

**University of Calgary**  
**Sociology 427.01: SOCIAL ORGANIZATION OF THE CRIMINAL JUSTICE SYSTEM**  
**Winter 2017**

Professor: Dr. Cora J. Voyageur  
Office: 906 SST  
Office Hours: Tuesday 11:00 – 1:00 or by appointment  
Class: 9:30-10:45 Tuesday & Thursday  
Phone: 403 220 6507  
Email: voyageur@ucalgary.ca

---

**Sociology Website:** [www.soci@ucalgary.ca](http://www.soci@ucalgary.ca)

---

**Course Prerequisite:** Sociology 325 and 313 or the consent of the Department. Sociology 331 and 333 are recommended.

**Course Description:** The best criminals are the ones who never get caught. What happens to most of those who do get caught is the topic of this course. This course is an overview of the various facets of the criminal justice system. It is designed to introduce students to the societal and institutional responses to crime and criminal behaviour in Canada. It addresses the sociological factors that influence events and outcomes of the administration of justice. It begins with the assumption that crime is a social construct. How is it that some actions are deemed criminal while others are not? Are certain behaviours always considered criminal? Who gets to decide? What is the role of the police, the courts, corrections, probation and parole? All these questions will be explored and we will hear from practitioners from within the systems in an attempt to gain insights into the laws, policies, and procedures in Canada's criminal justice system.

**Course Objectives:**

1. To explore the genesis of laws and criminal behavior in Canada.
2. To identify and analyze the key components of the criminal justice system.
3. To provide a factual basis on which to assess issues and situations regarding the handling of criminal behaviour in the criminal justice system.
4. To make students aware of the problems, potential injustices and ironies inherent in the Canadian criminal justice system.
5. To explore the circumstances under which a person can be wrongfully convicted and to determine whether there is a "prototypical" wrongfully convicted person.
6. To discuss and remain aware of various justice issues that may arise from time to time during the term.

## Course Format:

Classes will combine several formats: lectures based on topics covered in the readings; small and large group discussion of issues raised in lectures; class presentations, guest lectures, videos, and class questions, and in class assignments. I will cover some of the assigned readings in class and will also lecture from additional materials on the topic. Therefore, you're responsible for any assigned readings and reserve materials. **Please be ready to answer or discuss course-related questions posed by me at any time throughout the class.**

## Required Texts:

- 1) Reiman, Jeffrey. (2001). *The Rich Get Richer, The Poor Get Prison (Sixth Edition)*. Boston: Allyn and Bacon.
- 2) Mewitt, Allan and Shaun Nakatsuru. (2000). *An Introduction to the Criminal Process in Canada, (Fourth Edition)* Toronto: Carswell Thompson.

The assigned readings will *generally (but not exactly)* correspond with the topics covered in the lectures. Thus lecture topics should serve as a tentative guide and may be adjusted by me. Students are also required to read articles placed on reserve at the library. **Please read the weekly assigned materials prior to the class.**

## Evaluation:

**NOTE: Receiving credit in all components of this evaluation (including the Colleague Evaluation) is mandatory to obtain a passing grade in this course.**

### 1. Examinations 60%

There will be 1 mid-term examination and 1 final examination. The examinations will cover lectures, guest lectures, videos, class discussions, and assigned reading materials scheduled up to the exam. This means that students will also be responsible for readings and topics **not covered** in class.

Examinations will be a combination of any or all of the following: multiple choice, true/false, definition, short answer and essay questions. This manner of testing allows the student to demonstrate varying methods of academic skill. I do not expect the student to rely solely on rote memory. I expect application, analysis, synthesis, and integration of course materials into your reasoned and concise answers. The short answer and long answer questions require a reasonable standard of writing. Poor spelling, disjointed or incomplete sentences, poor grammar and punctuation, inadequate sentence and paragraph structure will only detract from the ideas you are trying to express and will negatively impact your mark.

