

THE UNIVERSITY OF CALGARY
FACULTY OF ARTS
DEPARTMENT OF SOCIOLOGY
(<http://soci.ucalgary.ca>)

Course Outline: Sociology 421.06
Advanced Topics in Deviance and Criminology: The Risk of Crime

Winter 2016

Instructor: Dr. Erin Gibbs Van Brunschot
Time: TR 9:30 – 10:45 am
Classroom: SH 284
Office: SS 954
Contact: Phone: 403-220-3218
Email: begibbsv@ucalgary.ca
Office Hours: By appointment: TR 11 am – 12 pm

Required Readings:

Selected readings as identified below on “Course Schedule” and available through D2L.

Course Description:

In this course we explore the variable meanings of risk as applied to crime. A great deal of effort is made to reduce the likelihood of crime based on the assumption that such involvement is negative and harmful. As individuals, many of us take precautions to reduce the probability of being victimized; at the community level, environments are designed to deter would-be offenders by, for example, enhancing lighting and ensuring few places to hide; policing agencies attempt to reduce the likelihood of crime by investigation, surveillance and risk management; and correctional agencies apply risk assessments to offenders in order to determine the level of threat they pose while incarcerated and upon release. While much effort is geared toward the elimination of crime, still others may view involvement in crime as positive – the rewards or enticements of involvement in crime appear to supersede any associated disincentives. Importantly, the likelihood of involvement in crime as positive or negative depends upon our position in potential crime scenarios. Further, what we perceive as threatening or dangerous is influenced by a number of factors, including, for example, personal experience, the institutions to which we belong, and the information provided by others, including the media and ‘experts’.

Course Outcomes:

The goal of this course is to investigate the theoretical and practical underpinnings of crime risk through a variety of means. At the conclusion of this course, students should be able to:

1. explain how the concept of risk prevails in crime control efforts;

2. identify how private (individual) and public (institutional) efforts are made to reduce the likelihood of crime (and how these efforts may not coincide);
3. identify the means by which crime risk is managed (or attempts are made to manage it) by individuals, police, courts and correctional agencies; and
4. understand the attraction of crime and the way in which involvement in crime may be sought and rewarded.

Course Schedule: Our schedule and readings may be subject to change – changes will be announced in class. (JE refers to “Journal Entry” topic.)

WEEK	DATE:	TOPIC/DESCRIPTION:	READING:
Part One: Risk, Crime and Criminal Justice			
1	Jan 12 th , 14 th (JE)	Introduction to Risk	Kemshall 2011 Hardy 2014 Treadwell et al 2013 Yang 2015 Phoenix & Kelly 2013
2	Jan 19 th , 21 st (JE)	Theorizing Risk: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Risk society • Governmentality • Risk cultures 	
Part Two: Risk and Crime Control			
3	Jan 26 th , 28 th (JE)	Policing Risk (Privately) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Crime prevention • Insurance • Public notification, high-risk offenders 	Hirschfield et al 2013 Newby & DeCamp 2014 Donoghue 2013 Van de Calseyde et al 2013 Brannon et al 2007 Greenfield&Paoli 2013
4	Feb 2 nd (JE), 4 th [Journal Entries for weeks 1-4 are due Feb 4]		
5	Feb 9 th , 11 th		
FEBRUARY 11th - MIDTERM #1			
READING WEEK: NO CLASSES			
6	Feb 23 rd , 25 th	Policing Risk (Publicly) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Shifting policework • Technology and policing 	Tusikov 2012 Kitchen & Rygiel 2014 Sanders & Henderson 2012 O’Malley 2015
7	March 1 st , 3 rd	Managing Risk: Institutions <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Old, Modern and new penology • Sentencing • Offender management and risk assessment • Communities 	Caudy et al 2013 Zhang et al 2014 Stewart et al 2014 Shannon 1985 Hanson et al 2014 Schubert & Wurf 2014
8	March 8 th , 10 th		
9	March 15 th , 17 th [Journal Entries for week 6-9 are due March 17 th]		
10	March 22 nd , 24 th		
MARCH 24th - MIDTERM #2			

		Part Three: Crime, Risk and Excitement	
11	March 29 th , 31 st	Managing Risk (or not): Individuals Rationality, edgework and crime Emotions, pressure, thrills and crime Wrap up	Holt et al 2014 Hopthrow et al 2014 Hedenus 2014 Lupton 2013 Hu et al 2015
12	April 5 th , 7 th		
13	April 12 th [Journal Entries for weeks 11 – 12 are due Apr 12th]		
		April 19th: Take-home essay examination due (electronically) by 4:30 pm	

Evaluation:

It goes without saying that participation in class discussion is expected. Formal evaluation for this course will consist of three components: in-class essay-format midterm examinations, a take-home final examination; and journal entries.

