

The University of Calgary
Faculty of Arts
Department of Sociology
Sociology 421 - Corrections
Course Outline, Winter 2017

Instructor: Steve Dumas

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Office Hours: F 11:00-11:40am and
1:00pm-1:40pm or by appointment

Classroom: SS012

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Introduction

Across time and space, societies differ widely in terms of how wrongdoers are sanctioned. In 2010, many were outraged when Taliban militants stoned a young couple to death for the crime of adultery. In 2013, a 23-year-old female was gang raped by 6 men on a bus in India. She died from her injuries 13 days later. While the 6 men were convicted and sentenced to death, many women maintain that the state often reacts apathetically to allegations of rape. They also point out that people are unable to lay charges of rape against marital partners. In Canada, prison sentences are often handed out to convicted criminals. Many critics contend that sentences for the most heinous crimes are often too short.

How does the Canadian correctional policy operate when people are convicted of crime? What options are available to sanction convicted criminals? What logic underlies the various forms of punishment? These questions will be answered by examining how various sociologists have responded to them. Upon successful completion of Sociology 421, students will be able to critically assess the legitimacy of forms of punishment and explain how key sociologists perceived punishment.

Objectives

1. To explain how Durkheim defined crime and how he perceived punishment.
2. To explicate how neo-Marxists characterize the nature of punishment in capitalist societies.
3. To identify the ways that surveillance mechanisms are affecting social control and social freedom.
4. To demonstrate how justice is bureaucratized.
5. To explain how culture and punishment intersect.

Pedagogy

I expect students to be active producers rather than passive consumers of ideas. As such, classes will involve traditional formal lectures, but they will also include a considerable amount of student activity and participation. This means that there will be considerable informal discussion (among students and with the instructor). I also encourage students to draw upon their personal experiences as a valuable source of information. ***Students are warned that, at times, this class deals with graphic and violent themes in lectures and videos.***

Required Readings

The following text will be used:

Garland, David. (1990). *Punishment and modern society*. Chicago: University of Chicago Press.

Evaluation

There will be two examinations and a book review to complete in this class. The examinations may include both short answer and long answer responses. Students can choose one of the following books to review:

Anderson, B. & Anderson D. (2009). *Manufacturing guilt: Wrongful convictions in Canada* (2nd ed.). Toronto: Fernwood.

Braithwaite, J. (1989). *Crime, shame, and reintegration*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.

Foucault, M. (1975). *Discipline and Punish: The birth of the prison*. New York: Random House.

Ignatieff, M. (1978). *A just measure of pain: The penitentiary in the Industrial Revolution, 1750-1850*. New York: Pantheon Books.

Requirement	Weight	Date
Mid-Term	35%	Feb 13
Book Review	30%	Mar 14
Final	35%	Apr 19th

Grading Scheme

A+ > 95%	B+ 80%-84.99%	C+ 67%-69.99%	D+ 54%-58.99%
A 90%-94.99%	B 75%-79.99%	C 63%-66.99%	D 50%-53.99%
A- 85%-89.99%	B- 70%-74.99%	C- 59%-62.99%	F <49.99%

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

Reading Schedule

Date	Topic	Readings
Jan 9	Review of course outline	None
Jan 11	Introduction	1
Jan 13	Punishment and social solidarity	2
Jan 16	Punishment and social solidarity	2
Jan 18	Durkheim	3
Jan 20	Durkheim	3
Jan 23	Durkheim	3
Jan 25	Political economy	4
Jan 27	Political economy	4
Jan 30	Political economy	4
Feb 1	Ideology and class control	5
Feb 3	Ideology and class control	5
Feb 6	Ideology and class control	5
Feb 8	Documentary	None
Feb 10	Review	None
Feb 13	Mid-Term	None
Feb 15	Technologies of power	6, 7
Feb 17	Technologies of power	6, 7
Feb 27	Technologies of power	6, 7
Mar 1	Rationalization of punishment - Weber	8
Mar 3	Rationalization of punishment - Weber	8
Mar 6	Rationalization of punishment - Weber	8
Mar 8	Punishment and culture	9
Mar 10	Punishment and culture	9
Mar 13	Punishment and culture	9
Mar 15	Punishment and sensibilities	10
Mar 17	Punishment and sensibilities	10
Mar 20	Punishment and sensibilities	10
Mar 22	Discussion: The death penalty	Online
Mar 24	Discussion: The death penalty	Online
Mar 27	Discussion: Private prisons	Online
Mar 29	Discussion: Solitary	Online
Mar 31	Discussion: "Machine Bias"	Online
Apr 3	Discussion: Surveillance society	Online
Apr 5	Discussion: Restorative justice	Online
Apr 7	Discussion: Restorative justice	Online
Apr 10	Conclusion	None
Apr 12	No class	None

Grade Reappraisal: Within two weeks of the date of the return of the exam, students seeking reappraisal may submit a written response to the instructor explaining the basis for reconsideration of the mark. The instructor will reconsider the assigned grade and

book a time to meet with the student. A re-assessed grade may be increased, decreased, or remain the same.

Technology Use: Electronic devices are common in Canadian classrooms. While they can be very effective in assisting students in the learning process, they can also be very distracting if not used properly. Students are encouraged to reflect on how their use of electronic devices affects their learning and how it affects others around them.

Email: Electronic mail is a convenient way for students to communicate with professors. If not used properly, however, email use can become problematic. Before sending an email, please attempt to obtain information from the course outline. Please email me for administrative purposes only, for example, to set up an appointment. Please do not use email as a substitute for an office visit. Questions regarding course content, student challenges, grades, or other personal issues should be dealt with in person during my office hours.

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.

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-2-1.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

Student Representation: The 2016-17 Students’ Union VP Academic is Alicia Lunz (suvpaca@ucalgary.ca). The Faculty of Arts has four SU representatives who may be contacted at any of the following email addresses: arts1@ucalgary.ca, arts2@ucalgary.ca, arts3@ucalgary.ca, and arts4@ucalgary.ca. You may also wish to contact the Student Ombudsperson for help with a variety of University-related matters: <http://www.ucalgary.ca/provost/students/ombuds/role>

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

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 needing an Accommodation because of a Disability or medical condition should contact Student Accessibility Services (MC 293, phone [403-220-8237](tel:403-220-8237)) in accordance with the Procedure for Accommodations for Students with Disabilities available at <http://www.ucalgary.ca/policies/files/policies/student-accommodation-policy.pdf>. Please provide academic accommodation letters to the instructor as early in the semester as possible and no later than two weeks after the course begins.