

The University of Calgary
Faculty of Arts
Department of Sociology
Sociology 427(L01)-Social Organization of Criminal Justice
Course Outline, Fall 2015

Instructor: Steve Dumas	Office: SS904
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Classroom: SH 274	Office Phone: 403-220-3216

Introduction

This course is about the social organization of criminal justice in Canada. While Sociology 327 introduced students to the basic operations of the Canadian criminal justice system, this course explores shortcomings of the justice system. That is, the course considers how it does not live up to its stated objectives. We will consider why many citizens believe that crime is rampant and the system too lenient on criminals. As well, we will explore how class ideology generates inequities in terms of policing, sentencing, and sanctioning. Lastly, we will look at prospects for change in Canadian criminal justice. Upon successful completion of this course, students should be able to identify problems in the operation of the criminal justice system and think critically about positive social change.

Objectives

1. To identify and explain the philosophical principles of the Canadian justice system.
2. To identify how social inequities influence policing, sentencing, and sanctioning.
3. To explain how a lack of community affects crime rates.
4. To apply pyrrhic defeat theory and broken windows theory to instances of crime in Canada.
5. To evaluate the arguments posed by Reiman/Leighton and Wilson, and make suggestions for improving social justice in Canada.

Required Texts

The following texts are required in this course:

Reiman, J., & Leighton, P. (2012). *The rich get richer and the poor get poorer*. (10th ed.). Toronto: Allyn & Bacon.

Wilson, James, Q. (2013). *Thinking about crime*. (Revised ed.). New York: Basic Books.

Please speak with the instructor about the use of previous editions.

Please review the Reading/Class schedule below.

Evaluation

There are several opportunities for students to capture their grades. Students will be expected to produce critiques of each chapter of the Reiman/Leighton book (not the Appendices). The summaries will be 2 double-spaced pages long and are worth 2% each. The first page will summarize the central argument of the chapter in question while the second page will offer an evaluation of it. It is anticipated that the critiques will be a useful study guide for the mid-term examination. The mid-term examination is worth 30% and will be comprised of short answer questions. During the second section of the course, students will be required to lead a discussion/presentation on a chapter of the Wilson text. This is worth 10% and will involve reading the chapters in question, creating a brief summary, and a list of important points or questions about the readings. Other students must also complete the readings and contribute to class discussions. The final examination is worth 40%. Students will be given a list of questions to respond to in essay format. Finally, class participation is worth 10%. This mark will reflect students' attendance and contributions to class discussions.

Summaries	10%	See Reading Schedule
Mid-Term Examination	30%	October 19
Discussion Lead	10%	See Reading Schedule
Class Participation	10%	Ongoing
Final Examination	40%	TBA

Other Responsibilities of the Student

1. A careful and punctual reading of the required material.
2. Regular attendance at lectures and participation in class discussions and questions.
3. Advanced notice to the instructor if unable to comply with the schedule of assignments due to illness.
4. Students are asked to familiarize themselves with University Regulations covering plagiarism.

Grading Scheme

The following grading scheme will be used in this course.

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/Class Schedule

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	Completed Readings
Sept 9	Introduction	None
SECTION I - THE RICH GET RICHER AND THE POOR GET PRISON		
Sept 11	A Marxian Critique of Criminal Justice	Appendix I
Sept 14	Between Philosophy and Criminology	Appendix II
Sept 16	Crime Control in America Chapter 1 Summary Due 2%	Chapter 1
Sept 18	Crime Control in America	Chapter 1
Sept 21	Crime Control in America	Chapter 1
Sept 23	A Crime by Any Other Name... Chapter 2 Summary Due 2%	Chapter 2
Sept 25	A Crime by Any Other Name...	Chapter 2
Sept 28	A Crime by Any Other Name...	Chapter 2
Sept 30	...And the Poor Get Prison Chapter 3 Summary Due 2%	Chapter 3
Oct 2	...And the Poor Get Prison	Chapter 3
Oct 5	...And the Poor Get Prison	Chapter 3
Oct 7	To the Vanquished Belong the Spoils Chapter 4 Summary Due 2%	Chapter 4
Oct 9	To the Vanquished Belong the Spoils	Chapter 4
Oct 12	Thanksgiving Day. No classes.	None
Oct 14	Criminal <i>Justice</i> or <i>Criminal Justice</i> Chapter 5 Summary Due 2%	Chapter 5
Oct 16	Criminal <i>Justice</i> or <i>Criminal Justice</i>	Chapter 5
Oct 19	Mid-Term Examination	
SECTION II - THINKING ABOUT CRIME		
Oct 21	Documentary	None
Oct 23	Documentary/Discussion	None
Oct 26	Crime Amidst Plenty	Chapter 1
Oct 28	Crime and Community	Chapter 2
Oct 30	Presentation 1 Thinking About Crime	Chapter 3
Nov 2	Review	Chapter 3
Nov 4	Presentation 2 The Police and Crime	Chapter 4
Nov 6	Review	Chapter 4
Nov 9	Presentation 3 Broken Windows	Chapter 5
Nov 11	Reading Days. No classes.	None
Nov 13	Reading Days. No classes.	None
Nov 16	Review	None
Nov 18	Presentation 4 The Police and Community Relations	Chapter 6
Nov 20	Review	Chapter 6

Nov 23	Presentation 5 Penalties and Opportunities	Chapter 7
Nov 25	Review	Chapter 7
Nov 27	Presentation 6 Incapacitation	Chapter 8
Nov 30	Review	Chapter 8
Dec 2	Presentation 7 Rehabilitation	
Dec 4	Presentation 8 The Death Penalty	Chapter 10
Dec 7	Review/Conclusion	Chapter 10

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

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. 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>

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 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