

Social Organization of Criminal Justice

SOCI 427-01

COURSE OUTLINE

Course Times	M/W/F 10:00 - 10:50am
Room	Scurfield Hall 288
Instructor	Melissa Munn
Contact Information	Room 940, 220- 5267 (only during office hours otherwise use email) smmunn@ucalgary.ca
Office Time	Monday & Friday 11:00 am - Noon & Wednesday Noon - 12:45pm or by appointment

COURSE DESCRIPTION:

This course introduces the structure and function of the Canadian criminal justice system's police, courts and corrections agencies. It considers the role of victims, criminal law and justice guidelines and crime patterns. Issues such as community-based policing and corrections models, sentencing alternatives, young offenders, and aboriginal justice are discussed and related to tensions between crime control and individual's due process rights and to equal treatment concerns in applying official discretion. We consider the social organization of the criminal justice system from a sociological perspective with special attention to and analysis of the structure of the Canadian criminal justice system.

TEXTBOOK AND READINGS:

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

Denov, M. & Campbell, K. (2004). Miscarriages of Justice: Wrongful conviction in Canada. In J. Roberts & M. Grossman (eds.) *Criminal Justice in Canada*. Nelson: Scarborough, ON. pp. 228-243. **On Blackboard Class Site.**

Elliott, L. (2004). From scales to circles: restorative justice as peacemaking and social justice. In J. Roberts & M. Grossman (eds.) *Criminal Justice in Canada*. Nelson: Scarborough, ON. pp. 289-301. **On Blackboard Class Site.**

Morris, R. (1995). *Penal abolition: the practical choice*. Toronto, ON: Canadian Scholars' Press. CHAPTER 5 ONLY. **On Blackboard Class Site.**

Reiman, J. (2004). And the poor get prison. In *The rich get richer and the poor get prison (7th ed.)* Pearson: Scarborough, ON. pp. 103-147. **On Blackboard Class Site.**

Surette, R. (2007). Predators, Pictures and Policies. In *Media, Crime and Criminal Justice (3rd ed.)* Thomson: Belmont, CA. pp. 1-30. **On Blackboard Class Site.**

Annual Report of the Office of the Correctional Investigator 2006-2007 **Available online at**
http://www3.thestar.com/static/PDF/crime/Correctional_Investigator_report.pdf

National Parole Board policy Manual **Available online at**
http://www.npb-cnrc.gc.ca/infocntr/policym/polman_e.htm

GRADING SCALE AND COMPOSITION

Letter grades will be assigned based on the following scale:

A+ 96-100	B+ 80 -84	C+ 67-69	D+ 57-59	F 0-49
A 90-95	B 74-79	C 63-66	D 53-56	
A- 85-89	B- 70-73	C- 60-62	D- 50-52	

EVALUATIONS:

Students are expected to read the material, attend classes, complete a court report, prepare a debate and write two examinations.

Debate and Debate Report	20%
Court Report	20%
Mid-Term Examination	30%
Final Examination	30%

NOTES ON EVALUATION:

Court Report:

In lieu of class on February 23 & 25, students are expected to attend court. Students will be required to observe at least one case and answer the following:

1. Describe (briefly) the case. If you attend a youth court case, do not mention the name(s) of the defendant(s). Be sure to note the section of the criminal code and nature of offense, level of court, key players, etc.
2. Describe what happened during your visit.
3. Reflect on the process. What was your subjective response to the proceedings? Explain your response. Did the experience in any way alter your perception of the justice system? If so, how?
4. Critically consider the proceedings? Relate to course readings, lectures, videos and/or guests.

NB: Ethics approval for this assignment is pending so please do not undertake it until given authorization by Professor Munn.

Mid-term Examination:

A mid-term examination will be held during the The exam will consist of multiple choice questions.

Final Examination:

A final examination will be held during the exam period. The exam will consist of multiple choice and short answer questions. The final exam will cover only the material studied after the mid-term examination.

Debate

Moral entrepreneurs are able to have their opinions heard and often, have them adopted by the masses. In order to better understand this skill, you will be required to participate on a debate team on one of the following topics:

Resolved: Canada should adopt a 'fixed sentencing' model

Resolved: Prisoners should have the right to vote

Resolved: Youths charged with criminal code offenses should be treated the same as adults

Resolved: Racial profiling is a necessary tool for policing

Resolved: Gun control legislation is an important tool to reduce crime

Resolved: Penal abolition is a viable alternative to the current correctional system.

Debate teams and dates will be chosen by random draw on Wednesday February 11, 2009 . It is expected that the rules of debate and debate etiquette will be followed as per the handout "Rules for Debate SOCI 427" which is posted on Blackboard. Every person must speak during the presentation. Maximum total time for debate will be 45 minutes. You will be assigned a team grade and the debate will account for 15% of your mark. The other 5% of your grade will be on a 1-2 page report on the debate. In this informal report you will relate your experience in preparing for the debate. Specifically, you will identify any challenges you had in preparing for and conducting the debate and any major shifts or learning related to the topic or to the study of sociology of crime. This report is due the week after your debate is conducted.

LOGISTICS

Attendance:

Students are expected to attend all lectures and tutorials. If work is assigned and missed during one of those, the same policy as those employed for deferred examination will be followed.

NOTES ON ASSIGNMENTS

Please turn in your written work when it is due. When you make choices for time commitments, please be sure to understand that all assigned work is part of the course and the learning process. There will be no late submissions unless they are due to exceptional circumstances discussed with and approved by the instructor. Unauthorized late submissions (up to three days) will lead to a loss of one third of the total mark for the project per day. For a delay of more than three days, you will need a doctor's certificate.

Plagiarism is a punishable offense. Check the college calendar for more details.

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, or to have the test waived and the weight of the missed test be added to that of the second test of the instructor and the student agree to this option. 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.

Research Ethics :

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.

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.

COURSE SCHEDULE

Changes to the schedule may occur. Students will be notified in class and on Blackboard of any changes. Students are expected to complete the reading PRIOR to the class.

WEEK OF	TOPIC	READINGS/Assignments
January 12	The Criminal Justice System: An Overview	Chapter 1
January 19	Theories of Punishment	
January 26	Crime, Victimization, and the Canadian Public	Chapter 2 Surette Chapter
February 2	The Police	Chapter 3 & 4
February 9	Criminal Prosecutions and the Courts	Chapter 5 Denov & Campbell Reading
February 23	MIDTERM FEBRUARY 23 Youth Justice	Court Report Due February 27
March 2	Sentencing	Chapter 6 Reiman Chapter 3
March 9	Correctional Institutions	Chapter 7
March 16	Prisons -Over-representation, Mental Health & Women	Annual Report of the Office of the Correctional Investigator 2006-2007
March 23	Release and Re-entry	Chapter 8 National Parole Board Manual Section 2
March 30	Alternatives to Current System CURRENT TOPIC DEBATES	Morris Reading Elliott Reading
April 6	CURRENT TOPIC DEBATES	
April 13	Sociological Implications of Current Justice System	
April 20-30	FINAL EXAM	