

University of Calgary
Sociology 427: SOCIAL ORGANIZATION OF CRIMINAL JUSTICE
Winter 2016

Professor: Dr. Cora J. Voyageur
Office: 906 SST
Office Hours: Tuesday 2:00 – 4:00 or by appointment
Class: Tuesday & Thursday Room: SA 121 12:30 – 1:45
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Sociology Website: www.soci@ucalgary.ca

Course Prerequisite: Sociology 325 and 313 or the consent of the Department. Sociology 331 and 333 are recommended.

Course Description: The best criminals are the ones who never get caught. What happens to those who do get caught is the topic of this course. This course is an overview of the various facets of the criminal justice system in Canada. It is designed to introduce students to the institutional responses to crime and criminal behaviour. We will address the sociological factors that influence events and outcomes of the administration of justice. We begin with the assumption that crime is a social construct. How is it that some actions are deemed criminal while others are not? Are certain behaviours always considered criminal? Who gets to decide? What is the role of the police, the courts, corrections, probation and parole? All these questions will be explored and we will hear from practitioners from within these systems to gain insights into the laws, policies, and procedures.

Course Objectives:

1. Explore the genesis of laws and criminal behavior in Canada.
2. To identify and analyze the key components of the criminal justice system.
3. To provide students with a factual basis on which to assess issues and situations regarding the handling of criminal behaviour in the criminal justice system.
4. To make students aware of the problems, potential injustices and ironies inherent in the Canadian criminal justice system.
5. To have students explore the circumstances under which a person can be wrongfully convicted.

Course Format: Class sessions will combine several formats: lectures; group discussions, text readings; guest lectures; videos; and class questions. **Please be ready to answer or**

discuss course-related questions posed by the professor at any time throughout the class.

Required Texts:

- 1) Mewett, Allan and Shaun Nakatsuru. (2000). *An Introduction to the Criminal Process in Canada. Fourth Edition.* Toronto: Carswell Thompson.
- 2) Reiman, Jeffrey and Paul Leighton (2013) *The Rich Get Richer and the Poor Get Prison: Ideology, Class and Criminal Justice.*

The assigned readings will *generally (but not exactly)* correspond with the topics covered in the lectures. Thus lecture topics should serve as a tentative guide and may be adjusted by me.

Evaluation:

PLEASE NOTE: Receiving credit in all components of this course is mandatory to obtain a passing grade.

1. Examinations 60%

There will be 1 midterm examination and 1 final examination. The examinations will cover lectures, guest lectures, videos, class discussions, and assigned reading materials scheduled up to the exam. This means that students will also be responsible for readings and topics **not covered** in class.

Examinations will be a combination of any or all of the following: multiple choice, true/false, definition, short answer and essay questions. This allows the student to demonstrate varying methods of academic skill because I do not expect the student to rely solely on rote memory. I expect application, analysis, synthesis, and integration of course materials into reasoned answers.

The short answer and long answer questions require a reasonable standard of writing. Poor spelling, disjointed or incomplete sentences, poor grammar and punctuation, inadequate sentence and paragraph structure only detract from the ideas you are trying to express and will negatively impact your mark.

The exams are **non-cumulative**. This means that the mid-term will cover only materials from the first class to the class before the mid-term exam. The final exam will cover materials from the mid-term to the last day of class. Although the exams are non-cumulative, students might find reviewing your mid-term exam notes valuable in preparation for the final.

The dates and assigned weights for exams are as follows:

Mid-term	March 3	30 %
Final Examination	Date set by Registrar	30 %

Examination dates are strictly enforced. If you miss the midterm for a documented (a note from your doctor, etc. is required) and legitimate reason, **you must contact me within 48 hours of the missed midterm** exam. If you do not contact me within the allotted time period you will receive a score of zero for the midterm. If you miss the midterm and contact me within 48 hours, the Sociology Department office and I will determine a suitable time for you to write your make-up exam. If you miss the final exam for a valid and documented reason, **contact the Registrar's Office within 48 hours after the missed exam.** You must apply for a deferred exam no later than the deadline indicated in the 2015/16 University of Calgary Calendar. Otherwise, University regulations state that you receive a score of zero on the final exam.

Deferred Final Exam Form: Please note that requests to defer a Registrar scheduled final exam are dealt with through the Registrar's Office. Further information about deadlines, etc. is available on the form which can be found at: http://www.ucalgary.ca/registrar/files/registrar/Sp_Su_DFE_App.pdf. When an extension date has been agreed upon by the professor and student the form should be taken to the Faculty of Arts Program Information Centre (SS 110) for approval by the Associate Dean (Students).

2. Group Project/Class Presentation 30%

i) Group Presentation 20%

Our criminal justice system has glitches. One example of the system not delivering justice is the case of wrongfully convicted individuals. Groups can choose a research topic/individual from my list or you can research another with my approval. Your group research project/class presentation will consist of a 30-minute class presentation. Groups must supply handouts for the class. The research project/class presentation should answer the following questions: Who was the individual? Were there elements of social inequality (race, class, gender, etc.) surrounding the arrest/conviction/sentencing of this person? What evidence led to the conviction? How and why was the verdict overturned? Where did the system go wrong? How could this situation have been averted? Presentations will take begin in the class after the midterm exam. I will allow class time for group members to confer. Class presentations begin in mid-March.

ii) Colleague Assessment 10%

Your group members will evaluate your contribution to the group project. This will account for 10% of your final mark so you **must** do your share of the work. If you receive a participation grade of "0" from all of your fellow group members then you will not receive a grade for the group presentation. In addition, if the marks you gave to your fellow group mates are completely out of line with the rest of your group, I will ask you to justify them.

