

THE UNIVERSITY OF CALGARY
FACULTY OF SOCIAL SCIENCES
DEPARTMENT OF SOCIOLOGY
(<http://soci.ucalgary.ca>)

Sociology 427-01
The Social Organization of Criminal Justice

Fall 2008

Course Outline

Instructor: Dr. Alison J. Sherley
Time: M 4:30pm to 7:20pm
Room: SA 145
E-mail: ajsherle@ucalgary.ca
Office: E-mail to make an appointment for consultation, or see instructor before or after class.
Office Hours: By appointment.

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.

Course Description:

This course provides an overview of the criminal justice system and process. We first consider the police, often the first point of contact within the criminal justice system. Although the law prohibits specific activities, the reality is that police exercise much discretion in either acknowledging or ignoring the activities they are contracted to police. Their role also goes beyond preventing and controlling illegal activities, encompassing such things as fostering community relations and problem-solving. After police have determined that an offense has been committed, the courts weigh the (legal and extralegal) facts of the case and determine if the case will be further processed. The courts must take into consideration factors such as continuously evolving legislation and the rights of the accused. If it is determined by the court that a crime has been committed, the court must also determine the most appropriate response/punishment and sentence the offender accordingly. This may range from time in prison to rehabilitative measures. Further, what happens to an offender once they have served their sentence and are released back into the community?

The objective of this course is to provide the student with an overview of the criminal justice system and to consider the roles that the police, the courts and the correctional system play in the justice system’s response to criminal behavior. We will also explore issues and potential problems within the criminal justice system, including gangs, racial profiling, and high risk offender community notification.

Required Texts (3):

Griffiths, Curt T. (2007). *Canadian Criminal Justice: A Primer. (3rd Edition)*. Toronto, ON: Thomson Nelson.

Roberts, Julian V. & Michelle G. Grossman. (2004). *Criminal Justice in Canada: A Reader*. Scarborough, ON: Nelson.

Tischler, Henry L. (ed.) (2001). *Debating Points: Crime and Corrections*. Upper Saddle River, NJ: Prentice Hall.

Course Schedule: Some changes may be made to course format and content.

WEEK/DATE:	TOPIC/DESCRIPTION:	READING:
1. Sept. 8 th 2. Sept. 15 th	<p>Introduction The Criminal Justice “System” in Canada We begin by reviewing the components of the criminal justice system (CJS) in Canada. Although we presume that a goal of the CJS is to eliminate crime, the means by which each component attempts to achieve this goal may differ dramatically due to differing philosophical orientations. We review the classification of crime, crime rates and historical crime trends, and the sources of crime data.</p>	Griffiths: Ch. 1 - Ch. 2 Roberts: Intro.- Ch. 2
3. Sept. 22 th	<p>Law Enforcement in Canada A brief history of policing in Canada, followed by policing philosophies and mandates, and the nature and scope of police work. What is the role of police in our society? What is community policing? What is problem-oriented policing? What rights do police have in enacting their role?</p>	Griffiths, Ch. 3 – 4; Roberts: Ch. 9; Kelling (1988); NCJRS document.
4. Sept. 29 th	<p>The Process of Justice We consider constitutional guarantees and offenders’ rights and how these affect the criminal justice system. We consider issues such as the burden of proof of guilt, as well as interrogation and confessions, entrapment, evidence.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">GUEST SPEAKER</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Attendance and participation in group discussion is essential and will form part of your 15% participation grade.</p>	Roberts, Ch. 3,4; Selected readings on Constitutional Guarantees.
5. Oct. 6 th	<p>The Canadian Court System We examine the roles of the respective players and performers in the court system (judges, lawyers, prosecutors, jury members, etc.). We also consider the business of the court: informations and indictments, the plea and the verdict, the trial and the role of expert witnesses. We will review issues such as the burden of proof of guilt, as well as interrogation and confessions, entrapment, evidence, as well as address issues of mental disorder and responsibility defenses..</p>	Griffiths Ch. 5 Roberts, Ch.5,
6. Oct. 13 th	<u>October 13th NO CLASS - THANKSGIVING</u>	

7. Oct. 20 th	IN-CLASS MID-TERM EXAMINATION (30%) (90 minutes)	
8. Oct. 27 th	The Canadian Court System We examine issues regarding sentencing and young offenders in Canada. Group discussion and debate exercise on sentencing.	Griffiths Ch. 6. Roberts Ch. 10, 12, 17-20, 24. Tischler Ch. 1, 6, 7
9. Nov. 3 rd	The Correctional System in Canada The structure of the correctional system in Canada will be addressed, including responsibility for corrections (i.e. provincial versus federal-level institutions). Does the prison environment contribute to future criminal behavior? We examine issues that arise inside prisons, such as violence and victimization, and gangs. GUEST SPEAKER Attendance and participation in group discussion is essential and will form part of your 15% participation grade.	Griffiths, Ch. 7,8 Roberts: Ch. 6 - 8, 13 - 16 Tischler Ch. 3
10. Nov. 8 th to Nov. 11 th	READING WEEK – NO CLASSES	
11. Nov. 17 th	Continuation of The Correctional System in Canada (first 60 minutes) <hr/> <u>IN-CLASS MID-TERM EXAMINATION</u> <u>(25%)</u> <u>(90 MINUTES)</u>	
12. Nov. 24 th	Issues in Criminal Justice We discuss issues such as youths and minorities in the CJS, discrimination, sex offenders, gangs, and organized crime will also be addressed. Students will be expected to share their thoughts and justify their reactions to the topics discussed.	Roberts Ch. 18-25
13. Dec. 1 st	GUEST SPEAKER Attendance and participation in group discussion is essential and will be your last opportunity to earn the 15% participation grade.	
14. Dec. 12 th 2008 (TO BE HANDED IN NO LATER THAN Dec. 12th through Blackboard).	FRIDAY, DECEMBER 12TH 2008 TERM PAPER DUE (30%)	

