

**UNIVERSITY OF CALGARY**  
**Department of Sociology**

**Sociology 421.12 L02**  
**Special Topics in Deviance and Criminology**  
**Sociology of Corrections**  
**Winter 2012**

**Instructor:** M. Belle-McQuillan

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**Class Hours:** T/TH 12:30-1:45, SS 012

**Office Hours:** T/TH 10:30-12:00

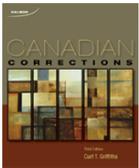
or email for appointment

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

***COURSE DESCRIPTION:***

This course provides a sociological analysis of efforts to respond to individuals who have been convicted of criminal offences. Various topics will be covered including the history of punishment (penology) and corrections, alternatives to confinement, correctional institutions and administration, the inmate prison experience, prison violence, 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* (3<sup>rd</sup> edition). Toronto: Nelson Education Limited.

Additional readings (listed here in order of use) may be found at the **service** desk in the Taylor Library **or** through the Library's **electronic** sources **or** they are available **online** (a quick link can be found on course BB site)

Foucault, Michel. 1995. "The Body of the Condemned." Ch. 1 in *Discipline and Punish: the birth of the prison*. 2nd ed. New York: Vintage Books. (**Reserve:** ask at service desk on 1<sup>st</sup> floor for 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)**

Silverberg, David. 2005. "Prison Guards Patrolling Canada's most dangerous streets." Pgs.10-13 in *The New Canadian Magazine*. **(Online)**

Hassine, Victor. 2009. "A Hitchhiker's Guide to Prisons." Pgs. 179-207 in *Life Without Parole: living in prison today*. 4<sup>th</sup> ed. New York: Oxford University Press, Inc. **(Reserve: HV9475.P2 H37)**

Hassine, Victor. 2004. "The Underground Economy." Pgs. 43-53 in *Life Without Parole: living in prison today*. 3<sup>rd</sup> ed. Los Angeles: Roxbury Publishing Company. **(Reserve: HV9475.P4 H37)**

Harris, Michael. 2002. "Higher and Higher." Pgs. 185-209 in *Con Game: the truth about Canada's prisons*. Toronto: McClelland and Stewart. **(Reserve: 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: HV9507.H34)**

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

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)*. **(Library electronic resources)**

Cullen, Francis T. & Paul Gendreau. 2001. "From Nothing Works to What Works: Changing Professional Ideology in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century." *The Prison Journal*. Vol. 81 No.3:313-338. **(Library 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)**

***COURSE REQUIREMENTS:***

Midterm .....	Feb. 28 .....	30%
Essay .....	Mar. 29 .....	20%
Participation .....		10%
Final .....	TBA* .....	40%

\* Registrar-controlled final exam

***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 April exam period, April 16-25) **before** you make any travel plans. Please read the administrative notices which follow on the next page 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. This paper is to be submitted in class on Mar. 29<sup>th</sup>. Papers submitted after class (without prior approval) are considered late and will receive a 5% penalty per day. If you have anticipate a problem with meeting the due date, you should contact me immediately. 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 BB participation grade can be found posted on the discussion board.

**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 the Professional Faculties - Food Court.

### **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 (e.g. Winter term 2012, Tuesday evenings from 5:00-7:00 pm.)

### *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 (SS 110) 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 (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:

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

<b>Date</b>	<b>Topic</b>	<b>Readings</b>
Jan. 10-19	<b><i>Introduction to the Sociology of Corrections</i></b>	Griffiths, Ch. 1
Jan. 24-Feb. 2	<b><i>History of Punishment &amp; Corrections</i></b>	Griffiths, Ch. 2 Foucault <i>The Body of the Condemned</i>
Jan. 26	<b><i>Calgary Correctional Centre Tour</i></b> <b><i>-no lecture</i></b>	
Feb. 7-9	<b><i>Alternatives to Confinement</i></b>	Griffiths, Ch. 3 PEW Center <i>One in 100:...</i>
Feb. 14-16	<b><i>Correctional Institutions</i></b>	Griffiths, Ch. 4 ( <b>exclude</b> pgs. 154-166 at this time) Griffiths, Ch. 5 (read pgs. 172-173, 177-189, 190-197) Hassine <i>A Hitchhiker's Guide ...</i> Silverberg <i>Prison Guards</i>
Feb. 21-23	<b>Break Week</b>	
Feb. 28	<b>Mid-term Exam</b> <i>Location TBA</i>	

Mar. 1-8	<b><i>The Inmate Experience</i></b>	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>
Mar. 13-22	<b><i>Prison Violence</i></b>	Griffiths, Ch. 4 (read pgs. 154-158) Griffiths, Ch. 6 (read pgs. 226-229, 236-237) Welch <i>Reproducing Prison Violence</i>
Mar. 27-29	<b><i>Female Inmates</i></b>	Griffiths, Ch. 6 (read pgs. 229-233, 242-243) Hannah-Moffat <i>Stumbling Blocks ...</i>
Mar. 29	<b><i>Essay Due</i></b>	
Apr. 3-10	<b><i>Release &amp; Reentry</i></b>	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> Cullen & Gendreau <i>From Nothing Works ...</i>
Apr. 12	<b><i>Future Challenges</i></b>	Griffiths, Ch. 4 (read pgs. 159-162) Brown <i>Cost-Effective ...</i>

**Note:** The dates of the specific topics may vary.