

SOCIOLOGY 4406-001: Seminar in Sociology of Law and Criminology



Course Description

(NOTE: Not all topics listed here may be covered)

This course is an advanced study of the sociology of crime, moral regulation and deviance. The course also examines law and social control institutions and practices. Student-initiated research is involved. NOTE: The specific focus of this iteration of this course will be **privacy and surveillance through a sociological lens**.

Course Logistics

- Instructor: Bill Kirkpatrick, billkirkp@gmail.com (preferred) or b.kirkpatrick@uwinnipeg.ca. Do not use the Nexus email client to email me—I do **not** guarantee any response, much less a timely one, to messages sent through Nexus.
- Drop-In Hours: Tuesdays 1:00-2:00 p.m. and Fridays 11:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m., or by appointment. My office is 2RC34 (in the Richardson building, 599 Portage), but I hold drop-in hours in different locations; [to see where I will be for office hours on any given day, click here.](#)
- Schedule: The class meets Fridays, 2:30 - 5:15 p.m. The first day of class is Jan. 12; the last is Monday, Apr. 8, 2024 (note: Monday make-up day). The last day to withdraw from the course without academic penalty is Mar. 15.
- Format: The class will meet in person. A permitted or necessary change in mode of delivery may require adjustments to important aspects of course outlines, like class schedule and the number, nature, and weighting of assignments and/or exams.

Learning Goals

By the end of this course, you should:

- Have a solid understanding of a range of influential sociological approaches to questions of privacy and surveillance, particularly in relation to marginalized and vulnerable groups.
- Understand questions of privacy and surveillance not simply on their own terms but also as a site of economic, political, social, and technological struggle in local and global contexts.
- Understand our specific course content within a broader framework of the sociology of law and criminology.
- Be able to think critically and ethically about your own cultural and political engagement(s) with questions of privacy and surveillance as a citizen, a consumer, and a socially-produced subject.
- Improve your ability to engage with and produce original sociological research, including your ability to read relevant scholarship and contribute new knowledge on questions relevant to privacy and surveillance.

Required Materials

All course materials will be available through Nexus or the University of Winnipeg library.

Assignments

Late assignments will be penalized ½-grade per day (e.g. B+ to B).

Reading Summaries (rolling due dates)	16%
Paper Proposal (Feb. 18)	08%
Paper Synopsis (Mar. 15)	16%
Presentation Session (Apr. 8)	10%
Final Paper (Apr. 19)	35%
Class Participation/Engagement	15%

Daily Schedule

Readings/screenings should be completed by that day's class, and you should come prepared to discuss them.

Please don't work too far ahead: I reserve the right to change readings within a week of the assigned date in order to optimize student learning. Therefore, we may not get to all the topics listed on this course outline.

However, assignment due dates will not change.

Jan. 12 Introduction

Jan. 19 Ways of Thinking about Privacy Read: Fried, "[Privacy](#)"
Solove, "[Conceptualizing Privacy](#)," Sec. I (pp. 1093-1126)

Jan. 26 Ooops

Feb. 2 Private vs. Public Spheres Watch: "[Habermas & the Public Sphere](#)"
Read: Fraser, "[Rethinking the Public Sphere](#)"
Berlant & Warner, "[Sex in Public](#)"
Turn In: Paper Topic by Sunday, Feb. 4 at 10:00 p.m.

Feb. 9 Privacy as an Ethical and Moral Question Read: Allen, "[An Ethical Duty](#)"
Gaukroger, "[Privacy and the Importance of 'Getting Away With It'](#)"

Feb. 16 Surveillance and Control Read: Foucault, "[Panopticism](#)," pp. 184-197 (stop at "But this extension") plus final paragraph on pp. 213-4
Deleuze, "[Postscript to the Societies of Control](#)"
Rockwell et al., "[Ottawa's Use of Our Location Data](#)"
Turn In: Paper Proposal by Feb. 18 at 10:00 p.m.

— **READING PERIOD: FEB. 19-23** —

Mar. 1 Is Privacy a "Western" Value? Read: Nakada and Tamura, "[Japanese Conceptions of Privacy](#)"
Hongladarom, "[Africa and Ubuntu](#)"
Ma, "[Relational Privacy](#)"

Mar. 8 Big Data and State Surveillance Read: Fourcade & Gordon, "[Learning Like a State](#)"
Tunney, "[RCMP's Use of Facial Recognition Tech](#)"
Cushing, "[Documents Show](#)"

Mar. 15 No Class—time to work on synopsis Turn In: Paper Synopsis by 10:00 p.m.
NOTE: March 15 is the last day to withdraw without academic penalty

Mar. 22 Limits of Surveillance and Resistance Read: Scott, "[Everyday Forms of Resistance](#)," pp. 33-43 and 49-56
Solove & Hartzog, "[Kafka in the Age of AI](#)"
Cobbe, "[Algorithmic Censorship by Social Platforms](#),"
Sections 2 and 3 (pp. 743-761)

