

**THE UNIVERSITY OF CALGARY**  
**Department of Sociology**  
**Soci 327 L20**  
**INTRODUCTION TO CRIMINAL JUSTICE**  
**Spring 2012**

**Instructor:** M. Belle-McQuillan

**Office:** SS 950

**Office Hours:** Tuesdays & Thursdays, 12:00-1:00

**Class Hours:** T/TH 9:00-11:50, EDC 386

**Phone:** 403-220-6513

**e-mail:** [mbellemc@ucalgary.ca](mailto:mbellemc@ucalgary.ca)

***COURSE DESCRIPTION:***

The Canadian criminal justice system costs taxpayers billions of dollars each year; however, a poll from 2010 finds that a significant proportion of Canadians believe that, 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 by focusing on the key components of the system (police, courts, and corrections). We will examine the various stages in the criminal justice process, from how crime is defined to how we deal with the convicted offender in Canada. 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:***

Available in **University bookstore:**

1. **Custom Pkg:** shrink-wrapped combo of Griffiths - Canadian Criminal Justice A Primer combined with Selected Chapter (3) Criminal Justice in Canada by Goff.

**Note:** this custom course package is a combination of Curt Griffiths' text Canadian Criminal Justice A Primer (2011, 4<sup>th</sup> edition) and Chapter 3 of Colin Goff's Criminal Justice in Canada (2011, 5<sup>th</sup> edition). The publisher has bound together the two required readings to make it easier to purchase.

Available **On-line** (a quick link to each of these will be placed on the course BB site):

1. \_\_\_\_\_. 2009. "Prisoners of politics less crime, more punishment." *The Economist*. (2 pages)
2. de Rugy, Veronique. July, 2011. "Prison math What are the costs and benefits of leading the world in locking up human beings?" *Reason Online*. (3 pages)
3. Barnett, Laura, Tanya Dupuis, Cynthia Kirkby, Robin MacKay, Julia Nicol, Julie Béchar. February, 2012. "Legislative Summary of Bill C-10: An Act to enact the Justice for Victims of Terrorism Act and to amend the State Immunity Act, the Criminal Code, the Controlled Drugs and Substances Act, the Corrections and Conditional Release Act, the Youth Criminal Justice Act, the Immigration and Refugee Protection Act and other Acts." Library of Parliament Research Publications (read Introduction).

**COURSE REQUIREMENTS:**

Midterm .....	May 29 .....	30%
Group Presentation .....	variable dates .....	18%
Participation .....		12%
Final Exam .....	TBA .....	40%

(Registrar-controlled exam period)

**Note:** Midterm on May 29 will take place in the first 75 minutes of class. Class (lecture) will begin at 10:30.

***Please read carefully***

There will be two non-cumulative examinations and each will cover the full variety of course material (including lectures, possible guest speakers, class exercises, assigned readings, videos, etc.). Therefore 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 (Spring exam period June 25-27) **before** you make any travel plans. Please read the administrative notices which follow on page 3 for information regarding missed exams and other issues of importance.

**Participation:**

The participation component for the course will be based upon the completion of a number of in-class exercises and one Blackboard-based quiz. The BB-based quiz must be completed by May 17<sup>th</sup> and is worth 4% of your participation grade. The in-class exercises will be unannounced and take place sporadically throughout the session. Each exercise is worth a possible 2%, with students expected to complete 4 of the 6 in-class exercises for a maximum total of 8%. There will be no make-ups for students who miss an in-class exercise.

**Group Presentations:**

The group presentations will involve a critical analysis of the way in which television shows and movies portray aspects of the criminal justice system. The presentation dates will vary dependent upon the criminal justice topic being discussed in class [e.g. the notion of justice, policing, courts, corrections, victims, etc.] The exact schedule for the presentations (specific dates and topics) will be posted on the BB site once class size has been finalized. The first of the presentations will take place on May 24. Full details about what is expected in the presentation will be given in class and posted on the BB site.

**Electronic Devices in the classroom:**

Personal electronic devices can be very effective tools for taking notes in class. Unfortunately some students use them for non-academic purposes [e.g. checking email or Facebook, texting, watching videos, playing games, etc.] This is very distracting to the professor and other students around them. Accordingly, using electronic devices for purposes other than taking notes will be

considered disruptive behaviour. Without prior written approval, students are not permitted to record (audio or visual) any portion of the lecture. Students caught violating this policy will be asked to cease doing so and may be prohibited from using any electronic device in future classes. Repeated abuses may result in further discipline under the University's Non-Academic Misconduct Policy

[<http://www.ucalgary.ca/registrar/files/registrar/Non-Academic%20Misconduct%20Policy%20-%20approved%20by%20GFC%202010-02-04.pdf> - section 4.9]

### **Administrative Information:**

**Emergency evacuations:** In the case of fire or other emergency evacuation of this classroom, please proceed to the primary assembly point in Scurfield Hall - Atrium.

### **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 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:

[http://ucalgary.ca/registrar/files/registrar/APP%20FOR%20DF%20EXAM\\_0.pdf](http://ucalgary.ca/registrar/files/registrar/APP%20FOR%20DF%20EXAM_0.pdf)

#### *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 <http://www.ucalgary.ca/registrar/files/registrar/defTW.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 (temporarily relocated to SS 203) for approval by an Associate Dean (Students).

**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 offences. 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.

<http://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/k.html>

**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. Written 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.

**Office of the Student Ombuds:**

<http://www.su.ucalgary.ca/services/student-services/student-rights.html>

**Academic Accommodation:** Students with a disability, who require academic accommodation, need to register with the Disability Resource Centre (MacEwan Student Centre 293, 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.**

**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

**Note: specific page assignments from each chapter can be found in the Detailed Reading file on the course BB site**

<b>Date</b>	<b>Topic</b>	<b>Readings</b>
May 10	<b><i>Introduction to the Criminal Justice System (CJS)</i></b>	Chap. 1 segment from Chap. 7
May 15	<b><i>Criminal Law &amp; Criminal Justice</i></b>	Chap. 2 on-line readings
May 17	<b><i>Control Philosophy &amp; Criminal Justice Policy</i></b>	Chapter Three: Custom Course Material by Goff
May 22	<b><i>Policing: organization</i></b>	Chap. 3 & 5
May 24	<b><i>Policing: issues of concern</i></b>	Chap. 4 segment from Chap. 3
May 29	<b><i>Mid-term (*first 75 minutes of class)</i></b>	
May 29	<b><i>Courts: structure</i></b>	Chap. 6
May 31	<b><i>Courts: juries</i></b>	Chap. 7
June 5	<b><i>Courts: sentencing</i></b>	Chap. 8
June 7	<b><i>Victim participation in the CJS</i></b>	segments from Chap. 2, 7, & 8

June 12	<b><i>Alternatives to prison: specialized courts, options</i></b>	segment from Chap. 6 Chap. 9
June 14	<b><i>Correctional institutions</i></b>	Chap. 10
June 19	<b><i>Release and Reentry</i></b>	Chap. 11
June 21	<b><i>Aboriginal Peoples</i></b>	segments from different chapters

Note: The specific dates of the topics may vary as the course progresses.

Final exam period: June 27-29