3. In-class Pop Quizzes: 10%

Throughout the course I will give you 5 in-class pop quizzes worth 2% each. These quizzes will be based on information from that day's class. Your answers must be turned in at the end of the class.

Final grades will be assigned according to the University of Calgary's 4-point grading system based on the following percentage distributions:

Percentage	Grade	Meaning
95+	A+	Outstanding
89 - 94	A	Excellent
86 - 88	A-	
82 - 85	B+	Very Good
79 - 81	B	
76 - 78	B-	
72 - 75	C+	Good
68 - 71	C	
64 - 67	C-	
60 - 63	D+	
55 - 59	D	Minimal Pass
0 - 54	F	Fail

PLEASE NOTE: The main Sociology Department office does not deal with any course-related matters. Please speak directly to your professor.

Other Student Related Matters:

Protection of Privacy: The Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy (FOIP) legislation disallows the practice of having student's retrieve assignments from a public place, e.g., outside instructor's office, the department office, etc. 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 their assignment from the instructor, they may provide the instructor with a stamped, self-addressed envelope to be used for the return of the assignment".

Research Ethics: Students are advised that any research with human subjects such as interviews (including interviews with family and friends), opinion polling, and unobtrusive observation must have the approval of the Department of Sociology's Ethics Committee. Students **MUST NOT** undertake research projects with human subjects without discussing the topic with me and getting my approval to proceed. I will need to determine whether ethics approval is required.

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.

Student Representation: The 2015-16 Students' Union VP Academic is Stephan Guscott: email: suvpaca@ucalgary.ca. The Faculty of Arts has four SU representatives who may be contacted at any of the following email addresses: arts1@ucalgary.ca, arts2@ucalgary.ca, arts3@ucalgary.ca, and arts4@ucalgary.ca. You may also wish to contact the Student

Ombudsperson for help with a variety of University-related matters:
<http://www.ucalgary.ca/provost/students/ombuds/role>

Emergency Evacuation: In the case of fire or other emergency evacuation of this classroom, please proceed to the assembly point at the Professional Faculties - Food Court

Academic Misconduct: 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/k-2-1.html>

Academic Accommodation: Students seeking an accommodation based on disability or medical concerns should contact Student Accessibility Services; SAS will process the request and issue letters of accommodation to instructors. For additional information on support services and accommodations for students with disabilities, visit www.ucalgary.ca/access/. Students who require an accommodation in relation to their coursework based on a protected ground other than disability should communicate this need in writing to their Instructor. The full policy on Student Accommodations is available at http://www.ucalgary.ca/policies/files/policies/student-accommodation-policy_0.pdf

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. 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.

Handing in Papers Outside of Class, Return of Final Papers, and Release of Final Grades: 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's main office. 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. **Final grades are not posted by the Sociology department and can only be accessed online.**

Professor/Student Communication: This course makes use of Desire2Learn to communicate with students. Please access D2L by going to: d2l.ucalgary.ca OR my.ucalgary.ca.

My Expectations

Classroom Etiquette:

Please get the most of your (or your parent's) hard-earned tuition dollars by devoting your class time to classroom activities. Please ensure that your cell phones, blackberries, pagers, or any other electronic devices are turned off and remain off for the duration of the class.

Those who choose to ignore this rule will be asked to leave my classroom immediately. Students who have been asked to leave my classroom must meet with me before returning. Students taking class notes on a laptop computer will be asked to close their laptops from time to time to answer questions and/or engage in classroom discussions. Please use your laptop computer only for taking class notes in this class.

For those taking notes of a lap top computer, please be aware that your screen is visible to those both beside you and behind you. I have received many complaints from fellow classmates who have been forced to endure distracting, offensive and otherwise unsuitable images from others' laptops.

Please be **on time** for class since arriving late is distracting to both me and your fellow students.

My Teaching Philosophy:

I love to teach and I hope it shows. I believe that learning is an active rather than a passive activity. I want to assist you on your learning journey. Although attendance is not mandatory, I urge you to attend class regularly. I will not post my lecture materials or give you my lecture notes if you are absent.

Class discussions, issues raised in class, and information obtained from videos, lectures and other class activities can be give you some valuable insights. They will help you with assignments and exams. You will not have access to that information unless you attend class. I strive to provide a safe and non-competitive learning environment. However, students may periodically be taken out of their comfort zone. I encourage class discussion as a means of exploring topics, ideas, and controversies. Your point of view is important but it may be challenged by me or by your fellow students. We may be dealing with sensitive, and sometimes contentious, issues in class. Your opinion may differ from those of your classmates. So please, remain open-minded and remember to be respectful of opinions that differ from your own.

Proposed Course Schedule
Sociology 427: SOCIAL ORGANIZATION OF CRIMINAL JUSTICE
Winter 2016

Week	Week of:	Topic	Readings
1	January 11	Introduction	Reiman Introduction
2	January 18	Criminal Justice in Canada	Mewett 1-2
3	January 25	Presentation Preparation	Reiman 1
4	February 1	Crime as a Social Construction	Reiman 2
5	February 8	Criminal Statistics and the Extent of Crime	Reiman 3 Mewett 3-4
6	February 15	Reading Week	No Readings
7	February 22	The Justice Process	Mewett 5-6
8	February 29	Law Enforcement in Canada Midterm on Thursday	Mewett 7-8
9	March 7	The Canadian Court System	Reiman 4 Mewett 9-10
10	March 14	Court Procedures and Sentencing (Group Presentations begin this week)	Reiman Conclusion Mewett 11-12 Reiman Appendix I
11	March 21	Correctional Institutions	Mewett 13-14
12	March 28	Probation and Parole	Reiman Appendix II Mewett 15-16
13	April 4	Critical Issues in Canadian Corrections	Mewett 17-18
14	April 11	Where do we go from here?	Mewett 19