

**The University of Calgary**  
**Faculty of Arts**  
**Department of Sociology**  
**Sociology 421(L01) - Corrections**  
**Course Outline, Fall 2015**

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**Instructor: Steve Dumas**

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Office Hours: Thurs 11:00am-noon or by appointment

**Classroom: SH288**

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### **Introduction**

Across time and space, societies differ widely in terms of how wrongdoers are sanctioned. In 2010, several nations were outraged when Taliban militants stoned a young couple to death for the crime of adultery. In 2013, a 23-year-old female was gang raped by 6 men on a bus in India. She died from her injuries 13 days later. While the 6 men were convicted and sentenced to death, many women maintain that the state reacts apathetically to allegations of rape. They also point out that people are unable to lay charges of rape against marital partners. In Canada, prison sentences are often handed out to convicted criminals. Many critics contend that sentences for the most heinous crimes are often too short.

How does the Canadian correctional policy operate when people are convicted of crime? What options are available to sanction convicted criminals? What logic underlies the various forms of punishment? These questions will be answered by examining how various sociologists have responded to them. Upon successful completion of Sociology 421, students will be able to critically assess the legitimacy of forms of punishment and explain how key sociologists perceived punishment.

### **Objectives**

Students in Corrections should focus on how to:

1. Identify and explain the most salient sociological approaches to punishment.
2. Evaluate the potential of the most salient sociological approaches to punishment.
3. Assess the merits of existing sanctions in Canada.
4. Outline how culture affects the way people are punished by society.
5. Creatively identify more effective social practices to deal with crime.

### **Pedagogy**

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

short class exercises and considerable informal discussion (among students and with the instructor). I also encourage students to draw upon their personal experiences as a valuable source of information. *Students are warned that, at times, this class deals with graphic and violent themes in lectures and videos.*

### Required Readings

In addition to various readings that will be posted on Desire2Learn, the following text will be used:

Garland, David. (1990). *Punishment and modern society*. Chicago: University of Chicago Press.

### Evaluation

There will be two examinations, a class presentation, and class participation in this class. More about the presentations will be discussed during classes. The examinations will include both short answer and long answer responses.

Requirement	Weight	Date
Mid-Term	40%	Oct 22
Presentation	10%	TBA
Participation	10%	Ongoing
Final	40%	TBA

### Grading Scheme

A+ > 95%	B+ 80%-84.99%	C+ 67%-69.99%	D+ 54%-58.99%
A 90%-94.99%	B 75%-79.99%	C 63%-66.99%	D 50%-53.99%
A- 85%-89.99%	B- 70%-74.99%	C- 59%-62.99%	F <49.99%

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

### Reading Schedule

Date	Topic	Chapter(s) to have read
Sept 8	Introduction Review of course outline	None
Sept 10	Punishment and Social Solidarity	1, 2
Sept 15	Durkheim	3
Sept 17	Durkheim	4
Sept 22	Political economy	4
Sept 24	Political economy	5
Sept 29	Ideology and class control	5
Oct 1	Ideology and class control	6
Oct 6	Technologies of power	7
Oct 8	Technologies of power	

Oct 13	Rationalization of punishment - Weber	8
Oct 15	Rationalization of punishment - Weber	8
Oct 20	Review	None
<b>Oct 22</b>	<b>Mid-Term</b>	<b>Based on above readings and lectures</b>
Oct 27	Punishment and culture	9
Oct 29	Punishment and sensibilities	10
Nov 3	Punishment and sensibilities	10
Nov 5	Punishment as a cultural agent	11
Nov 10	Presentation	Above
Nov 12	Reading Days. No classes.	None
Nov 17	Presentation I	Above
Nov 19	Presentation II	Above
Nov 24	Presentation III	Above
Nov 26	Presentation IV	Above
Dec 1	Presentation V	Above
Dec 3	Presentation VI	Above
Dec 8	Conclusion	

### **Grade Reappraisal**

Within two weeks of the date of the return of the exam, students seeking reappraisal may submit a written response to the instructor explaining the basis for reconsideration of the mark. The instructor will reconsider the assigned grade and book a time to meet with the student. A re-assessed grade may be increased, decreased, 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.

## 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.

## 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 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-2-1.html>

## Deferrals

When possible, please provide advance notice if you are unable to write an exam or complete/turn-in assignments 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 health issue rather than after recovery. Deferrals will be allowed in the following circumstances: illness, domestic affliction or religious conviction. Travel arrangements, misreading the syllabus, and scheduling conflicts with other classes or employment 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.

**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://www.ucalgary.ca/registrar/files/registrar/Sp\\_Su\\_DFE\\_App.pdf](http://www.ucalgary.ca/registrar/files/registrar/Sp_Su_DFE_App.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).

### **Student Representation**

The 2015-16 Students' Union VP Academic is Stephan Guscott: email: [suypaca@ucalgary.ca](mailto:suypaca@ucalgary.ca). The Faculty of Arts has four SU representatives who may be contacted at any of the following email addresses: [arts1@ucalgary.ca](mailto:arts1@ucalgary.ca), [arts2@ucalgary.ca](mailto:arts2@ucalgary.ca), [arts3@ucalgary.ca](mailto:arts3@ucalgary.ca), and [arts4@ucalgary.ca](mailto: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 Evacuations**

In the case of fire or other emergency evacuation of this classroom, please proceed to the assembly point at **Education Block Food Court**. Please check these assembly point locations for all of your classes at: <http://www.ucalgary.ca/emergencyplan/assemblypoints>

### **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 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 living with disabilities, visit [www.ucalgary.ca/access/](http://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](http://www.ucalgary.ca/policies/files/policies/student-accommodation-policy_0.pdf)