

THE UNIVERSITY OF CALGARY
Department of Sociology
Soci 327 L01
INTRODUCTION TO CRIMINAL JUSTICE
Fall 2011

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Class Hours: M/W/F 9:00-9:50, ST 140
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Prerequisite: Sociology 201; or consent of the Department

COURSE DESCRIPTION:

The Canadian criminal justice system costs taxpayers billions of dollars each year; however, a recent poll (June, 2010) finds that a significant proportion of Canadians believe that in many areas, the justice system has failed. Are they right? This course will introduce students to the structure and operation of the system that addresses the problem of crime, including such key elements as the police, courts and corrections. We will examine the various stages in the criminal justice process, from how crime is defined, to how it is dealt with by the police, the courts, the extent and nature of victim participation, and finally, correctional institutions. Selected issues and debates in the administration of justice will emphasize the concern with discretion, accountability, and the impact that various decision-makers have on the criminal justice system.

REQUIRED READING:

Available in **University bookstore:**

1. Griffiths, Curt. 2011. *Canadian Criminal Justice A Primer* (4th edition). Scarborough: Nelson Education Limited.

This textbook has a website with on-line self-help quizzes, as well as other criminal justice resources @ <http://www.crimjusticeprimer4e.nelson.com/student/>

2. Chapter Three: Custom Course Material by Goff.

Available **On-line** (a quick link to each of these will be placed on the course BB site):

1. _____. 2009. "Prisoners of politics less crime, more punishment." *The Economist*. (2 pages)
2. de Ruyg, Veronique. July, 2011. "Prison math What are the costs and benefits of

leading the world in locking up human beings?" *Reason Online*. (3 pages)

3. Jones, Marcia and Cynthia Kirkby. June, 2011. "Sentencing in Canada: Recent developments." Pgs. 26-27 in *41st Parliament Current and emerging issues*. Ottawa, Canada: The Library of Parliament.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS:

| | | |
|-------------------|--------------|-----|
| First test | Oct. 5 | 25% |
| Second Test | Nov. 2 | 35% |
| Final | TBA | 40% |

(Registrar controlled exam period)

Please read carefully

There will be three, non-cumulative examinations and each will cover all course material. Students are therefore responsible for all components of the course (including lectures, guest speaker presentations, class exercises, assigned readings, videos, etc.). If, for whatever reason, you are unable to attend class, please consult with your colleagues in order to "catch up" on the material you have missed. There will be no provision for make-up exams or other work for the purpose of improving grades. Be sure that you note the date of the mid-term and the final exam (during the December exam period, Dec. 12-21) **before** you make any travel plans. Please read the administrative notices which follow for information regarding a missed exam and other issues of importance.

Electronic Devices in the classroom:

Personal electronic devices can be very effective tools for taking notes in class. Unfortunately some students use them for non-academic purposes [e.g. checking email or Facebook, texting, watching videos, playing games, etc.] This is very distracting to the professor and other students around them. Accordingly, using electronic devices for purposes other than taking notes will be considered disruptive behaviour. Without prior written approval, students are not permitted to record (audio or visual) any portion of the lecture. Students caught violating this policy will be asked to cease doing so and may be prohibited from using any electronic device in future classes. Repeated abuses may result in further discipline under the University's Non-Academic Misconduct Policy

[<http://www.ucalgary.ca/registrar/files/registrar/Non-Academic%20Misconduct%20Policy%20-%20approved%20by%20GFC%202010-02-04.pdf> - section 4.9]

Administrative Information:

Emergency evacuations: In the case of fire or other emergency evacuation of this classroom, please proceed to the primary assembly point in the ICT Food Court.

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 Department of Sociology (e.g. Fall term 2011, Tuesday evenings from 5:00-7:00 pm.)

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, and where paperwork should be taken, is available on the form, which can be found at: http://ucalgary.ca/registrar/files/registrar/APP%20FOR%20DF%20EXAM_0.pdf

Deferred Term Work Form:

Deferral of term work past the end of a term also requires a form to be filled out. It’s available at <http://www.ucalgary.ca/registrar/files/registrar/defTW.pdf>

Once an extension date has been agreed between instructor and student, the form should be taken to the Faculty of Arts Program Information Centre (SS 110) for approval by an Associate Dean (Students).

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 offences. 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.
<http://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/k.html>

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.

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.

Office of the Student Ombuds:

<http://www.su.ucalgary.ca/services/student-services/student-rights.html>

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.**

Letter Grade Assignment:

A letter-grade will be assigned to each student at the end of the semester and submitted to the registrar. Your letter-grade will be assigned according to the following scale:

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|-----------|----------|----------|--------------|
| A+ 95–100 | B+ 80-84 | C+ 67-69 | D+ 54-58 |
| A 90-94 | B 75-79 | C 63-66 | D 50-53 |
| A- 85-89 | B- 70-74 | C- 59-62 | F 49 or less |

Note: The grades for a course component may be scaled to maintain equity among sections and to conform to departmental norms.

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.

Syllabus and Readings

Note: specific page assignments from each chapter can be found in the Detailed Reading file on the course BB site

| Date | Topic | Readings |
|-----------------|---|---|
| Sept. 12-16 | <i>Introduction to the Criminal Justice System (CJS)</i> | Chap. 1 segment from Chap. 7 on-line readings |
| Sept. 19-23 | <i>Criminal Law & Criminal Justice</i> | Chap. 2 segment from Chap. 7 |
| Sept. 26-28 | <i>Control Philosophy & Criminal Justice Policy</i> | Chapter Three: Custom Course Material by Goff |
| Sept. 30-Oct. 3 | <i>Crime Rates & Trends</i> | segment from Chap. 2 |
| Oct. 5 | <i>First test Location TBA</i> | |
| Oct. 7-14 | <i>Policing: organization</i> | Chap. 3 & 5 |
| Oct. 10 | <i>Thanksgiving</i> | |
| Oct. 17-21 | <i>Policing: issues of concern</i> | Chap. 4 segment from Chap. 3 |
| Oct. 24-31 | <i>Courts: structure, use of juries</i> | Chap. 6 & 7 |
| Nov. 2 | <i>Second test Location TBA</i> | |

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|----------------|---|------------------------------------|
| Nov. 4-9 | <i>Courts: Sentencing</i> | Chap. 8 |
| Nov. 11 | <i>Remembrance Day - no class</i> | |
| Nov. 14-18 | <i>Sentencing: Victim participation</i> | segments from Chapters 2, 7, and 8 |
| Nov. 21-23 | <i>Alternatives to prison: specialized courts, options</i> | segment from Chap. 6 Chap. 9 |
| Nov. 25-28 | <i>Corrections: structure, history</i> | Chap. 10 |
| Nov. 30-Dec. 2 | <i>Release & Reentry</i> | Chap. 11 |
| Dec. 5-9 | <i>Aboriginal Peoples / Conclusion</i> | segments from different chapters |

Note: The specific dates of the topics may vary as the course progresses.