

THE UNIVERSITY OF CALGARY
THE DEPARTMENT OF SOCIOLOGY
Concentration in Criminology, Deviance and Social Control
Sociology 421.04: Advanced Topics in Deviance and Criminology
“The Control Perspective in Criminology”
Fall 2007 Course Outline

Instructor: Dr. Augustine Brannigan (220-7466) (<http://www.ucalgary.ca/~criminal>)
Time: TR 3:30 PM-4:45 PM
Room: Scurfield Hall 384
Office Hours: TR Noon (and as requested)

Course Objectives

Sociology 421 is intended for senior students in the final year of the Criminology, Deviance and Social Control 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 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 and a half. 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 readings. The schedule below details the authors and chapters that we shall discuss and dates when this will 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 where the format is different. 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 ,New York : 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. The exams are multiple-choice and open-book. They are scheduled for (i) October 4th (25%), and (ii) November 15th (40%). In addition, there is a written assignment due a week after the end of class based on the third reading: 10 typed pages maximum (New Times 14 font, 1 inch margins) outlining a specific methodological aspect of *Crime in the Making* (25%). More information will be given in class. There will also be 10% for class participation and presentation. Every student will present and explain a statistical table from Sampson and Laub's book (this may be done with a partner). This oral assignment (i.e. analysis of your assigned table) will be written up as part of the final paper submission. However, the final paper will also include an assessment of the merits of *Crime in the Making*, and may incorporate comparisons (and contrasts) with *Seductions* (Katz) and *General Theory* (Gottfredson and Hirschi). This written assignment is due a week after the last class (Thursday, Dec 13th).

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 following the schedule outlined below. 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.

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 open class participation. We will proceed by mutual introductions, by group discussions, and by questions and answers. 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. The class participation will reflect attendance (3 points), spontaneous participation (3 points) and formal presentations (4 points).

Graduating Profile Objective:

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. This includes some detailed knowledge about the utility of statistics in understanding macro-sociological events, such as crime. 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 11-13	Introduction to Control Theory	Katz Ch 1
Week 2 Sept 18-20	Katz Ch 2	Katz Ch 3-4
Week 3 Sept 25-27	Katz Ch 5	Katz Ch 6-7
Week 4 Oct 2-4	Katz Ch 8-9	First Exam 25%
Week 5 Oct 9-11	Gottfredson & Hirschi: Preface and Ch 1	G&H Ch 2
Week 6 Oct 16-18	G&H Ch 3-4	G&H Ch 5
Week 7 Oct 23-25	G&H Ch 6-7	G&H 8-9-10
Week 8 Oct 30-1 st	G&H Ch 11	G&H Ch 12
Week 9 Nov 6-8	Sampson & Laub Ch 1	S&L Ch 2-3
Week 10 Nov 13-15	Reading Day No Classes	Second Exam 40%
Week 11 Nov 20-22	S&L Ch 4	S&L Ch 5
Week 12 Nov 27-29	S&L Ch 6	S&L Ch 7
Week 13 Dec 4-6	S&L Ch8	S&L Ch 9-10
		Dec 13: Final Paper 25%

Summary

First Exam (Oct 4)	25%
Second Exam (Nov 14)	40%
Essay	25%
<u>Class participation</u>	<u>10%</u>
Total	100%