



UNIVERSITY OF CALGARY

FACULTY OF ARTS
Department of Sociology
Department of Sociology Website: <http://www.soci.ucalgary.ca>

Sociology 327(L01) Introduction to Criminal Justice

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| • Spring 2019 | • MW 1:00pm-3:45pm | • ICT121 |
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Office Hours: MW 11:30am-12:30pm

Course Description

On March 12th, 2012, the Parliament of Canada passed Bill C-10. This piece of legislation was an attempt to "get tough" on crime by introducing minimum sentences for drug trafficking, sex crimes, child exploitation, and some violent offences. Critics contended that the legislation was costly, caused overcrowding in prisons, and had little rehabilitative effect on offenders, and ultimately, did little to deter crime. By contrast, the current federal government emphasizes the rehabilitation of offenders and alternative sanctioning of wrong-doers. This class will introduce students to the structure and operation of the Canadian criminal justice system. We will examine how the various stages of the system function. This will include an examination of how crime is defined, measured, and dealt with by the police, the courts, and the correctional system. Upon successful completion of this course, students will be able to identify the values of the Canadian criminal justice system, illustrate how informal justice manifests itself, and critically assess crime stories in the mass media.

Course Objectives/Learning Outcomes

Students in Introduction to Criminal Justice should concentrate on how to:

1. Identify the main components of the Canadian criminal justice system.
2. Outline the general process that suspects go through when they are accused of perpetrating crime.

3. Identify and explain control philosophies.
4. Memorize important notable crime rates and trends.
5. Explain the challenges presented by policing society, dealing with the courts, and sanctioning the convicted.
6. Identify and assess viable alternatives to prison.

I expect students to be active producers rather than passive consumers of ideas. As such, classes will involve traditional formal lectures, but they will also include a considerable amount of student activity and participation. This means that there will be many short class exercises and discussion (among students and with the instructor). I also encourage students to draw upon their personal experiences as valuable sources of information. Students are warned that, at times, this class deals with graphic and violent themes in both lectures and videos.

Required Textbooks, Readings, Materials

The following text will be used:

Griffiths, C. T. (2019). *Canadian criminal justice: A primer*. (6th ed.). Toronto: Nelson.

Please review the reading schedule below. Students will be expected to carefully consider each assigned reading before class and make use of the slide show notes available on Desire2Learn. These PDF files do not represent an exhaustive set of notes and are not an alternative to attending class regularly. They are intended only to provide a brief outline of what will be covered in lectures and it is expected that you will need to take additional notes during class.

Methods of Evaluation

There are three requirements to complete this course.

Mid-Term	40%	May 22
Reflection paper	10%	June 12
Final Examination	50%	TBA, scheduled by the Registrar's Office

Based upon lectures and assigned readings, exams will be in true-false and multiple choice format. It is important that you complete all assigned readings before every class. All requirements must be completed in order to pass this course. Examinations are not cumulative. The reflection page will be a critical review of a Supreme Court of Canada (SCC) decision.

Students are asked to visit the SCC website, identify and describe a SCC decision, and explain sociologically why the case is significant. This will only be a 2-page double-spaced paper.

Final Exam Information

There is a final examination in this course worth 50% of your total grade. It is in multiple choice and true-false format. It will be scheduled by the Registrar's Office.

Grading Scale

Letter grades will be assigned and submitted to the registrar based on the following scale:

Grade	Percent range	Grade Point Value	Description
A+	96 – 100%	4.0	Outstanding performance
A	90 – 95.99%	4.0	Excellent-superior performance
A-	85 – 89.99%	3.7	
B+	80 – 84.99%	3.3	
B	75 – 79.99%	3.0	Good – clearly above average performance
B-	70 – 74.99%	2.7	
C+	67 – 69.99%	2.3	
C	63 – 66.99%	2.0	Satisfactory - basic understanding
C-	59 – 62.99%	1.7	
D+	55 – 58.99%	1.3	
D	50 – 54.99%	1.0	Minimal pass - marginal performance
F	<50%	0	unsatisfactory performance

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

Schedule of Lectures and Readings

Before reviewing the schedule below, please be aware that it is expected to be flexible. Some topics may require more time than scheduled. Students should ensure that they have completed the readings before each class.