Mar. 29 No Class (university holiday)

Apr. 5 Surveillance Capitalism Listen: Zuboff, "[Beyond Surveillance Capitalism](#)"
Read: Doctorow, "[Privacy First](#)"

Apr. 8 Summary and Wrap-Up Listen: KERA, "[Is Privacy Still Possible?](#)"
NOTE: Paper Presentations Today

— **APR. 19: FINAL PAPER DUE BY 5:00 P.M.** —

Policies and Expectations

Your Attendance: Attendance is highly encouraged and will greatly enhance your own and others' class experience; it is also a major component of your "class engagement" grade. Furthermore, the in-class exercises (team roles) will not be possible to make up if you are absent.

My Attendance: When it is necessary for me to cancel a class due to exceptional circumstances, I will make every effort to inform students via Nexus and email as soon as possible.

Public Health: Students can find answers to updates and frequently asked questions related to COVID-19 here: <https://www.uwinnipeg.ca/covid-19/index.html>.

Preparation: Always have the day's readings ready to consult during class. The course outline will always state clearly what you should read prior to each class, which assignments you should hand in, and what else you must do or bring for a given day. Late assignments will be penalized by a half-grade for each 24 hours of lateness (e.g. from B+ to B). If you know that you will have difficulty completing an assignment on time, let me know before the deadline and I will work with you to the extent possible.

Written Work: Unless otherwise specified, all written work must be typed in twelve-point font, with one-inch margins on all sides, and double-spaced. Your name and the date of completion must be given at the top.

Assessment Criteria For Participation: Merely showing up and taking notes is not enough for your success in this class: I'll be looking for evidence of preparedness (e.g. referencing the readings), ability to make connections to other readings/discussions, effort to listen to and build on classmates' comments, and willingness to engage in critical thinking and dialog. You can also demonstrate class engagement in ways other than speaking in class (e.g. sending me your thoughts via email; coming to office hours to talk about ideas; sending me relevant items of interest; etc.). I am happy to provide periodic feedback during office hours as we progress through the course so that you can make adjustments as necessary.

Marks: The calculation of your mark will be based on a 1,000-point scale, and the weight of each assignment is listed above. Final grades shall be approved by the Department Review Committee and may be subject to change. If you are concerned about your mark, please come talk to me as early as possible. I will use the following scale:

A+	90-100%	EXCEPTIONAL. Demonstrated exceptional mastery of course material, together with exceptional skill and/or great originality in using knowledge and concepts from the course.
A	85-89.9%	EXCELLENT. Demonstrated thorough understanding of course material, together with very high degree of skill and/or considerable originality in using knowledge and concepts from the course.
A-	80-84.9%	OUTSTANDING. Demonstrated very high level of understanding of course material, together with high degree of skill and/or originality in using knowledge and concepts from the course.
B+	75-79.9%	VERY GOOD. Demonstrated high level of understanding of course material, together with reasonably high degree of skill and/or originality in using knowledge and concepts from the course.
B	70-74.9%	GOOD. Demonstrated above-average level of facility with course material, together with reasonable skill and/or originality in using knowledge and concepts from the course.
C+	65-69.9%	COMPETENT. Demonstrated acceptable level of facility with course material, together with fair skill and/or originality in using knowledge and concepts from the course.
C	60-64.9%	FAIRLY COMPETENT. Demonstrated acceptable familiarity with course material, together with adequate skill and/or originality in using knowledge and concepts from the course.
D	50-59.9%	PASSING. Demonstrated minimal grasp of course material, together with minimal skill and/or originality in using knowledge and concepts from the course.
F	0-49.9%	FAILING. Demonstrated insufficient knowledge of course material, together with inadequate skill and/or originality in using knowledge and concepts from the course.

Communication Policy: I will regularly use email and/or Nexus to send out announcements, changes in the schedule, reminders about due dates, etc. It is your responsibility to check your email and the Nexus announcements page regularly to keep up-to-date with these announcements. I prefer billkirkp@gmail.com but b.kirkpatrick@uwinnipeg.ca will work too. Do **NOT** email me through Nexus: I do not guarantee **any** response to messages sent via the Nexus email client. Except when I have given you advance notice, or in rare cases of personal or family emergency, I promise to answer all email from students within 24 hours (36 hours on weekends) and will hold you responsible for any

announcements made via email within 24 hours of the announced change (36 hours on weekends). Please keep in mind that more involved questions should be asked in drop-in hours, not email.

Assignments: As a senior seminar, this course is based on reading notes, class discussion, and a final paper. There is an in-class presentation on Apr. 8; this can only be made up in cases of verified emergency. Proper certification includes: notes from licensed medical professionals; evidence of legal responsibility (e.g., compulsion to testify in legal proceedings); and notes from the U of W Counseling Services Office. In case of bereavement or personal events of a tragic nature, please provide documentation from any of those three sources, including that person's contact information. In case of a health issue, your note need not give any specific medical information but must attest to the legitimacy of the absence.

