

The University of Calgary
Faculty of Social Sciences
Department of Sociology
Sociology 421.02
Advanced Topics in Deviance and Criminology
Course Outline, Spring 2008

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Office: SS9 902
Office Hours: TR 9:30am-11:00am
or by appointment
Classroom: ST 140

Introduction

This course will explore why people resort to crime and deviance rather than using socially acceptable means of attaining their wants and needs. It will also examine the possibilities for integrating the most promising logic offered by the most influential theories generated in the subfield. Is it possible and desirable to construct a general theory of crime and deviance? Do different types of crimes require unique explanations? In addition to attending class lectures, students will be expected to break into groups and lead class discussions.

Required Text

As well as on-line readings available on Blackboard, the following text is required:

Cullen, C. T. & Agnew, R. (Eds.). (2006). *Criminological theory: Past to Present* (3rd ed.). Los Angeles: Roxbury Publishing Company.

Evaluation

There are three requirements to complete this course:

Requirement	Weight	Due
Exam	30%	June 5 th
Paper	40%	June 19 th
Participation	30%	Ongoing

The examination will be written in essay format and is based upon class lectures and readings. There will be three options and you will respond to one question. In a nutshell, the paper will be 15 pages long in APA format. You will be expected to identify a type of crime or deviant act and generate a valid explanation for it. In order to make your argument, you will have to examine peer reviewed journal articles or chapters from books. Using articles from the internet are not acceptable, although you may access journal articles from the library on-line. More information about the paper will be disseminated later in the course.

Grading Scheme

A+ > 90%	B+ 77%-79.99%	C+ 67%-69.99%	D+ 57%-59.99%
A 85%-89.99%	B 73%-76.99%	C 63%-66.99%	D 53%-56.99%
A- 80%-84.99%	B- 70%-72.99%	C- 60%-62.99%	F <53%

Reading Schedule

The reading schedule is offered to you as a general guide. It is expected that some topics and readings may deserve further treatment and consequently, additional class time.

Date	Topic	Readings
May 15	Introduction Origins of Modern Criminology	Intrduction-2
May 20	Individual Traits Video: Not Guilty by Reason of Insanity	3-6
May 22	Chicago School	7-9
May 27	Learning Video: Copycat Crimes	10-14
May 29	Anomie/Strain	15-19
June 3	Control Theories	20-23
June 5	Exam Societal Reaction	24-26
June 10	Critical Criminology Group I Discussion	27-31
June 12	Feminist Theories Group II Discussion	32-36
June 17	Opportunity Theory Group III Discussion	37-40
June 19	Developmental Theories Group IV Discussion Papers Due	43-45
June 24	Integrated Theories Group V Discussion	46, 47
June 26	Integrated Theories II Conclusion	48-50

As this schedule is designed to be flexible, attendance at each class is very important in order to be aware of any potential changes. Also note that some of the films we will watch depict violent and graphic behaviour.

The following policies were constructed by the Department of Sociology and apply to this course.

Exam Policies: You must provide advanced 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 must arrange to write a “make up” exam as close to the original exam as possible. 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. ***The grades for a course component may be scaled to maintain equity among sections and to conform to departmental norms.**

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: 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. Term 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, 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.**

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.