GRADING:

My expectation is that students will participate to ensure that our class consists of a series of lively discussions. Participation will be expected in terms of preparedness for class (as evidenced by familiarity with the assigned readings), and willingness to engage in class discussion. There are four components to your grade. The first is an in-class midterm examination on **October 20th** consisting of multiple choice, short answer and essay questions covering the material up until that particular point. This midterm is worth 30% of your final mark. The second midterm will be cumulative in nature and take place in class on **November 17th** (worth 25% of your final grade). The third component is your term paper, to be handed in on **December 10th** (for details, see below). The term paper is worth 30% of your final grade. There will be no final scheduled for the exam period.

The final 15% of your grade will be based on *class attendance and participation in all lectures, including those involving guest speakers.*

The intent is to create an interactive and respectful classroom environment to allow the instructor and students alike to listen, learn, critique, debate and discuss. Students are required to attend and contribute to class discussion and debates. Student participation will be recorded for each class. *Students are also strongly encouraged to keep informed of current issues in the CJ system through local and national media. This information may be useful for class discussions.*

Final Score (out of 100)	Final Grade
97-100	A+
90-96	A
85-89	A-
81-84	B+
78-80	B
75-77	B-
70-74	C+
65-69	C
60-64	C-
55-59	D+
50-54	D
0-49.9	F

FINAL TERM PAPER:

The final term paper will consist of a 3000 – 4000 word paper (not including the reference list) on an ‘issue’ within the criminal justice system, at any stage in the process from policing to corrections. We will have touched on some of these during lectures (such as racial discrimination, sex offender treatment, community notification programs, gangs in prison, etc.), but other ‘issues’ of interest to you are also eligible topics. Paper topics are to be e-mailed to me in advance no later than November 17th. Papers should consist of the following components:

- i. Introduction to topic and why this is an ‘issue’ in the CJ system
- ii. The body of the paper, addressing the issue, taking whatever ‘angle’ you choose.

- iii. Conclusion
- iv. References – sources for the paper **must** include **at least** 10 peer-reviewed academic journal articles, as well as other sources of your choice, such as books.

Considerations when grading final papers will include:

- Course content (degree of understanding and incorporating relevant course content)
- Clarity of argument/position (clear thesis statement, supporting topical sentences and coherent organization)
- Research resourcefulness (quality of primary research and bibliographic sources)
- Quality of overall composition and referencing (grammar, spelling and proper referencing format)

Additional Notes:

1. A student seeking reappraisal of graded exams or exercises must discuss this work with the instructor within two weeks of the date the exam/assignment is handed back. Consistent with Faculty of Social Sciences regulations, the entire exam or assignment will be remarked, and the mark may be raised, lowered, or remain the same.
2. A student who is unable to write the mid-term examination due to circumstances of illness, domestic affliction, or religious conviction that are fully documented will have the weight of that examination applied to the final exam. No make-up examinations will be given.
3. 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/How/HOW_LB.htm
4. "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 instructors' offices, the department office, etc. Term assignments must be returned to students individually, during class or during the instructor's 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."
5. For your information: SU VP Academic: Phone: 220- 3911 email: suvpaca@ucalgary.ca and SU Faculty Representative Phone: 220 3913 and email: socialscirep@su.ucalgary.ca

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 Sociology Department.

Please note that requests to defer a final examination or to defer term work past the end of a term go through the Undergraduate Programs Office (UPO) and must be processed by the deadlines that are established in the U. of C. Calendar. You can find the forms you need at:

Deferred Final Exam Application:

<http://www.ucalgary.ca/registrar/files/registrar/Winter2008DEFERREDFINALEXAMINATIONS.pdf>

Deferred Term Work Form:

<http://www.ucalgary.ca/registrar/files/registrar/defTW.pdf>

You must submit these deferral forms to the Social Sciences Associate Dean (Students) through the UPO office: Undergraduate Programs Office, 4th Floor, MacEwan Student Centre.

To make an appointment with the Associate Dean, phone (403) 220-8155.

Only the Associate Dean approves requests for deferrals which extend beyond the end of a term. Instructors are not involved in such decisions.

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 offenses. 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. 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.

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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.**

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.