

THE UNIVERSITY OF CALGARY
THE DEPARTMENT OF SOCIOLOGY
Concentration in Criminology, Deviance and Social Control
SOCIOLOGY 327: INTRODUCTION TO CRIMINAL JUSTICE
Lecture 01 -- Fall 2010

INSTRUCTOR: Dr. Augustine Brannigan <branniga@ucalgary.ca>
TIME: TR 2:00-3:15 PM.
LECTURE ROOM: SCIENCE B 103
OFFICE: SS 1060
OFFICE HOURS TR 3:30-4:30 PM

Call 220-7466 to speak to the instructor or to make an appointment for consultation.

Website: <http://www.ucalgary.ca/criminal>. The website has links to the Criminal Code of Canada as well as other resources that might prove of use to students.

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. The control of crime requires policies of crime measurement and an analysis of crime trends and inquiries into the causes of crime. The police play a role in crime mitigation but the relationship between crime trends and criminal justice responses is complex. The police role calls for a number of responses and behaviours in relation to crime and disorder 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. Also, we shall work as much as possible with materials that are relevant to the national context, and the actual experiences of actors in the field. Lastly, we shall explore these various topics with an eye to the real and potential injustices and ironies that occur in the system. In addition we shall deal with crucial issues such as civil rights, and class distortions in the crime funnel. A fundamental theme is the basic definition of crime and crime control—whether crime is an individual expression of dysfunctional behaviour and justice a necessary remedy to protect society—or whether crime is the outcome of political processes that differentially label and suppress human diversity. This is the tension between the concept of justice as an expression of the rule of law and justice as an outcome of competing social interests.

REQUIRED READING

Colin Goff, *Criminal Justice in Canada*, 5th edition, Scarborough: Nelson Thomson Canada Ltd. Other materials discussed in class will be posted on the course website.

GRADING:

- (1) Midterm Exam: Thursday, October 28th in class multiple choice and/or short answers (50%)
- (2) Final Exam, Date TBA, registrar controlled. Based on multiple choice, definitions, short answers and short-essay answers based on clear prior advice and instruction (50%).

Students will be given advanced advice about how to prepare for exams, what materials/readings to review and how to come prepared for the exams. All exams are open-book/open-notes. No personal computers or other electronic devices will be permitted at the exams.

THE GRADE DISTRIBUTION

A+	90%+
A	85%+
A-	80%+
B+	77%+
B	73%+
B-	70%+
C+	67%+
C	63%+
C-	60%+
D+	55%+
D	50%
F	<50%

Course completion is based on the combined grade (not requiring pass on both aspects of the evaluations). The normal aggregate grade performance for this course assumes a normal distribution with a mean and median in the B range. Results may vary by class. Distributions are not automatically normalized but exam results are reviewed to eliminate questions that significantly bias the responses.

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.
6. Cell phones must be shut off during class lectures and exams.
7. Computers are permitted in class for note-taking but computers and other electronic devices are forbidden during exams, including calculators.

SCHEDULE

Week/Date	Tuesday	Thursday
Week 1 Sept 14-16	Introduction to Criminal Justice	Goff Chapter 1
Week 2 Sept 21-23	Goff Chapter 1	Goff Chapter 2
Week 3 Sept 28-30	Goff Chapter 2	Goff Chapter 3
Week 4 Oct 5-Oct 7	Goff Chapter 3	Goff Chapter 4
Week 5 Oct 12-14	Goff Chapter 4	Goff Chapter 5
Week 6 Oct 19-21	Goff Chapter 5	Goff Chapter 6
Week 7 Oct 26-28	Goff Chapter 6	First Exam 50%
Week 8 Nov 2-4	Goff Chapter 7	Goff Chapter 7
Week 9 Nov 9-11	Goff Chapter 8	Remembrance Day—No classes
Week 10 Nov 16-18	Goff Chapter 9	Goff Chapter 9
Week 11 Nov 23-25	Goff Chapter 10	Goff Chapter 10
Week 12 Nov 30-Dec 2	Goff Chapter 11	Goff Chapter 11
Week 13 Dec 7-9	Goff Chapter 12	Goff Chapter 12
TBA	December exam period	Second Exam 50%

Emergency Exits: In case of the need for an emergency exit from the lecture theatre, everyone is advised to depart to the exterior of the building on the north-west exit doors.

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 in compliance with the departmental re-scheduling policy. 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. Nonetheless, the instructor will accommodate the student needs to the extent feasible and reasonable.

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. This will not influence this course as no research 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. In this course, there are no term assignments that require transfer of any materials back to the students.

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.**

Instructional Support. The teaching assistant for this course is Mr. Kenneth Blades. His office hour is Mondays 12:30-1:30 PM. Or you can arrange to meet him at another time by contacting him directly at Kenneth Blades <kgblades@ucalgary.ca>. Everyone is invited to meet him and is encouraged to raise with him any questions, inquiries or requests that are pertinent. Between Mr. Blades and Professor Brannigan, there will be ample opportunities to seek student input and instructional feedback. My office hours are immediately following the TR classes at 3:30-4:30 PM in SS 1060.