

UNIVERSITY OF CALGARY
Department of Sociology

Sociology 421.12 L03
Sociology of Corrections
Fall 2009

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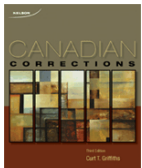
Class Hours: M/W/F 1:00-1:50, SB 105

Office Hours: W/F 10:30-12:30 or email
for appointment

COURSE DESCRIPTION:

This course provides a sociological analysis of efforts to respond to crime. Various topics will be covered including the history of punishment (penology) and corrections, alternatives to confinement, correctional institutions and administration, the inmate prison experience, release, and reentry. Our final topic will examine a selection of current and future challenges faced by corrections. While the emphasis is on the Canadian system, we will use a comparative perspective by examining features of correctional systems in a number of other societies.

REQUIRED READINGS:



Griffiths, Curt T. 2010. *Canadian Corrections* (3rd edition). Toronto: Nelson Education Limited.

Note: this is a **new** edition of the textbook and the one I will be using in class.

Additional readings – a complete list of the additional readings can be found on the detailed course outline posted on Blackboard.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS:

| | |
|-----------------------------|-----|
| Participation | 10% |
| Essay variable | 20% |
| Midterm Oct. 23 | 30% |
| Final TBA* | 40% |

* Registrar-controlled December exam period

Please read carefully

There will be two, non-cumulative examinations, and both examinations will cover course material regardless of format. 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 are included for information regarding a missed exam and other issues of importance.

Written Assignment:

Twenty percent of your grade will be based on a critical analysis of a movie which depicts some aspect of corrections in conjunction with the material covered in the course. Complete details about this written assignment will be available in the first week of classes and will be posted on the BB course site.

Participation:

The participation component for the course will be based upon both in-class discussion, exercises and Blackboard (BB) course site participation. Further information regarding the participation grade can be found in the discussion board section of the BB site.

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.

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

Research Ethics: 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:

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

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. 9-16 | <i>Introduction to the Sociology of Corrections</i> | Griffiths, Ch. 1 |
| Sept. 18-30 | <i>History of Punishment & Corrections</i> | Griffiths, Ch. 2 Foucault <i>The Body of the Condemned</i> |
| Oct. 2-Oct. 9 | <i>Alternatives to Confinement</i> | Griffiths, Ch. 3 |
| Oct. 12 | <i>Thanksgiving Holiday</i> | |
| Oct. 14-21 | <i>Correctional Institutions</i> | Griffiths, Ch. 4 (exclude pgs. 154-166 at this time) Griffiths, Ch. 5 Hassine A Hitchhiker's Guide ... PEW Center <i>One in 100:...</i> Harris <i>Millhaven</i> Silverberg <i>Prison Guards</i> |
| Oct. 23 | Mid-term Exam | |

| | | |
|--------------------|---|---|
| Oct. 26- Nov. 4 | <i>The Inmate Experience</i> | Griffiths, Ch. 6 (exclude pgs. 226-233, 239-243 at this time) Griffiths, Ch. 7 (pgs. 250-267) Hassine <i>The Underground Economy</i> Harris <i>Higher and Higher</i> |
| Nov. 6-9 | <i>Female Inmate Experience</i> | Griffiths, Ch. 6 (pgs. 229-233, pgs. 239-240, & pgs. 242-243) Hannah-Moffat <i>Stumbling Blocks ...</i> |
| Nov. 11-13 | Remembrance Day <i>Reading days</i> | |
| Nov. 16-25 | <i>Prison Violence</i> | Griffiths, Ch. 4 (pgs. 154-158) Griffiths, Ch. 6 (pgs. 226-229) Welch <i>Reproducing Prison Violence</i> |
| Nov. 27-Dec. 4 | <i>Release & Reentry</i> | Griffiths, Ch. 7 (pgs. 268-285) Griffiths, Ch. 8 Griffiths, Ch. 9 Amsden <i>Post-Mortem ...</i> |
| Dec. 7 | <i>Future Challenges</i> | Griffiths, Ch. 4 (pgs. 159-162) Brown <i>Cost-Effective ...</i> |

Note: The dates of the specific topics may vary. Please check the Blackboard course site for the detailed course outline, as well as any important notices or changes.