



UNIVERSITY OF CALGARY

Faculty of Arts
Department of Sociology

Sociology Department Home Page: <http://www.soci.ucalgary.ca>

SOCI327 INTRODUCTION TO CRIMINAL JUSTICE

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| • FALL | • M/W/F 2-2:50pm | • ENA201 |
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Instructor: Dr. Michael Adorjan
Office: SS 952, Social Science Tower
Email: madorjan@ucalgary.ca
Office Hours: by appointment

Course Description

This course is both a general introduction to and sociological critique of criminal justice. Broad areas are examined, including policing, juvenile justice, corrections, as well as alternatives to the formal criminal justice system such as restorative justice. Questions are raised regarding the differences between formal and informal responses to crime and their consequences.

“A simple; explanation; for anything important; any of us do. ...Quickly, follow the unknown; with something more familiar.” –The Tragically Hip, Courage

Attention is given to both Canadian and international trends. Seeking to instill a broad *sociological imagination* about criminal justice systems and processes, lectures and readings will also examine perceptions and related reactions to crime, with a focus on penal populism as well as the controversial argument that crime serves a purpose and role in modern society. In exploring these areas, the course also asks how emotional reactions to crime come to influence how we think about certain offenders and how we respond to their offences.

Course Objectives/Learning Outcomes

By the end of this course students will be expected to:

- Challenge common sense notions of crime and the criminal justice system
- Illustrate knowledge of how to think sociologically about the problem of crime and criminal justice system processes
- Demonstrate their command of current trends and events related to criminal justice systems in both Canada and the United States

Required Textbooks, Readings, Materials

A custom course pack, ordered through *Bound and Copied*, is required for this course. [information will be revised here as details of pricing become available]

Methods of Evaluation

- 25% Term Test#1: October 26th
- 35% Term Test#2: November 19th
- 40% Final Exam [90 minutes, set by registrar]

Assessment Components

Term Tests

60% of final grade

Two multiple choice tests will be administered during regular lecture time, in class, on October 26th and November 19th. Directions for study and review will be posted along with each set of lecture notes (e.g., key concepts, themes, etc.). While multiple choice tests have a reputation for testing the memorization of facts, questions will be geared to test analytical and critical thinking skills. In addition to testing content from required readings, you will be accountable for information covered in class that is additional to required readings (e.g., current statistical trends in crime discussed in class and included in lecture notes). Lecture time will be spent on review for both term tests. When in doubt about how to focus your studying, please use the posted midterm review guide and lecture notes as a guide, especially the key concepts which will be highlighted in these notes. The two tests are not cumulative: each will cover a specific range of readings and topics.

Final Exam

40% of final grade

The final exam, set for 90 minutes and to be scheduled by the registrar's office, is cumulative and WILL test knowledge from all required readings and lecture notes and discussions. In addition to testing content from required readings, you will be accountable for information covered in class that is additional to required readings (e.g., current statistical trends in crime discussed in class and included in lecture notes). The date of the final exam will be announced according to regular examination timetabling procedures. The format will be written, not multiple choice: 50% short answer/definition questions and 50% critical reflection questions. Details will be discussed during lecture.

Grading Scale

Letter grades will be assigned and submitted to the registrar based on the following scale:

Grade	Percent range	Grade Point Value	Description
A+	96 – 100%	4.0	Outstanding performance
A	90 – 95.99%	4.0	Excellent-superior performance
A-	85 – 89.99%	3.7	
B+	80 – 84.99%	3.3	
B	75 – 79.99%	3.0	Good – clearly above average performance
B-	70 – 74.99%	2.7	
C+	67 – 69.99%	2.3	
C	63 – 66.99%	2.0	Satisfactory - basic understanding
C-	59 – 62.99%	1.7	
D+	55 – 58.99%	1.3	
D	50 – 54.99%	1.0	Minimal pass - marginal performance
F	<50%	0	unsatisfactory performance

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

LECTURES AND READINGS

The following lists lectures topics and required readings which will be covered in this course. A course pack for all required readings, [pricing information will be updated here], is available from *Bound and Copied*.