Absences for Religious Observance: Students may choose not to attend classes or turn in assignments on holy days of their religion, but they must notify me at least two weeks in advance. A list of university-recognized religious holidays can be found at <http://uwinnipeg.ca/academics/calendar/docs/important-notes.pdf>.

Accessibility and Special Accommodations: I strive to make the class and my teaching materials as accessible as possible. Access needs will be addressed pre-emptively through the following strategies:

- Captions for in-class videos, and transcripts of audio material, will be provided whenever possible.
- Classes may be recorded with advanced notice to the instructor and the consent of the other students.
- Flexible deadlines are possible with advance notice.
- Class engagement will be evaluated through a variety of modalities: in-class discussion, contributing to Nexus, coming to student drop-in hours, etc.

It is important that the course be accessible to all students. Students with documented disabilities, temporary or chronic medical conditions, requiring academic accommodations for tests/exams (e.g., private space) or during lectures/laboratories (e.g., note-takers) are encouraged to contact Accessibility Services (AS) at 204-786-9771 or accessibilityservices@uwinnipeg.ca to discuss appropriate options. All information about a student's disability or medical condition remains confidential <http://www.uwinnipeg.ca/accessibility>. If you need any alternative accommodations in the curriculum, instruction, or evaluation procedures in order for you to be able to participate fully in the course, or if there are any external issues that may affect your work in this course, please contact me privately as soon as possible.

Academic Honesty and Non-Academic Misconduct: Students are encouraged to familiarize themselves with the regulations and policies found in the University of Winnipeg's Academic Calendar here. Special attention should be given to subsections 8 (Student Discipline), 9 (Senate Appeals), and 10 (Grade Appeals). Please note, in particular, the subsection of Student Discipline pertaining to plagiarism and other forms of cheating. Detailed information can be found at the following:

- <https://www.uwinnipeg.ca/policies/docs/policies/academic-misconduct-policy.pdf>
- <https://www.uwinnipeg.ca/policies/docs/procedures/academic-misconduct-procedures.pdf>
- <https://www.uwinnipeg.ca/policies/docs/policies/student-non-academic-misconduct-policy.pdf>
- <https://www.uwinnipeg.ca/policies/docs/procedures/student-non-academic-misconduct-procedures.pdf>

I also encourage you to view the University of Winnipeg library video tutorial "[Avoiding Plagiarism.](#)"

Misuse of AI and Filesharing Sites: Unless otherwise explicitly stated, students are not permitted to use artificial intelligence (AI) tools (such as ChatGPT) at any stage of their work in this class, and you may face an allegation of academic misconduct if you use such tools in your assignments. Uploading essays and other assignments to essay vendor or trader sites (filesharing sites that are known providers of essays for use by others who submit them to instructors as their own work) is highly problematic, and students who do this can be charged with Academic Misconduct. I'm happy to have a conversation with you about the ethics of participating on such sites.

Respectful Learning Environment: Students are expected to conduct themselves in a respectful manner on campus and in the learning environment irrespective of platform being used. Behaviour, communication, or acts that are inconsistent with a number of UW policies (e.g., [Respectful Working and Learning Environment Policy](#), [Acceptable Use of Information Technology Policy](#)) could be considered "non-academic" misconduct. Detailed information can be found [here](#) and [here](#).

Privacy: You have rights in relation to the collection of your personal data by the University; [see here](#). There are also protections in place regarding in-class testing, so you should also be aware of policies in that regard.

Copyright: The University requires me to including the following: "Course materials are owned by the instructor who developed them. Examples of such materials are course outlines, assignment descriptions, lecture notes, test questions, and presentation slides. Students who upload these materials to filesharing sites, or in any other way share these materials with others outside the class without prior permission of the instructor/presenter, are in violation of copyright law and University policy. Students must also seek prior permission of the instructor/presenter before photographing or recording slides, presentations, lectures, and notes on the board." Unfortunately, this UW-provided statement is not an entirely accurate invocation of Canadian copyright law. For example, in claiming that prior permission must *always* be sought, the statement fails to acknowledge "fair dealing" exceptions when no prior permission is required. I wish the University's statement would emphasize fair dealing as strongly as it asserts the supposed extent and sanctity of copyright. In any case, in keeping with the University's mission as an educational institution, I encourage you to freely share my course materials, your class notes, etc. as you see fit.

Holidays: The University is closed for the following holidays: February 19 (Louis Riel Day), March 29 (Good Friday).

MY OFFICE

(but note: always check Where Is Bill Today? for where to find me in office hours):

RICHARDSON BUILDING
599 PORTAGE AVENUE
OFFICE 2RC34

