

THE UNIVERSITY OF CALGARY
FACULTY OF SOCIAL SCIENCES
DEPARTMENT OF SOCIOLOGY
Sociology 427.01

The Social Organization of Criminal Justice
Winter, 2012
Course Outline

INSTRUCTOR: Dr. Augustine Brannigan
TIME: Mondays 3:00-5:45 PM
LECTURE ROOM: SS 012
OFFICE: SS 1060
OFFICE HOURS TR 11:00AM-12:00 NOON

Call 220-7466 to speak to the instructor or to make an appointment for consultation.
Website: <http://www.ucalgary.ca/criminal>

COURSE OBJECTIVES:

This course is designed to familiarize the student with the various institutional responses to criminal behaviour found in the system of criminal justice in Canada. We shall follow the various stages through which a case is processed in the system, and the roles of the various actors and their contributions to the outcome. We begin with an analysis of some of the social factors underlying the passage of laws. After laws are passed, the duty of enforcing them falls to the police. However, we shall see that the police role calls for a number of responses and behaviours in addition to the popular image of "fighting crime". We follow an analysis of the pressures on the police role with a look at the court systems and the factors that influence the preparation and outcome of criminal prosecutions. Here we analyze the roles of lawyers, judges and prosecutors, and the processes of plea bargaining, discovery, judge shopping, etc. We will focus our analysis here on actual Canadian cases as much as possible. Lastly, we shall look at the correctional field in Canada, the use and effects of imprisonment, recidivism, and non-prison options (probation, diversion, restorative justice, etc.).

In our treatment of the justice system we will stress the sociological factors that influence what happens in the institutions that administer justice. A special emphasis will be on the problems of injustice in the criminal justice system.

TENTATIVE SCHEDULE OF TOPICS:

1. Laws and the Construction of Criminal Behaviours: External Factors in the Formation of Law
2. The Criteria of Criminal Behaviour from a Legal Perspective: Seven Elements of Crime
3. The Police: Occupational, Organizational versus Legal Determinants of Conduct
4. Civil Rights and Safeguards from Abuse: Limits to State Intervention
5. Two Metaphors--Justice As Crime Funnel versus Justice as Crime Net

6. Policing Deviance in Business: The Relative Immunity of Suite Crime
7. Criminal Justice in the Lower Courts: Plea Bargaining and Informal Case Disposition
8. Higher Court Justice
9. Deterrence of Crime through Fear of Punishment
10. Correctional Services in Canada
11. Alternative Control and Sentencing Strategies
12. Prospects for Change in Canadian Criminal Justice

REQUIRED READINGS

1. Jeffrey Reiman and Paul Leighton, *The Rich Get Richer and the Poor Get Prison*, 9/e New York: Macmillan, 2010.
2. John Reilly, *Bad Medicine: A Judge's Struggle for Justice in a First Nation's Community*, Calgary: Rocky Mountain Books.
3. Materials posted on the website: www.ucalgary.ca/criminal/ soci 427

ASSIGNMENTS:

- (1) Midterm exam: Monday 13 February 2012 in-class short answer and essay. Open book (40%)
- (2) Original research paper: Wednesday 18 April. 10-15 pages in length with references to the refereed criminal justice literature (40%)
- (3) Class presentations on Short Subjects in last 3 weeks of class. Presentations should be linked to research paper. (20%)

Other Responsibilities of the Student:

1. A careful and punctual reading of the required material.
2. Regular attendance at lectures and participation in class discussions and questions.
3. Advance notice to the instructor or the Department of Sociology office (220-6501) if unable to comply with the schedule of assignments due to illness. Students who do not give this advance notice may be barred from retaking tests.
4. Students are asked to familiarize themselves with University Regulations covering plagiarism.
5. Students who are having difficulty with the course are advised to contact the Professor immediately to discuss the situation.

TENTATIVE SCHEDULE

Week 1	January 9	Laws and the Construction of Criminal Behaviour	Reiman and Leighton Intro and Chapter 1
Week 2	January 16	Elements of Criminal Behaviour	R&L Chapter 2
Week 3	January 23	Policing	R&L Chapter 3
Week 4	January 30	Civil Rights	R&L Chapter 4

Week 5	February 6	Crime Net or Crime Funnel	R&L Conclusion and App
Week 6	February 13	Exam 40%	
Week 7	February 20	Reading Week – No classes	
Week 8	February 27	Justice in the Lower Courts	Reilly pp. 1-90
Week 9	March 5	Justice in the Highert Courts	Reilly pp. 91-178
Week 10	March 12	Justice in the Higher Courts	Reilly pp. 179-256
Week 11	March 19		TBA
Week 12	March 26	Student Presentations (20%)	TBA
Week 13	April 2	Student Presentations (20%)	TBA
Week 14	April 9	Student Presentations (20%)	TBA

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.

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.**