

The University of Calgary
Faculty of Arts
Department of Sociology
Sociology 427(L01)-Social Organization of Criminal Justice
Course Outline, Fall 2016

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| Instructor: Steve Dumas | Office: SS904 |
| Email: sfdumas@ucalgary.ca | Office Hours: F 11:00am-noon or by appointment |
| 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 operation 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 five chapters of the texts (not the Appendices or Prefaces). Students will choose two chapters from one text and three from the other. The summaries will be two to three double-spaced pages long and are worth 4% each. The first page will summarize the central argument of the chapter in question, while the second page will offer an evaluation of it. The mid-term examination is worth 40% and will be comprised of short answer or essay questions. The final examination is worth 40%. Students will be given a list of questions to respond to in essay format.

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| Mid-Term Examination | 40% | October 19 |
| Summaries | 20% | November 21 |
| 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.

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| 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 | Reading |
|---|----------------------|-----------|
| Section I – Thinking About Crime | | |
| Sept 12 | Introduction | None |
| Sept 14 | Crime Amidst Plenty | Chapter 1 |
| Sept 16 | Crime and Community | Chapter 2 |
| Sept 19 | Thinking About Crime | Chapter 3 |
| Sept 21 | Thinking About Crime | Chapter 3 |
| Sept 23 | The Police and Crime | Chapter 4 |

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| Sept 26 | The Police and Crime | Chapter 4 |
| Sept 28 | Broken Windows | Chapter 5 |
| Sept 30 | The police and community relations | Chapter 6 |
| Oct 3 | The police and community relations | Chapter 6 |
| Oct 5 | Penalties and opportunities | Chapter 7 |
| Oct 7 | Incapacitation | Chapter 8 |
| Oct 12 | Rehabilitation | Chapter 9 |
| Oct 14 | The death penalty | Chapter 10 |
| Oct 17 | Review | None |
| Oct 19 | Mid-term examination | Based on above chapters |
| Section II – The Rich Get Richer and the Poor Get Prison | | |
| Oct 21 | Documentary | |
| Oct 24 | A Marxian critique of criminal justice | Appendix I |
| Oct 26 | A Marxian critique of criminal justice | Appendix I |
| Oct 28 | Between philosophy and criminology | Appendix II |
| Oct 31 | Between philosophy and criminology | Appendix II |
| Nov 2 | Crime control in America | Chapter 1 |
| Nov 4 | Crime control in America | Chapter 1 |
| Nov 7 | Crime control in America | Chapter 1 |
| Nov 9 | A crime by any other name... | Chapter 2 |
| Nov 14 | A crime by any other name... | Chapter 2 |
| Nov 16 | A crime by any other name... | Chapter 2 |
| Nov 18 | ...And the poor get prison | Chapter 3 |
| Nov 21 | ...And the poor get prison | Chapter 3 |
| Nov 23 | ...And the poor get prison | Chapter 3 |
| Nov 25 | To the vanquished belong the spoils | Chapter 4 |
| Nov 28 | To the vanquished belong the spoils | Chapter 4 |
| Nov 30 | To the vanquished belong the spoils | Chapter 4 |
| Dec 2 | Criminal <i>justice</i> or <i>criminal justice</i> | Chapter 5 |
| Dec 5 | Criminal <i>justice</i> or <i>criminal justice</i> | Chapter 5 |
| Dec 7 | Criminal <i>justice</i> or <i>criminal justice</i> | Chapter 5 |
| Dec 9 | Conclusion | None |

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: <https://www.ucalgary.ca/registrar/student-forms>

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

https://www.ucalgary.ca/registrar/files/registrar/deferred_termwork15_0.pdf

Student Representation: The 2016-17 Students' Union VP Academic is Alicia Lunz (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 needing an Accommodation because of a Disability or medical condition should contact Student Accessibility Services (MC 293, phone [403-220-8237](tel:403-220-8237)) in accordance with the Procedure for Accommodations for Students with Disabilities available at

http://www.ucalgary.ca/policies/files/policies/student-accommodation-policy_0.pdf.

Please provide academic accommodation letters to the instructor as early in the semester as possible and no later than two weeks after the course begins.