The final exam is **non-cumulative**. This means that the mid-term will cover only materials from the first class to the class prior to the mid-term exam. The final exam will cover materials from the mid-term to the last day of class. Although the final exam is non-cumulative, students might find reviewing the mid-term exam valuable in preparation for the final. In other words, do not forget everything you learned prior to the mid-term. **Examination dates are strictly enforced.** The dates and assigned weights for exams are as follows:

Mid-term	February 16	30 %
Final Examination	Date set by Registrar	30 %

**2. Group Research Project/Class Presentation 30%**

*Research Project/Class Presentation 20%*

Our criminal justice system has glitches. One example of the system not delivering justice is the case of the wrongfully convicted individuals. Groups can choose a research topic/individual from my list or you can research another with my approval. Your group research project/class presentation will consist of a half-hour class presentation. Groups must supply handouts for the class. The group research project/class presentation should answer the following questions: Who was the individual? Were there elements of social inequality (race, class, gender, etc.) surrounding the arrest/conviction/sentencing of this person? What evidence led to the conviction? How and why was the verdict overturned? Where did the system go wrong? Presentations will begin on March 2. I will allow class time for group members to confer.

*Colleague Evaluation 10%*

Your group members will evaluate your contribution to the group project. This evaluation accounts for 10% of your final mark so you **must** do your share of the work. The mark you get on your colleague evaluation will be proportional to your final grade on the presentation. Further, if you receive a participation grade of "0" from all of your fellow group members then you will not receive a grade for the poster presentation, and thus, fail the course.

**3. In-class Pop Quizzes: 10%**

Throughout the course I will give five in-class pop quizzes worth 2% each. These quizzes will be based on information from that day's class. Your answers must be turned in at the end of the class.

**Final grades** will be assigned according to the University of Calgary's 4-point grading system based on the following percentage distributions:

Percentage	Grade	Meaning
95+	A+	Outstanding
89 - 94	A	
86 - 88	A-	Very Good
82 - 85	B+	
79 - 81	B	
76 - 78	B-	Good
72 - 75	C+	
68 - 71	C	
64 - 67	C-	
60 - 63	D+	Minimal Pass
55 - 59	D	
0 - 54	F	Fail

The A+ grade became an official grade at the University of Calgary in fall, 2002. The A+ grade is described as an honorific grade having the same grade point value as an A grade (4.0). It will be used to indicate outstanding performance in a subject area but not have a higher grade point average.

**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.

**Exam Policies/Deferrals:** You must provide advance 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. Deferred exams may 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 deferred exam. Deferred exams will not be granted if it is determined that the student does not show a just cause.

If you missed an exam for of legitimate reason, the instructor can require you to write a "makeup" exam is close to the time of the original exam as possible or choose to transfer the percentage weight to another course component. If the instructor schedules and "make up" exam for you, its dates 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 a 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 is available at [https://www.ucalgary.ca/registrar/files/registrar/deferred\\_termwork15\\_0.pdf](https://www.ucalgary.ca/registrar/files/registrar/deferred_termwork15_0.pdf). Once the instructor and the student have agreed upon an extension date, the form must be taken to the Faculty of Arts Program Information Centre (SS 110) for approval by an Associate Dean (Students).

**Email:** Feel free to contact me over email at any time. Please put your course number and section in your email's subject line, and include a proper salutation, your full name, student ID, and a proper closing in the body of your email. All emails violating customary email conventions will be ignored. All other emails will be answered within one business day. I do not answer emails over the weekend. Please take that into account when emailing me questions pertaining assignments or exams. If you have a course-related question, please check the course outline first. Questions that can be answered by consulting the course outline will not be answered. Please e-mail me for administrative purposes only, for example to set up an appointment. Please do not use e-mail as a replacement for an office visit, if there is something you want to discuss. Questions about the course content and readings, concerns about grades, or any other personal issues should be dealt with in-person during my office hour

**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:** Cheating is regarded as a serious academic offense. Students are advised to consult the University calendar, which presents a Statement Of Intellectual Honesty, with definitions and penalties associated with cheating, plagiarism, and other academic misconduct. <http://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/k-2-1.html>

**Handing in Papers Outside of Class, Return of Final Papers, and Release of Final Grades:** 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's main office. Final papers will not be returned through the Sociology Department main office. They are only available online. 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.

