

THE UNIVERSITY OF CALGARY
Department of Sociology

Soci 327 L02
INTRODUCTION TO CRIMINAL JUSTICE
Fall 2009

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Class Hours: Tues/Thurs 8:00-9:15, ST 135

Office Hours: Tu/Th 9:30-10:30

COURSE DESCRIPTION:

The Canadian criminal justice system costs taxpayers billions of dollars each year; however, polls suggest that a significant proportion of Canadians believe that crime is increasing and, in many areas, the justice system has failed. Are they right? This course will introduce students to the structure and operation of the system that addresses the problem of crime, including such key elements as the police, courts and corrections. We will examine the various stages in the criminal justice process, from how crime is defined, to how it is dealt with by the police, the courts, the extent and nature of victim participation, and finally, correctional institutions. Selected issues and debates in the administration of justice will emphasize the concern with discretion, accountability, and the impact that various decision-makers have on the criminal justice system.

REQUIRED READING:



Goff, Colin. 2007. *Criminal Justice in Canada* (4th edition). Scarborough: Nelson Thomson Canada Limited.

This textbook has a website with on-line self-help quizzes, as well as other criminal justice resources @ <http://www.goffcrimjustice4e.nelson.com/student/test.html>

COURSE REQUIREMENTS:

First test	Oct. 6	30%
Second Test	Nov. 10	30%
Final	TBA	40%

(Registrar controlled exam period)

Please read carefully

There will be three, non-cumulative examinations and each will cover all course material. Students are therefore responsible for all components of the course (including lectures, guest speaker presentations, class exercises, assigned readings, videos, etc.). If, for whatever reason, you are unable to attend class, please consult with your colleagues in order to "catch up" on the material you have missed. There will be no provision for make-up exams or other work for the purpose of improving grades. Be sure that you note the date of the mid-term and the final exam (during the December exam period, Dec. 11-21) **before** you make any travel plans. Please read the administrative notices which follow for information regarding a missed exam and other issues of importance.

Laptops in the classroom:

If you own a laptop, it can be a very effective tool for taking notes in class. Unfortunately, in the past some students who bring laptops to class use them to access the Internet, watch videos, play solitaire, etc. This is very distracting to the professor and students around them. Accordingly, using your laptop for purposes other than taking notes will be considered inappropriate behavior. Students caught violating the policy will be asked to cease doing so and may be disallowed from using a laptop in future classes.

Administrative Information:**Deferrals:**

If at all possible you must provide advance notice to the instructor if you are unable to take a test or pass in an assignment or essay on time. All requests for deferral of a course component due to health reasons must be accompanied by written documentation as outlined in the University Calendar and should be obtained while the student has the physical or emotional problem rather than after recovery. Deferrals will be allowed in the following circumstances: illness, domestic affliction or religious conviction. Travel arrangements and misreading of the syllabus are not valid reasons for requesting a deferral. Deferrals will not be granted if it is determined that just cause is not shown by the student.

If you have missed a test for a legitimate reason, the instructor can require you to write a "make up" test as close in time to the original test as possible or can choose to transfer the percentage weight to another course component. If the instructor schedules a "make up" test for you, its date and location will be at the convenience of the Sociology Department.

Please note that requests to defer a final examination or to defer term work past the end of a term go through the Undergraduate Programs Office (UPO) and must be processed by the deadlines that are established in the U. of C. Calendar. You can find the forms you need at:

Deferred Final Exam Application:

<http://www.ucalgary.ca/registrar/files/registrar/Winter2008DEFERREDFINALEXAMINATIONS.pdf>

Deferred Term Work Form:

<http://www.ucalgary.ca/registrar/files/registrar/defTW.pdf>

You must submit these deferral forms to the Social Sciences Associate Dean (Students) through the UPO office: Undergraduate Programs Office, 4th Floor, MacEwan Student Centre.

Only the Associate Dean approves requests for deferrals which extend beyond the end of a term. Instructors are not involved in such decisions. To make an appointment with the Associate Dean, phone (403) 220-8155.

Ethics Research: Students are advised that any research with human subjects--including any interviewing (even with friends and family), opinion polling, or unobtrusive observation--must have the approval of the Departmental Ethics Committee. In completing course requirements, students must not undertake any human subjects research without discussing their plans with the instructor, to determine if ethics approval is required.

