

THE UNIVERSITY OF CALGARY
THE DEPARTMENT OF SOCIOLOGY
Concentration in Criminology, Deviance and Social Control
Advanced Topics in Deviance and Criminology
Sociology 421.04 : The “Control” Perspective in Criminology
Fall 2009

Instructor: Dr. Augustine Brannigan <branniga@ucalgary.ca>
Time: TR 2:00-3:15 PM
Room: Scurfield Hall 268
Office SS 1060
Office Hours: TR 3:30-4:30 PM

Call 220-7466 to speak to the instructor or to make an appointment for consultation.

Website: <http://www.ucalgary.ca/criminal>

Emergency Evacuation: 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.

Course Objectives

Sociology 421 is intended for senior students in the final year of the Criminology and Deviance Concentration. It is designed to present students with an opportunity to examine empirical research at the cutting edge of the field of criminology. It is based on contemporary publications from leading figures in the field. It focuses on the theoretical debates at the core of the discipline, and reflects the debates that have appeared in the leading journals over the past decade. It also focuses on the methodological concerns of contemporary criminology and presupposes some familiarity with basic social statistics. This course will operate as a workshop based on the assigned readings. This is not a course in which lectures are offered tangentially to the readings. Our preoccupation in every class throughout the course will be with the assigned works. The schedule below details the authors and chapters that we shall discuss and dates when this will be happen. The objective of the course is to achieve a high degree of literacy in terms of the theories, methods, data and policy implications that form the core of contemporary debates in mainstream criminology. The format of the course will be relatively informal, modeled more on conversation and discussion. This format presupposes that you will attend classes already having read the materials. If you have not read the materials, the lecture periods will be futile. If you cannot read the materials beforehand on a regular basis, you are advised to enroll in another course. In addition, you will be asked in class to comment on materials that have been assigned, sometimes informally and sometimes formally. You will certainly be encouraged to raise questions in class on points arising from the readings. As a result, everyone is encouraged to bring the relevant reading to every class. Indeed, for examinations, the readings are mandatory.

This year we will examine the phenomenological theory of crime associated with the work of Jack Katz (Seductions of Crime: The Moral And Sensual Attractions of Doing Evil , 1988). We contrast Katz's phenomenological analyses with the self-control theory of Gottfredson

and Hirschi (A General Theory of Crime), and Sampson and Laub's social control theory (Crime in the Making). These latter 2 books are considered by many to be among the most important contributions to contemporary criminology.

Required Readings :

Jack Katz, Seductions of Crime: The Moral and Sensual Attractions of Doing Evil, NY: Basic Books 1988

Michael Gottfredson and Travis Hirschi, A General Theory of Crime, Stanford University Press, 1990.

Robert Sampson and John Laub, Crime in the Making: Pathways and Turning Points Through Life, Harvard University Press, 1993.

Grading:

There are 2 required examinations in the course. They are open-book, short answer and/or multiple-choice. They are scheduled for (i) Tuesday, October 6th (35%) and (ii) Thursday, November 5th (35%). There is also a written assignment due December 15th (20%) based on a critique of the book by Sampson and Laub. There will also be 10% for class participation and presentation. Every student will present and explain a table from Sampson and Laub's book (this may be done with a partner). Presentations will be scheduled for Nov 19th – Dec 8th.

The open book examinations: The purpose of an open book examination is to encourage a close and careful reading of the assigned materials. This is a prerequisite to a critique and comprehension of each individual contribution. Mastery of the required readings should be enabled by punctual reading and by classroom discussion as per the schedule. The open book format alleviates pressure to memorize mindlessly and permits consultation of the texts on specific questions. However, students are advised that reliance on the open sources where there is only a passing knowledge of the text is bound to result in failure.

The written assignment will involve an analysis of the statistical table presented in class in the context of the overall model along with an assessment of the merits of the book as a whole. Maximum length is 10 pages.

Participation: For many of us, speaking in public can be difficult, at least in the beginning. However in 421, we want to create an atmosphere that encourages and respects mutual verbal participation in the class. We will proceed by mutual introductions, by group discussions, and by questions and answers. These inquiries are invited individually and collectively, publicly and in confidence. The paramount considerations here are high expectations in terms of performance hand in hand with fairness in terms of evaluation.

Graduating Profile:

Students who successfully complete this course will have achieved a sophisticated appreciation of the nature of crime patterns, particularly within the "social control" perspective. This is the dominant paradigm today in North American criminology. They will have an appreciation of the

linkage between one's theoretical perspective, one's methodological design and the use/non-use of various statistics in criminology and the implications of theories for specific public policies. They will also understand some of the major limitations of a narrow conception of crime from any particular disciplinary perspective, and the need to pursue interdisciplinary knowledge of crime. As academics, they will have an above average literacy in respect of the professional contributions in the leading presses, their strengths and limitations. As citizens, they will have a unique ability to contribute knowledgeably to discussions of crime and criminal justice policies. And as prospective employees, they will have a sophisticated knowledge of crime patterns and crime trends and some practical insight about what society can reasonably expect to do to respond to them.

Schedule

Week 1 Sept 8-10	Introduction to Control Theory	Katz Ch 1
Week 2 Sept 15-17	Katz Ch 2	Katz Ch 3-4
Week 3 Sept 22-24	Katz Ch 5	Katz Ch 6-7
Week 4 Sept 29-Oct 1	Katz Ch 8	Katz Ch 9
Week 5 Oct 6-8	First Exam 35%	G&H Preface and Ch 1
Week 6 Oct 13-15	G&H Ch 2	G&H Ch 3-4
Week 7 Oct 20-22	G&H Ch 5	G&H Ch 6-7
Week 8 Oct 27-29	G&H 8-9-10	G&H Ch 11
Week 9 Nov 3-5	G&H Ch 12	Second Exam 35%
Week 10 Nov 10-12	S&L Ch 1	Reading Day NO CLASSES
Week 11 Nov 17-19	S&L Ch 2-3	S&L Ch 4: Presentations 10%
Week 12 Nov 24-26	S&L Ch 5: Presentations 10%	S&L Ch 6: Presentations 10%
Week 13 Dec 1-3	S&L Ch 7 Presentations 10%	S&L Ch 8: Presentations 10%
Week 14 Dec 8	S&L Ch 9-10: Presentations 10%	Dec 15: Tuesday Final Paper 20%

Summary

First Exam (6 Oct)		35%
Second Exam (5 Nov)	35%	
Essay (December 15)		20%
Class presentation		10%
Total		100%

Exam Policies: You must provide advance notice to the instructor if you are unable to take an exam. All requests for deferral of an examination 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. Deferred exams may be allowed in the following circumstances: illness, domestic affliction or religious conviction. If you have missed an exam for a legitimate reason, you will be able to write a “make up” exam as close to the original exam as possible. The date and location will be at the convenience of the Sociology Department. Travel arrangements and misreading of the syllabus are not valid reasons

for requesting a deferred exam. Deferred exams will not be granted if it is determined that just cause is not shown by the student.

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: cheating is regarded as a serious academic offense. 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.

<u>Academic Accommodation</u>
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.