



UNIVERSITY OF CALGARY

FACULTY OF ARTS
Department of Sociology
Department of Sociology Website: <http://www.soci.ucalgary.ca>

Sociology 427(L01) Social Organization of Criminal Justice

- | | | |
|---------------|--------------------|----------|
| • Spring 2019 | • TR 1:00pm-3:45pm | • SB 144 |
|---------------|--------------------|----------|

Instructor: Steve Dumas
Office: SS 904
Email: sfdumas@ucalgary.ca
Phone: 403-220-3216
Office Hours: T/TR 11:30am-12:30pm or by appointment

Course Description

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.

Course Objectives/Learning Outcomes

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 Textbooks, Readings, Materials

The following texts are required in this course:

Reiman, J., & Leighton, P. (2017). *The rich get richer and the poor get prison*. (11th 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.

The Schedule of Lectures and Readings describes the specific readings to be completed.

There are no materials to be purchased or used in this class.

Methods of 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 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. The mid-term examination is worth 45% and will be comprised of short answer or essay questions. The final examination is worth 45%. Students will be given a list of questions to respond to in essay format.

Mid-Term Examination	45%	May 28th
Summaries	10%	June 14th
Final Examination	45%	TBA

Final Exam Information

The final examination is worth 45%. Students will be given a list of questions to respond to in essay format.

Grading Scale

Letter grades will be assigned and submitted to the registrar based on the following scale:

Grade	Percent range	Grade Point Value	Description
A+	96 – 100%	4.0	Outstanding performance
A	90 – 95.99%	4.0	Excellent-superior performance
A-	85 – 89.99%	3.7	
B+	80 – 84.99%	3.3	
B	75 – 79.99%	3.0	Good – clearly above average performance
B-	70 – 74.99%	2.7	
C+	67 – 69.99%	2.3	
C	63 – 66.99%	2.0	Satisfactory - basic understanding
C-	59 – 62.99%	1.7	
D+	55 – 58.99%	1.3	
D	50 – 54.99%	1.0	Minimal pass - marginal performance
F	<50%	0	unsatisfactory performance

The grades for a course component may be scaled to maintain equity among sections and to conform to departmental norms.

Schedule of Lectures and Readings

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	Readings
May 7	Review Outline Crime Amidst Plenty	<i>Thinking about crime.</i> Chapter 1
May 9	Crime and Community Thinking About Crime	<i>Thinking about crime.</i> Chapters 2, 3
May 14	The Police and Crime Broken Windows	<i>Thinking about crime.</i> Chapters 4, 5

May 16	The Police and Community Relations Penalties and Opportunities	<i>Thinking about crime.</i> Chapters 6, 7
May 21	Incapacitation Rehabilitation	<i>Thinking about crime.</i> Chapters 8, 9
May 23	Review	None
May 28	Mid-Term	
May 30	A Marxian Critique of Criminal Justice Between Philosophy and Criminology	<i>Thinking about crime.</i> Appendix I, II
June 4	Crime Control in America A Crime By Any Other Name...	<i>The rich get richer and the poor get prison</i> Chapters 1, 2
June 6	...And The Poor Get Prison	<i>The rich get richer and the poor get prison</i> Chapter 3
June 11	To The Vanquished Belong the Spoils	<i>The rich get richer and the poor get prison</i> Chapter 4
June 13	Criminal <i>Justice</i> or <i>Criminal</i> Justice	<i>The rich get richer and the poor get prison</i> Chapter 5
June 17	Conclusion	None

Passing Grades

In order to pass the course, students must obtain 50% or more overall as per the grading scale.

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 re-assessed grade may be raised, lowered, 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.

Emergency Evacuations

In the case of fire or other emergency evacuation of this classroom, please proceed to Energy, Environment, and Experiential Learning (EEEL). Please check these assembly point locations for all of your classes at: <http://www.ucalgary.ca/emergencyplan/assemblypoints>

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.

Research Ethics

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-5.html>

Absences and Deferrals

Students who are absent from class assessments (tests, participation activities, or other assignments) should inform their instructors as soon as possible. Instructors may request that evidence in the form of documentation be provided. If the reason provided for the absence is acceptable, instructors may decide that any arrangements made can take forms other than make-up tests or assignments. For example, the weight of a missed grade may be added to another

assignment or test. For information on possible forms of documentation, including statutory declarations, please see <https://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/m-1.html>

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 can be found at:

<https://www.ucalgary.ca/registrar/exams/deferred-exams>

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

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 2019-20 Students' Union VP Academic is Kevin Dang suypaca@ucalgary.ca.

For more information, and to contact other elected officials with the Student's Union, please visit this link: <https://www.su.ucalgary.ca/about/who-we-are/elected-officials/>

You may also wish to contact the Student Ombudsperson for help with a variety of University-related matters: <http://www.ucalgary.ca/ombuds/contact>

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

The student accommodation policy can be found at: ucalgary.ca/access/accommodations/policy.

Students needing an Accommodation because of a Disability or medical condition should communicate this need to Student Accessibility Services in accordance with the Procedure for Accommodations for Students with Disabilities ucalgary.ca/policies/files/policies/student-accommodation-policy.

Students needing an Accommodation based on a Protected Ground other than Disability, should communicate this need, preferably in writing, to the course instructor.

Student Resources

[SU Wellness Centre](#)

[Campus Mental Health Strategy](#)