# University of Manitoba

**COURSE TITLE**
Criminal Justice and Corrections – SOC 2610 –A01 2nd year Undergraduate, Fall 2013

**DEPARTMENT**
Sociology

**INSTRUCTOR**
Dr. Dale Spencer
Email: Dale.Spencer@ad.umanitoba.ca

**Course Type**
Survey

**Credit Hours**
3.000

**Class Location**
TIER 215

**Office Location and Phone Number**
306 Isbister Building. (204) 480-1039

**MEETING TIMES**
Tuesday and Thursday, 10:00am – 11:15am

**Office Hours**
By Appointment

## COURSE DESCRIPTION

### OFFICIAL COURSE DESCRIPTION

The sociological study of the criminal justice system, including the police, the courts, prisons and other correctional agencies.

### GENERAL COURSE DESCRIPTION

The role of the criminal justice system in Canadian society is ever expanding. This expansion is marked by a number of conflicting approaches to criminal justice. This course explores the manifold theoretical perspectives related to criminal justice and corrections. As a survey course, students will be offered an introduction to the sociological perspectives on the criminal justice system (police, courts, corrections, surveillance).

### Course Objectives

1. To read and discuss a variety of theoretical perspectives and empirical investigations of issues related to criminal justice and corrections, utilizing legal, historical, criminological, sociological, philosophical and interdisciplinary perspectives.

2. To assist in the development of critical reading, writing, presentation, discussion, and analytical skills through class participation, small group presentations, and written assignments.

### REQUIRED MATERIALS

Students do not have to buy a text for this course. All required materials are available through Desire 2
GRADES & SCORING

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<th>Assignment</th>
<th>Percentage of Total Grade</th>
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<td>Critical Commentaries</td>
<td>25%</td>
<td>Weekly</td>
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<td>Attendance and Small Group Presentation</td>
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<td>See Sign Up Sheet</td>
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<td>Newspaper Assignment</td>
<td>20%</td>
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<td>Midterm Exam</td>
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<td>Final Exam</td>
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Grades: Percentage, Letter Grade and Descriptive Scale GPA

93 to 100 = A+, Exceptional 4.5  
85 to 92 = A, Excellent 4.0  
80 to 84 = B+, Very Good 3.5  
70 to 79 = B, Good 3.0  
66 to 69 = C+, Satisfactory 2.5  
60 to 65 = C, Adequate 2.0  
50 to 59 = D, Marginal 1.0  
0 to 49 = F, Failure 0.0

Note: Senate Policy #1307 requires “A post-examination review of final grades in multisectioned courses that will encourage equitable correspondence between grades and level of performance in all sections.” Accordingly, the final grade distribution in this course may be raised or lowered to achieve such equity and, therefore, your final grade may be changed.

ASSIGNMENTS AND EXAMS

Critical Commentaries (25%) - from course readings
Students will be required to submit a minimum of 5 critical commentaries during the course of the semester. Students must submit the critical commentary on the week that the reading is assigned.
Assignment Rationale:
* Development of analytical and writing skills in preparation for the midterm and final take-home exams
* Development of the knowledge base necessary to participate in class and maximize your potential in the course

Specifications and Grading (also see detailed grading rubric)
Formatting: 2 double-spaced page typed, 12 point Times New Roman Font, along with the inclusion of your name (somewhere on the first page of the assignment), reading addressed (listed in APA format, DOI
not required; left aligned), and date of submission in the top right corner of the assignment (1 mark).

Description of the content of the reading (2 marks)

Evaluation of reading (1 mark)

Linkage between reading contents and a contemporary event (1 mark)

*Critical Commentaries must be submitted the week in which they are assigned.*

**Attendance and Small Group Presentation (15%) – See Sign Up Sheet**

Class attendance is mandatory. The attendance and participation mark is based on formal attendance (an attendance sheet will be signed prior to the small group presentations) and in-group reading presentations. You will have to present one of the readings to your group during the semester and you will have to submit your presentation notes to me at the end of the class. Presentations notes are to be typed, double-spaced, and 5-6 pages in length (with discussion, you can expect your presentation to be 25 minutes in length). 5% will be apportioned for presentation attendance and 10% for your in-class presentation.