Academic Misconduct: Plagiarism, cheating and other academic misconduct are regarded as serious academic offenses. Students are advised to consult the University Calendar, which presents a Statement of Intellectual Honesty and definitions and penalties associated with cheating, plagiarism, and other academic misconduct.

The Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy (FOIP) legislation disallows the practice of having students retrieve assignments from a public place, e.g., outside an instructor's office or the Department main office. Term assignments must be returned to students individually, during class, or during the instructor's office hours; if a student is unable to pick up her/his assignment s/he may provide the instructor with a stamped, self-addressed envelope to be used for the return of the assignment.

Safewalk: The University of Calgary provides a "safe walk" service to any location on Campus, including the LRT, parking lots, bus zones, and campus housing. For Campus Security/Safewalk call 220-5333. Campus Security can also be contacted from any of the "Help" phones located around Campus.

Academic Accommodation: Students with a disability, who require academic accommodation, need to register with the Disability Resource Centre (MC 295, telephone 220-8237). Academic accommodation letters need to be provided to course instructors no later than fourteen (14) days after the first day of class. It is a student's responsibility to register with the Disability Resource Centre and to request academic accommodation, if required.

Emergency evacuations: In the case of fire or other emergency evacuation of this classroom/lab, please proceed to the assembly point by the Food Court in the Professional Faculties Building.

Letter Grade Assignment:

A letter-grade will be assigned to each student at the end of the semester and submitted to the registrar. Your letter-grade will be assigned according to the following scale:

A+ 95–100	B+ 80-84	C+ 67-69	D+ 54-58
A 90-94	B 75-79	C 63-66	D 50-53
A- 85-89	B- 70-74	C- 59-62	F 49 or less

Note: The grades for a course component may be scaled to maintain equity among sections and to conform to departmental norms.

Handing in Papers Outside of Class, Return of Final Papers, and Release of Final Grades:

1. When students are unable to submit papers at class, they should make arrangements to hand in their papers directly to the instructor or teaching assistant rather than at the Sociology Department main office.
2. Final papers will not be returned through the Sociology Department main office. The Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy (FOIP) legislation disallows the practice of having students retrieve assignments from a public place, (i.e., outside an instructor's office, the department office, etc.). Students who want their final papers returned by mail must attach a stamped, self-addressed envelope with the paper. Otherwise final papers will only be available for pick-up during the instructor's office hours at the end of this term or the beginning of the next term.
3. Final grades are not posted by the Sociology department. They are only available online.

Syllabus and Readings

Date	Topic	Readings
Sept. 8-10	<i>Introduction to the Criminal Justice System (CJS)</i>	Chap. 1
Sept. 15-22	<i>Criminal Law, Criminal Justice & the Public</i>	Chap. 2 Chap. 3 (omit pgs. 80-83 & 84) Chap. 4 (pgs. 114-116)
Sept. 24-Oct. 1	<i>Policing: organization</i>	Chap. 5 (omit pgs.144-146)
Oct. 6	First test <i>Location TBA</i>	
Oct. 8-15	<i>Policing: issues of concern</i>	Chap. 6 (omit pgs.175-176)
Oct. 20-27	<i>Courts: structure, use of juries</i>	Chap. 7 Chap. 8
Oct. 29-Nov. 5	<i>Courts: Sentencing</i>	Chap. 9 (omit pgs. 262-265 & pgs. 272-274)
Nov. 10	Second test <i>Location TBA</i>	
Nov. 12	Reading Days	
Nov. 17-19	<i>Sentencing: Victim participation</i>	Chap. 9 (pgs. 272-274)
Nov. 24	<i>Alternatives to prison: specialized courts, options</i>	Chap. 10

Nov. 26-Dec. 1	<i>Corrections: structure, history</i>	Chap. 11 (omit pgs. 317-318 & pgs. 322-324)
Dec. 3	<i>Community Reintegration</i>	Chap. 12
Dec. 8	<i>Aboriginal Peoples / Conclusion</i>	Chap. 3 (pgs. 80-84) Chap. 5 (pgs. 144-146) Chap. 6 (pgs. 175-176) Chap. 9 (pgs. 262-265) Chap. 11 (pgs. 317-318 & pgs. 322-324)

Note: The specific dates of the topics may vary.