Evaluation Summary	% of Grade
Midterm 1 (Feb. 11 th)	25%
Midterm 2 (Mar. 24 th)	25%
Final Take-home Exam Due (April 21 st)	20%
Journal Entries	30%
TOTAL:	100%

1. **Midterm examinations:** Both midterms are in-class exams consisting of essay questions derived from the materials presented in class and from the assigned readings. The exams are scheduled for February 11th and March 24th. Each is worth 25% of your final grade.
2. **Final examination:** You will be given a take-home final examination in class on Tuesday, April 12th. You will have one week to complete this examination and answers must be handed in electronically by 4:30 pm on April 19th. The test will follow the same format as the midterm exams – essay questions. Answers will have a maximum page limit TBA. The value of this exam is 20% of your final grade.
3. **Journal:** Students are expected to write one journal entry provided in weeks 1, 2, 3, 4, 6, 7, 8, 9, 11, 12 and 13 (see above; no entries on test weeks). I will provide journal entry topics on the dates noted. Entries must be between 400-500 words each – unless explicit instruction is given otherwise.

Journal entries for weeks 1, 2, 3 and 4 are due **February 4th**.

Journal entries for weeks 6, 7, 8 and 9 are due **March 17th**.

Journal entries for weeks 11 and 12 are due **April 12th**.

The value of 10 entries is 30%. Failing to provide ten journal entries and/or failing to provide entries on time will result in a mark of 0, without exception. Hardcopies of your journal entries are expected on the due dates listed above.

Final Percentage Score	Final Grade
97-100 %	A+
90-96 %	A
85-89 %	A-
81-84 %	B+
78-80 %	B
75-77 %	B-
70-74 %	C+
65-69 %	C
60-64 %	C-
55-59 %	D+
50-54 %	D
< 49.9 %	F

Additional Notes:

1. **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 reassessed mark may be raised, lowered, or remain the same.
2. **Course-related matters:** The main Sociology Department office does not deal with any course-related matters. Please speak directly to your instructor.
3. **Technology use:** You are welcome to use your laptop/tablet in class but please use it for course-related purposes only (i.e. to access course presentations, take notes). Using your computer/tablet/phone for other purposes (surf the net, shop, email, check Facebook, update your tweets, etc.) is distracting to your classmates and to your instructor. Permission to use laptops/tablets may be withdrawn if these are not used appropriately. Please be sure to mute and refrain from using your cell phone during class.
4. **Missed classes:** Please make arrangements to obtain missed notes from your classmates. The instructor's notes are not for distribution and will not be posted on D2L.
5. **Email:** Please put your course number and section in your email's subject line. Also, please include a proper salutation, your full name, student ID, and a proper closing in the body of your email. Emails will typically be answered within one business day and not on weekends. This should be taken into account when emailing questions pertaining to assignments or exams. If you have a course-related question, please check the course outline first.
6. **Participation:** Please plan to participate in discussions during class. Our experience as a class will be enhanced if participation is conducted in a manner that is fully respectful of all class attendees and is informed by reading the course material prior to class.
7. **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>
8. **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."

9. **Ethical 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.
10. **Deferrals:** If possible, please provide advance notice to the instructor if you are unable to write an exam or complete 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 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/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).
11. **Student representation:** The 2015-16 Students' Union VP Academic is Stephan Guscott: email: 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, arts2@ucalgary.ca, arts3@ucalgary.ca, and 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>
12. **Emergency evacuation:** In the case of fire or other emergency evacuation of this classroom, please proceed to the assembly point at the **Education Block Food Court**. Please check assembly point locations for your other classes at: <http://www.ucalgary.ca/emergencyplan/assemblypoints>
13. **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.
14. **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 with disabilities, visit 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