Date	Topic	Chapters to have read
May 6	Review Outline Foundations of criminal justice	1
May 8	Foundations of criminal justice	1
May 13	Understanding the criminal justice system	2
May 15	Discrimination and disparity Review	3
May 22	Mid-Term	

Date	Topic	Chapters to have read
May 27	Structure, and roles of the police	4
May 29	Police powers and decision-making	5
June 3	Police strategies, operations, and engagement	6
June 5	The structure and operation of criminal courts	7
June 10	Prosecution of criminal cases	8
June 12	Sentencing	9
June 17	Corrections Conclusion	10

Passing Grades

In order to pass the course, students must obtain 50% or more overall as per the grading scale.

Grade Reappraisal

Within two weeks of the date the exam/assignment is returned, students seeking reappraisal of examinations or assignments must submit a written response to the instructor explaining the basis for reconsideration of one's mark. The instructor will reconsider the grade assigned and will then book a time with the student to discuss his or her work and rationale. It should be noted that a re-assessed grade may be raised, lowered, or remain the same.

Technology Use

Electronic devices are common in Canadian classrooms. While they can be very effective in assisting students in the learning process, they can also be very distracting if not used properly. Students are encouraged to reflect on how their use of electronic devices affects their learning and how it affects others around them.

Email

Electronic mail is a convenient way for students to communicate with professors. If not used properly, however, email use can become problematic. Before sending an email, please attempt to obtain information from the course outline. Please email me for administrative purposes only, for example, to set up an appointment. Please do not use email as a substitute for an office visit. Questions regarding course content, student challenges, grades, or other personal issues should be dealt with in person during my office hours.

Emergency Evacuations

In the case of fire or other emergency evacuation of this classroom, please proceed to Energy, Environment and Experiential Learning (EEEL). Please check these assembly point locations for all of your classes at: <http://www.ucalgary.ca/emergencyplan/assemblypoints>

Handing in Papers, Assignments

1. The main Sociology Department office does not deal with any course-related matters. Please speak directly to your instructor.
2. **Protection of Privacy:** The Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy (FOIPP) legislation does not allow students to retrieve any course material from public places. Anything that requires handing back will be returned directly during class or 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.
3. Final grades are not posted by the Sociology Department. They are only available online.

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 Faculty 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

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-5.html>

Absences and Deferrals

Students who are absent from class assessments (tests, participation activities, or other assignments) should inform their instructors as soon as possible. Instructors may request that evidence in the form of documentation be provided. If the reason provided for the absence is acceptable, instructors may decide that any arrangements made can take forms other than make-up tests or assignments. For example, the weight of a missed grade may be added to another assignment or test. For information on possible forms of documentation, including statutory declarations, please see <https://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/m-1.html>

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 can be found at:

<https://www.ucalgary.ca/registrar/exams/deferred-exams>

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:

https://www.ucalgary.ca/registrar/files/registrar/deferred_termwork15_0.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).

Student Representation

The 2019-20 Students' Union VP Academic is Kevin Dang suvpaca@ucalgary.ca.

For more information, and to contact other elected officials with the Student's Union, please visit this link: <https://www.su.ucalgary.ca/about/who-we-are/elected-officials/>

You may also wish to contact the Student Ombudsperson for help with a variety of University-related matters: <http://www.ucalgary.ca/ombuds/contact>

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

The student accommodation policy can be found at: ucalgary.ca/access/accommodations/policy.

Students needing an Accommodation because of a Disability or medical condition should communicate this need to Student Accessibility Services in accordance with the Procedure for Accommodations for Students with Disabilities ucalgary.ca/policies/files/policies/student-accommodation-policy.

Students needing an Accommodation based on a Protected Ground other than Disability, should communicate this need, preferably in writing, to the course instructor.

Student Resources

[SU Wellness Centre](#)

[Campus Mental Health Strategy](#)