licensed medical or mental health practitioner;
2. For non-medical absences, submitting **appropriate documentation** (e.g., obituary, police report, accident report, court order, etc.) to their Academic Advisor. Students are encouraged to contact their Academic Advisor to clarify what documentation is acceptable.

#### Request for Academic Consideration for a Medical Absence

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 their academic responsibilities. Minor ailments typically treated by over-the-counter medications will not normally be accommodated.

The following conditions apply for students seeking academic accommodation on medical grounds:

1. Students must submit their Student Medical Certificate (SMC) 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. An SMC can be downloaded from [https://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic\\_policies/appeals/medicalform.pdf](https://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/medicalform.pdf);
2. In cases where there might be an extended absence or serious issue, students should submit their documentation promptly and consult their Academic Advisor for advice during their recovery period;
3. Whenever possible, students who require academic accommodation should provide notification and documentation in advance of due dates, scheduled tests or examinations, and other academic requirements;
4. Students **must** communicate with their instructors **no later than 24 hours** after the end of the period covered by the SMC to clarify how they will fulfil the academic expectations they may have missed during the absence;
5. Appropriate academic accommodation will be determined by the Dean's Office/Academic Advisor in consultation with the course instructor(s). Academic accommodation may include extension of deadlines, waiver of attendance requirements, arranging Special Exams (make-ups), re-weighting

course requirements, or granting late withdrawal without academic penalty.

## 2. ACADEMIC CONCERNS

If you feel that you have a medical or personal challenge 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 are not normally considered.

If you think that you are too far behind to catch up or that your work load is not manageable, you should consult your Academic Advisor ([https://brescia.uwo.ca/enrolment\\_services/academic\\_advising/book\\_an\\_appointment.php](https://brescia.uwo.ca/enrolment_services/academic_advising/book_an_appointment.php)). If you consider reducing your workload by dropping one or more courses, this must be done by the appropriate deadlines; please contact your Academic Advisor or see the list of sessional dates in the Academic Calendar (<https://www.westerncalendar.uwo.ca/SessionalDates.cfm?SelectedCalendar=Live&ArchiveID=>).

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.*

## 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.

Please note that for asynchronous online courses, attendance or participation requirements may be different than for synchronous or in-person courses.

**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 and warranted.

It is important to note that the Academic 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 ([https://www.westerncalendar.uwo.ca/PolicyPages.cfm?Command=showCategory&PolicyCategoryID=5&SelectedCalendar=Live&ArchiveID=#Page\\_64](https://www.westerncalendar.uwo.ca/PolicyPages.cfm?Command=showCategory&PolicyCategoryID=5&SelectedCalendar=Live&ArchiveID=#Page_64)).

## 4. 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:

[https://www.westerncalendar.uwo.ca/PolicyPages.cfm?Command=showCategory&PolicyCategoryID=1&SelectedCalendar=Live&ArchiveID=#Page\\_20](https://www.westerncalendar.uwo.ca/PolicyPages.cfm?Command=showCategory&PolicyCategoryID=1&SelectedCalendar=Live&ArchiveID=#Page_20).

Students are responsible for understanding the nature of and avoiding the occurrence of plagiarism and other academic offences. 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 Scholastic Discipline for Undergraduate Students in the Academic Calendar.



If you are in doubt about whether what you are doing is inappropriate or not, consult your instructor, the Academic Dean's Office, 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.

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 is to be sent to the School Chair. If the response of the Chair is considered unsatisfactory to the student, they may then submit a written appeal to the Office of the Dean. If the student is not satisfied with the decision of the Dean, they may appeal to the Senate Review Board Academic (SRBA), if there are sufficient grounds for the appeal and if the matter falls within the jurisdiction of the SRBA. For information on academic appeals consult your Academic Advisor or see the Student Academic Appeals – Undergraduate in the Academic Calendar

[https://www.westerncalendar.uwo.ca/PolicyPages.cfm?Command=showCategory&PolicyCategoryID=1&SelectedCalendar=Live&ArchiveID=#Page\\_14](https://www.westerncalendar.uwo.ca/PolicyPages.cfm?Command=showCategory&PolicyCategoryID=1&SelectedCalendar=Live&ArchiveID=#Page_14).

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.

## **6. PREREQUISITES**

Unless you have either the prerequisites for a course or written Special Permission from the 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/>. Students can access supports through Brescia's

Student Life Centre (<http://brescia.uwo.ca/life/student-life/>) and Learning Development & Success at Western (<https://www.uwo.ca/sdc/learning/>).

### **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 obtain information about how to obtain help for yourself or others through **Health & Wellness at Brescia**, [https://brescia.uwo.ca/student\\_life/health\\_and\\_wellness/index.php](https://brescia.uwo.ca/student_life/health_and_wellness/index.php) and **Health and Wellness at Western**, [http://uwo.ca/health/mental\\_wellbeing/index.html](http://uwo.ca/health/mental_wellbeing/index.html).

### **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 [https://brescia.uwo.ca/safe\\_campus/sexual\\_violence/index.php](https://brescia.uwo.ca/safe_campus/sexual_violence/index.php).

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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.

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