You will be assigned to small groups on the second day of class (Tuesday, September 10, 2013). A sheet will be distributed and you will sign up to present one of the readings between week 4 and week 12. Small group presentations occur every other Thursday starting from week 4. If you do not sign up for a presentation, it is your responsibility to contact teaching assistant or me to sign up. Students will receive a grade of ‘0’ if they miss their presentation.

This class will feature lively discussion each week. The class rewards good attendance and class participation, which will work to the benefit of 90 per cent or more of you. One of my commitments to you is that you should find the class interesting to attend and should not want to miss it. On top of that, a pattern of missing class regularly will lower your final mark and, for some, will put you in danger of failing the course. You should not take the course if you are unable to attend regularly. If an issue comes up for you during the term that will mean you are unable to attend class for an extended period, as soon as possible you should talk to Dr. Spencer to clarify the situation and get any help he can offer.

*‘Law and Order’ Newspaper article analysis assignment (20%) –*

Locate a newspaper article on a criminal justice issue from one of the following sources: the Globe and Mail, Winnipeg Free Press, Winnipeg Sun, or National Post. The article must not be older than one year from the due date. Make certain the article is about a criminal justice issue and not a summary of a criminal event. You may use the web sites of the aforementioned sources or hard copy and you must attach the article to your assignment. Write a five double-spaced page paper analyzing the criminal justice issue based on course readings and class lectures. Please include an additional title page. You will be evaluated on how effectively you relate the article to course readings.

**Mid-term Exam (20%) Course Material Assessed (from readings and lectures) – March 1, 2013**

Format: 40 Multiple Choice Questions

*If you miss the mid-term exam, you will receive a mark of ‘0’.*

**Take-home Final Exam (20%) Course Material Assessed (from all readings and lectures)**

Format:
Essay question – Choice of 1 of 3 possible questions
Handout Date: November 26, 2013
Due date: December 3, 2013

*If you do not submit your final exam before 12am December 4, 2013, you will receive a grade of ‘0’.

ATTENDANCE & TARDINESS POLICY

Students will be expected to attend all course lectures and read all assigned readings. The topics covered during the lectures will not necessarily be covered in the course readings and vice versa.

If a student arrives after the lecture is starting, they will not be able to hand in their critical commentary. There will be no exceptions to this rule.

Late assignments will not be accepted. Students must submit a doctor’s note in order hand in a paper after the due date.

If you are tardy for class, try to be as quiet as possible coming into class. You are not that important that everyone else should be made aware of your late arrival.

Weekly Breakdown

Week 1: – Introductory Class – September 5, 2013

Week 2: – Modernity and Criminal Justice – Sept. 10 & 12

Week 3: Principles of Justice, Philosophies of Law – Sept. 17 & 19

Week 4: The Development of Modern Policing – Sept. 24 & 26

Required Reading


Recommended:


