

The University of Calgary
Faculty of Arts
Department of Sociology
Sociology 421 - Corrections
Course Outline, Spring 2014

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appointment

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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.

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 and a paper in this class. The examinations will include both short answer and long answer responses. The paper will be 5-10 pages long. Students will be asked to apply one of the perspectives on punishment to a crime they have considered in the media. More information about the paper will be disseminated in class.

Requirement	Weight	Date
Mid-Term	35%	June 4
Paper	25%	June 25
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 to have read
May 14	Review of course outline Introduction	None
May 21	Punishment and social solidarity - Durkheim	1, 2, 3
May 26	Political economy - Marxism	4
May 28	Ideology and class control - Marxism	5
June 2	Technologies of power - Foucault	6
June 4	Mid-Term	None
June 9	Technologies of power	7, 8

	Rationalization of punishment - Weber	
June 11	Punishment and culture	9
June 16	Punishment and sensibilities	10
June 18	Punishment as a cultural agent	11
June 23	Punishment as a social institution	12
June 25	Review	None
TBA	Final Exam	None

Other Administrative Information

Emergency Evacuations

In the case of fire or other emergency evacuation of this classroom/lab, please proceed to the assembly point by *Education Block - 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.

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/DFE%20F&W.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.

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.

Academic Accommodation: Students with a disability, who require academic accommodation, need to register with the Disability Resource Centre (MC 295, phone 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.

Handing in papers outside of class, return of final papers, and release of final grades:

1. When students are unable to submit papers in class, they should make arrangements to hand in their papers directly to the instructor or teaching assistant. Papers will not be accepted in the main Sociology Department office.
2. Final papers will not be returned through the main Sociology Department office. The Freedom of Information and 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 be

available for pick-up only during the instructor's office hours at the end of this term or at the beginning of the next term.

3. Final grades are not posted by the Sociology Department. They are available only online.