Students are encouraged to refer to D2L for all lecture notes, exam review material and additional supplementary readings, links, videos, etc. Lecture notes will *normally* be posted before lecture times to allow students to download the document and take notes. While every effort will be made to provide lecture notes in advance of lectures, this may not be possible before every class. Lecture notes are posted in PDF form in order to ensure compatibility for all students and to safeguard against misappropriation.

Holidays this term relating to this courses' schedule are October 8th for Thanksgiving, November 11th for Remembrance Day, and the remainder of that week (including November 14th and 16th) for midterm break. There are no lectures these dates.

The following lecture outline lists topics and required readings. The lectures will proceed in the following order, though the exact pace of lectures and scheduling will be determined as the class progresses.

1 – Course Introduction

No required readings

2 – The “Americanization” of the Canadian criminal justice system?

Colin Goff. (2014). *Criminal Justice in Canada*, ch. 1: An Overview of the Criminal Justice System in Canada, pp. 1-5, Toronto: Nelson.

3 – Crime as Normal in Modern Societies

Thomas Bernard, Jeffrey Snipes and Alexander Gerould. (2010). Crime as Normal in Modern Societies. Pp. 116-120 in *Vold's Theoretical Criminology (6th Ed.)*. Oxford: Oxford University Press.

4 – Crime Does Not Exist

Nils Christie. (2004). A Suitable Amount of Crime, pp.4-6, 10-12, London: Routledge.

5 – Public Perceptions of CJ part 1: Crime rates, crime trends, and perceptions of crime in Canada

Goff (2017) *Criminal Justice in Canada (7th ed.)*. Nelson. Crime rates, crime trends, and criminal victimization in Canada. Pp. 114-129.

6 – Public Perceptions of CJ part 2: Penal populism and criminal justice reactions to public opinion

Julian Roberts, Loretta Stalans, David Indermaur, Mike Hough. (2003). Ch.1, pp. 3-5: "Penal Populism in context" and Ch.1, pp. 12-15: "Summary of International Crime Trends", in *Penal Populism and Public Opinion. Lessons from five countries*. Oxford: Oxford University Press.

7 – Policing: The Impossible Mandate

Peter Manning. 1977. Ch.1., The Symbolization of Police Work, pp. 3-22, in *Police Work*. Cambridge: MIT Press.

8 – Policing Modern Society: Paradigms of policing

Goff – 2017 - *Criminal Justice in Canada (7th ed.)*. Nelson. The practice of policing. Pp. 181-184; 190-199; The police and the law. p. 231-232

9 – Zero Tolerance Policing, New York City Style

No required readings

10 – Prison and Prisonization: Inmate Society

Colin Goff (2014) *Criminal Justice in Canada*, ch. 11: Prison and Prisonization, pp. 377-381, Toronto: Nelson

11 – Corrections in Canada

Goff – 2017 - *Criminal Justice in Canada (7th ed.)*. Nelson. Corrections in Canada. Pp. 399-408, 412-413

Shook & McInnis – 2017 – Forecast for change by prisoners of the Canadian carceral state. *Journal of Prisoners on Prisons*, Volume 26(1&2), 2017, pp. 269-302

12 – Reintegrative Shaming and Restorative Justice

Goff – 2017 - *Criminal Justice in Canada (7th ed.)*. Nelson. Control Philosophy and Criminal Justice Policy. Pp. 99-102

13 – Restorative Justice in Canada

Scott Kenney. 2010. Chapter 7: Restorative Justice (with Don Clairmont), pp. 173-204 in Canadian Victims of Crime: Critical Insights, Toronto: Canadian Scholars' Press Inc.

University Policies, Protocols and Classroom Guidelines

Grade Reappraisal

Within two weeks of the date the exam/assignment is returned, students seeking reappraisal of examinations or assignments must submit a written response to the instructor explaining the basis for reconsideration of one's mark. The instructor will reconsider the grade assigned and will then book a time with the student to discuss his or her work and rationale. It should be noted that a re-assessed grade may be raised, lowered, or remain the same. The main Sociology Department office does not deal with any course-related matters. Please speak directly to your instructor.

