

UNIVERSITY OF CALGARY
Department of Sociology

Sociology 421.12 L02
Special Topics in Deviance and Criminology
Sociology of Corrections
Fall 2010

Instructor: M. Belle-McQuillan

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Prerequisites: Sociology 325 and 313; or consent of the Department

Class Hours: T/TH 11:00-12:15, ST 128

Office Hours: T/TH 9:00-10:00

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.

Additional readings (listed here in order of use) may be found at the **reserve** desk at MacKimmie Library or through the Library's **electronic** sources or are available **online** (quick link will be on BB site)

Foucault, Michel. 1995. "The Body of the Condemned." Ch. 1 in *Discipline and Punishment: the birth of the prison*. 2nd ed. New York: Vintage Books. **Reserve:** ask at desk HV8666.F6813

The PEW Center on the States. 2008. "One in 100: Behind Bars in America 2008." Public Safety Performance Project. Details on the specific sections to read will be available on BB site. **Online:** quick link to article on BB site

Silverberg, David. 2005. "Prison Guards Patrolling Canada's most dangerous streets." Pgs.10-13 in *The New Canadian Magazine*. **Online:** quick link to article on BB site

Hassine, Victor. 2009. "A Hitchhiker's Guide to Prisons." Pgs. 179-207 in *Life Without Parole: living in prison today*. 4th ed. New York: Oxford University Press, Inc.
Reserve: ask at desk (personal copy)

Hassine, Victor. 2004. "The Underground Economy." Pgs. 43-53 in *Life Without Parole: living in prison today*. 3rd ed. Los Angeles: Roxbury Publishing Company.
Reserve: ask at desk (personal copy)

Harris, Michael. 2002. "Higher and Higher." Pgs. 185-209 in *Con Game: the truth about Canada's prisons*. Toronto: McClelland and Stewart. **Reserve:** ask at desk HV9507.H37

Hannah-Moffat, Kelly. 2001. "Conclusion: Stumbling Blocks, Growing Pains, or More of the Same? ..." Pgs. 188-200 in *Punishment in Disguise: penal governance and federal imprisonment of women in Canada*. Toronto: University of Toronto Press.
Reserve: ask at desk HV9507.H34

Welch, Michael. 2005. "Reproducing Prison Violence." Pgs. 77-100 in *Ironies of Imprisonment*. Thousand Oaks: Sage Publications. **Reserve:** ask at desk (personal copy)

Amsden, Cynthia. 1995. "POST-MORTEM The short, brutal life of Terry Fitzsimmons Canada's corrections system has nothing to do with correcting and everything to do with manufacturing the very people society fears. The 12-year criminal career of this troubled man is a case in point. (FOCUS)." *Globe & Mail* (Toronto, Canada) (April 15, 1995): D1. CP1.Q (*Canadian Periodicals*). **Online:** quick link to article on BB site through the library's **electronic** resources.

Brown, Shelley L. 2001. "Chapter 27 Cost-Effective Correctional Treatment." in *Compendium 2000 on effective correctional programming*. Ottawa, Canada: Correctional Service of Canada, Research Branch. Details on the specific sections to read will be available on BB site. **Online:** quick link to article on BB site

COURSE REQUIREMENTS:

Participation	10%
Essay Nov. 23	20%
Midterm Oct. 21	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. 13-22) **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 paper that summarizes your perceptions of the Calgary Correctional Centre tour we will be undertaking and relates them to the theoretical ideas we discuss in class. Complete details about this assignment will be available in the first week of classes and will be posted on the course Blackboard (BB) site.

Participation:

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

Administrative Information:

Emergency evacuations: In the case of fire or other emergency evacuation of this classroom, please proceed to the assembly point by the Social Science Food Court, with the ICT Food Court as the alternate assembly point.

Exam Policies:

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/APP%20FOR%20DF%20EXAM_0.pdf

Deferred Term Work Form:

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

You must submit these deferral forms to the Faculty of Arts 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 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. 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.

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 (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.

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. 14-16	<i>Introduction to the Sociology of Corrections</i>	Griffiths, Ch. 1
Sept. 21-30	<i>History of Punishment & Corrections</i>	Griffiths, Ch. 2 Foucault <i>The Body of the Condemned</i>
Oct. 5	<i>Alternatives to Confinement</i>	Griffiths, Ch. 3 PEW Center <i>One in 100:...</i>
Oct. 7	<i>Calgary Correctional Centre Tour</i> <i>-no lecture</i>	
Oct. 12-19	<i>Correctional Institutions</i>	Griffiths, Ch. 4 (exclude pgs. 154-166 at this time) Griffiths, Ch. 5 (read pgs. 172-173, 177-189, 190-197) Hassine <i>A Hitchhiker's Guide ...</i> Harris <i>Millhaven</i> Silverberg <i>Prison Guards</i>
Oct. 21	Mid-term Exam <i>Location TBA</i>	

Oct. 26- Nov. 9	<i>The Inmate Experience</i>	Griffiths, Ch. 6 (read pgs. 205-226) Griffiths, Ch. 7 (read pgs. 250-259) Hassine <i>The Underground Economy</i> Harris <i>Higher and Higher</i>
Nov. 11	Remembrance Day <i>No class</i>	
Nov. 16-18	<i>Female Inmate Experience</i>	Griffiths, Ch. 6 (read pgs. 229-233, 242-243) Hannah-Moffat <i>Stumbling Blocks ...</i>
Nov. 23-30	<i>Prison Violence</i>	Griffiths, Ch. 4 (read pgs. 154-158) Griffiths, Ch. 6 (read pgs. 226-229, 236-237) Welch <i>Reproducing Prison Violence</i>
Dec. 2-7	<i>Release & Reentry</i>	Griffiths, Ch. 7 (read pgs. 259-281) Griffiths, Ch. 8 Griffiths, Ch. 9 (read pgs. 345-354, 357-362, 364, 369, 369-375) Amsden <i>Post-Mortem ...</i>
Dec. 9	<i>Future Challenges</i>	Griffiths, Ch. 4 (read pgs. 159-162) Brown <i>Cost-Effective ...</i>

Note: The dates of the specific topics may vary.