**Student Representation:** The 2016-17 Students' Union VP Academic is Alicia Lunz ([suvpaca@ucalgary.ca](mailto:suvpaca@ucalgary.ca)). The Faculty of Arts has four SU representatives who may be contacted at any of the following email addresses: [arts1@ucalgary.ca](mailto:arts1@ucalgary.ca), [arts2@ucalgary.ca](mailto:arts2@ucalgary.ca), [arts3@ucalgary.ca](mailto:arts3@ucalgary.ca), and [arts4@ucalgary.ca](mailto: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 **ICT – Food Court**.

### **Safewalk**

The University of Calgary provides a “safewalk” 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) in accordance with the Procedure for Accommodations for Students with Disabilities available at <http://www.ucalgary.ca/policies/files/policies/student-accommodation-policy.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.

**Technology Use and Electronic Classroom Etiquette:** Technology can be both a blessing and a curse. In recent years electronic devices have been the cause of a tremendous amount of disturbance in the classroom. Please get the most of your (or your parents’) hard-earned tuition dollars by devoting your class time exclusively to classroom activities. Please be courteous to your classmates and your professor by ensuring that your cellphones, pagers, or any other electronic devices are turned off and remain off for the duration of the class.

For those taking notes on a laptop please be aware that your screen is visible to both those beside you and behind you. I have received many complaints from fellow classmates who have been forced to endure distracting, offensive and otherwise unsuitable images from others’ laptops. Please remember that laptops are to be used exclusively for the purposes of taking notes during class.

Checking emails, text messaging, Facebooking or MSNing, or engaging in any other type of internet/or electronic activity during this class is not permitted. Those who choose to ignore this rule will be asked to leave my classroom immediately. Students who have been asked to leave my classroom must meet with me before returning. Students taking class notes on a laptop computer will be asked to close their laptops from time to time to answer questions and/or engage in classroom discussion throughout the class.

**My Teaching Philosophy:** I love to teach and I hope it shows. I believe that learning is an active rather than a passive activity. I want to assist you in your learning journey. Although attendance is not mandatory, I urge you to attend class regularly. I will not post my lecture materials or give you my lecture notes if you are absent. Class discussions, issues raised in class and information obtained from videos, lectures and other class activities can be give you some valuable insights and help you with assignments and exams. You will not have access to that information unless you attend class. I strive to provide a safe and non-competitive learning environment but one that periodically takes students out of their comfort zone. I encourage class discussion as a means of exploring topics, ideas, and sometimes controversies. We may be dealing with sensitive and sometimes contentious issues in class. Your point of view is important but may be challenged by your fellow students or me during this course. Your opinion may differ from those of your classmates. So please, remain open-minded and remember to be respectful of opinions that differ from your own.

**Proposed Course Schedule**  
**Sociology 427:01: SOCIAL ORGANIZATION OF CRIMINAL JUSTICE**  
**Winter 2017**

<b>Week of</b>	<b>Topic</b>	<b>Readings</b>
1     January 9	Introduction	Reiman Intro & Chapter 1
2     January 16	Presentation Preparation	Mewitt Chapters 1-2
3     January 23	Criminal Justice in Canada	Reiman Chapters 2-3
4     January 30	Crime as a Social Construction	Reiman Chapters 4-5
5     February 6	Criminal Statistics and the Extent of Crime	Mewitt Chapters 3-5
6     February 13 February 16	The Justice Process Midterm Exam	Mewitt Chapters 6-8
7     February 20	Reading Week	No Readings
8     February 27 March 2	Law Enforcement in Canada (Class Presentations begin)	Mewitt Chapters 9 - 10
9     March 6	Presentations	No Readings
10    March 3	The Canadian Court System	Mewitt Chapters 11-12
11    March 20	Court Procedures and Sentencing	Mewitt Chapters 13-14
12    March 27	Correctional Institutions	Mewitt Chapters 15-16
13    April 3	Probation and Parole	Mewitt Chapters 17-18
14    April 10	Residual/Course Wrap-up	Mewitt Chapters 19