Technology Use

Students are encouraged to bring their electronic devices to class (e.g. laptops, smartphones, tablets, etc.) to assist with note taking and learning. Students are expected NOT to distract other students by browsing social media sites, watching any videos, answering phone calls or text messages (unless emergencies), playing video games, or any other activity that would distract other students either through audio or video content. All devices must be set to buzzer or silent mode during the lecture.

Email

Questions and comments are always welcome about all aspects of this course. Please state your full name and course at the beginning of your email (this helps as I teach multiple courses, often with large enrollments). While every attempt will be made to respond to emailed inquiries promptly (e.g. questions about a forthcoming assignment, specific theories and concepts, etc.), A WINDOW OF THREE (3) DAYS MAXIMUM, NOT INCLUDING WEEKENDS should be anticipated for a response. Students should bear this in mind if last minute questions or issues arise, especially before any mid-terms and/or end-term examinations.

Emergency Evacuations

In the case of fire or other emergency evacuation of this classroom, please proceed to the assembly point at ICT - Food Court. Please check these assembly point locations for all of your classes at: <http://www.ucalgary.ca/emergencyplan/assemblypoints>

Handing in Papers, Assignments

1. The main Sociology Department office does not deal with any course-related matters. Please speak directly to your instructor.
2. **Protection of Privacy:** The Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy (FOIPP) legislation does not allow students to retrieve any course material from public places. Anything that requires handing back will be returned directly during class or office hours. If students are unable to pick up their assignments from the instructor, they provide the instructor with a stamped, self-addressed envelope to be used for the return of the assignment.
3. Final grades are not posted by the Sociology Department. They are only available online.

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 Faculty 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. That said, there is no expectation that students engage in research with human subjects for this course, and are advised against doing so given the time required to retrieve ethics approval.

Academic Misconduct

Please refer to the website listed below for information on University of Calgary policies on Plagiarism/Cheating/Other Academic Misconduct:
<http://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/k-5.html>

Deferrals

When possible, please provide advance notice if you are unable to write an exam or complete/turn-in assignments 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 health issue rather than after recovery. Deferrals will be allowed in the following circumstances: illness, domestic affliction or religious conviction. Travel arrangements, misreading the syllabus, and scheduling conflicts with other classes or employment 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 Department of Sociology.

Deferred Final Exam Form: Please note that requests to defer a Registrar scheduled final exam are dealt with through the Registrar’s Office. Further information about deadlines, and where paperwork should be taken, is available on the form, which can be found at:
<https://www.ucalgary.ca/registrar/student-forms>

Deferred Term Work Form: Deferral of term work past the end of a term also requires a form to be filled out. It’s available at
https://www.ucalgary.ca/registrar/files/registrar/deferred_termwork15_0.pdf

Once an extension date has been agreed between instructor and student, the form should be taken to the Faculty of Arts Program Information Centre (SS 110) for approval by an Associate Dean (Students).

Student Representation

The 2018-2019 Students’ Union VP Academic is Jessica Revington (suvpaca@ucalgary.ca).

For more information, and to contact other elected officials with the Student’s Union, please visit this link: <https://www.su.ucalgary.ca/about/who-we-are/elected-officials/>

You may also wish to contact the Student Ombudsperson for help with a variety of University-related matters: <http://www.ucalgary.ca/ombuds/contact>

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

The student accommodation policy can be found at: ucalgary.ca/access/accommodations/policy.

Students needing an Accommodation because of a Disability or medical condition should communicate this need to Student Accessibility Services in accordance with the Procedure for Accommodations for Students with Disabilities ucalgary.ca/policies/files/policies/student-accommodation-policy.

Students needing an Accommodation based on a Protected Ground other than Disability, should communicate this need, preferably in writing, to the course instructor.

Student Resources

[SU Wellness Centre](https://www.ucalgary.ca/wellnesscentre/) (<https://www.ucalgary.ca/wellnesscentre/>)

[Campus Mental Health Strategy](https://www.ucalgary.ca/mentalhealth/) (<https://www.ucalgary.ca/mentalhealth/>)