Week 5: Issues in Policing – Oct. 1 & 3
**Required Reading**


**Recommended:**


**Week 6:** Technology, Surveillance and Prevention – Oct. 8 & 10

**Required Reading**


**Recommended:**


**Week 7:** Social (In)justice and the Courts – Oct. 15 & 17

**Required Reading**


**Recommended:**


**Midterm Exam – October 17, 2013**

**Week 9:** Punishment, ‘Corrections’ and Risk – Oct. 22 & 24

**Required Reading**


**Recommended:**

**Week 10:** Experiences of Punishment – Oct. 29 & 31

**Required Reading**


**Recommended:**


**Week 11:** The Prison Industrial Complex/Youth and the Criminal Justice System – Nov. 5 & 7

**Required Reading**


**Recommended:**


**Week 12:** Media Depictions of Criminal Justice – Nov. 12 & 14

**Required Reading**


**Recommended:**


**Week 13:** Victims and Restorative Justice – Nov. 19 & 21

**Required Reading**


**Recommended:**

**Week 13:** November 26, 2013 - Class Overview

– Submit Newspaper Assignment; Distribution of Final Take Home Exam

November 28 and December 3, 2013: No Class

**Week 14:** December 3, 2013: Take home final exams due. Submit to Dropbox on D2L.

**My Philosophy of Teaching**

I believe that the purpose of education – my philosophy on life – is to inquire and to reflect on the past, present, and future and to carry this quest for understanding beyond this educational institution into the world. What I can promise is that what you will learn and the skills acquired in this class will help you critically engage with what you hear and see in the world. I am inimical to forms of education that are predicated on indoctrination for conformity and the pursuit of a high grade without actual reflection on the academic material.

**Other matters**

**Late Assignments:** Late assignments will receive a 10% deduction for every day the assignment is late. Only under exceptional circumstances (e.g., medical issues accompanied by a valid doctor’s note) will a student be able to receive an extension. To be clear, in the event of a medical issue or death in the family, you **must** submit a doctor’s note or a death certificate. Unless you can demonstrate through documentation that you need or deserve an extension, you will receive the 10% deduction for every day that your assignment is late. Students that miss their presentations will receive ‘0’ their presentation grade.

**Student Concerns/Complaints:** From time to time students object to or have concerns about the grade they receive on a given assignment. While students may raise concerns regarding the grade they receive from me, you must wait two days after the assignment was handed back and must put your specific reasoning of why you deserve a higher grade in print. There is also a chance – upon reevaluation of the grade you received – that you will receive a lower grade on your assignment. To be clear, it is **not** enough to say that you worked really hard on an assignment, that you get higher grades in other classes, or that you believe, without a rationale, you deserve a higher grade.
Your feedback about the course: If you have any suggestions about the course, they are encouraged at any time. I have incorporated a number of students’ suggestions in the past.

All final grades in this course are subject to the approval of the Department head. Students must retain a clean hard copy of their assignments.

Voluntary Withdrawal: The final date for voluntary withdrawal from this course is November 13, 2013. There are no refunds on this date – see the Fall/Winter Calendar for details.

Academic Dishonesty: Students should acquaint themselves with the University’s policy on plagiarism, cheating, exam personation, (“Personation at Examinations” (Section 5.2.9) and “Plagiarism and cheating” (Section 8.1)) and duplicate submission by reading documentation provided at the Arts Student Resources web site at http://www.umanitoba.ca/faculties/arts/student/index.html. Ignorance of the regulations and policies regarding academic integrity is not a valid excuse for violating them.

Unclaimed term work disposal: This statement must be included on course outline. Any term work that has not been claimed by students will be held for four (4) months from the end of the final examination period for the term in which the work was assigned. At the conclusion of this time, all unclaimed term work will become property of the Faculty of Arts and be destroyed according to FIPPA guidelines and using confidential measures for disposal.

Electronic Devices: Students are required to silence all electronic devices (cellular phones, Blackberries, I-phones, pagers, ipods, etc.) when in the classroom. If there is a reason that you require your device to remain on ‘ring’ mode (i.e., sick child at daycare), please inform me at the start of the class. Students are not permitted to send or receive text messages during class. If a student is found texting during class or their phone rings, she or he will be excused for the remainder of that class.

Classroom Disruptions: Students should recognize that excessive talking, late arrival, or early departures from the classroom are disrupting for both the instructor and classmates. Please be considerate of others in the class. Continual disruption by a student may result in disbarment from the course. Please notify the instructor at the onset of class if you need to leave early or if you have to come late to the next class.
Religious Holidays: The University recognizes the right of all students to observe recognized holidays of their faith, which fall within the academic year. With instructor discretion, necessary arrangements can be made to ensure studies are not jeopardized. The instructor should be notified of a student’s intended absence in advance and at least three weeks notice of absence should normally be given where special arrangements are sought.

Special Needs: Students with special learning needs (who for legitimate reasons require extra time to write a test, or who require aids or other supports) should identify themselves to the instructor at the beginning of the term in order to arrange suitable accommodation.