Instructor: Prof. Frank Cormier  
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Office hours: 11:30 M/W/F, or by appointment

Course Objectives:  
This course provides an introduction to the structure and workings of the Canadian criminal justice system. During the course we will examine the system’s three main components: police, courts, and corrections. Much of the course will involve a discussion of the main actors, the policies, and the procedures employed in the system (the ‘who’, ‘what’, and ‘how’). Just as important is a critical examination of the underlying beliefs, theories, and ideologies that shape and influence our criminal justice system (the ‘why’). At all stages of the course, students will be encouraged to take an active role through class participation.

Required Texts:  


Note: While the majority of the assigned readings will be from the required textbooks, additional articles may be distributed as the course progresses.

Evaluation:  
Grades will be determined on the basis of three term tests and a media analysis paper:  
Test #1 27.5% (Monday, February 3rd)  
Test #2 27.5% (Monday, March 10th)  
Test #3 20% (Wednesday, April 9th)  
Media analysis 25% (no later than Friday, March 28th at 4:00 p.m.)

Letter grades will be assigned as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grade</th>
<th>Range</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A+</td>
<td>90 - 100%</td>
<td>Exceptional</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A</td>
<td>80 - 89%</td>
<td>Excellent</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B+</td>
<td>75 - 79%</td>
<td>Very Good</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B</td>
<td>70 - 74%</td>
<td>Good</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C+</td>
<td>65 - 69%</td>
<td>Satisfactory</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C</td>
<td>60 - 64%</td>
<td>Adequate</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D</td>
<td>50 - 59%</td>
<td>Marginal</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>F</td>
<td>0 - 49%</td>
<td>Failure</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Note: Media assignments must be turned in directly to the instructor, or to the Sociology general office by 4:00 p.m. on the due date. Failure to complete any portion of the required course work will result in a grade of zero for that portion. See page 4 for late-submission penalties.
Attendance:
Students are expected to attend all classes. In the case of unavoidable absence, it is the student’s responsibility to inform the instructor as soon as possible. When absence results in a missed test, exam, or assignment due date, a medical certificate must be provided.

Class Conduct:
Disruptions such as talking, late arrivals or early departures are especially distracting to the instructor and to other students. Please be considerate of the needs and rights of others. Students should be aware that persistent disruption may result in debarment from the course. Active mobile phones and other electronic devices are not welcome; please ensure that all devices are turned off/silenced prior to the start of each class. Laptop/tablet computers may only be used to facilitate note-taking, and solely at the instructor’s discretion.

Academic Integrity:
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 website 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.

Voluntary Withdrawal:
Students should be familiar with the rules and procedures for voluntary withdrawal. The final date for withdrawal without academic penalty is March 19th, 2014.

Required Readings

Note that while the majority of the assigned reading will be from the textbook and the reader, additional articles may be distributed as the course progresses.

Introduction

An Overview of the Canadian Criminal Justice System (Griffiths, ch. 1)
Challenges in Criminal Justice (Griffiths, ch. 2; Roberts & Grossman, ch. 1,4)

Part I: Police

History, Structure, and Police Procedure (Griffiths, ch. 3, 4; Roberts & Grossman, ch. 5)

Part II: Courts

Structure and Operation of the Criminal Courts (Griffiths, ch. 6; Roberts & Grossman, ch. 7)
Prosecution & Sentencing: Principles and Procedures (Griffiths, ch.7, 8)

Part III: Corrections

Community and Institutional Corrections (Griffiths, ch. 9, 10; Roberts & Grossman, ch. 26)
Life After Incarceration (Griffiths, ch. 11; Roberts & Grossman, ch. 20)
Final Grades:
In accordance with University and Faculty of Arts policies and the University of Manitoba Senate Policy #1307, department and programs are required to utilize a final grades review and approval process of multi-sectioned undergraduate courses before course grades are rolled into Aurora student. Accordingly, the final grade distribution in this course may be raised or lowered to achieve this equity and, therefore, your final grade may be changed. At the discretion of a Department’s Council, the Faculty of Arts policy states there may also be a review and approval of proposed final grades of other undergraduate courses.

Copyright notice:
The lectures, displays, and materials delivered or provided in this course, including any visual or audio recording thereof, are subject to copyright owned by the instructor. Recording or copying any of the lectures, materials provided or published in any form during or from this course, by any means, in any format, openly or surreptitiously, in whole or in part, in the absence of express written permission from Prof. Frank Cormier is prohibited.

Unclaimed Term Work Disposal
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.
Assignment – Critical Assessment of Justice-themed Television

This assignment requires that you complete a 10- to 12-page (approximately) critical examination of a dramatic television program that focuses on one of the main elements of the criminal justice system (policing, courts, or corrections). The programs you may choose from are, quite literally, too numerous to list but include for example: CSI (any location), Law and Order (any version), Criminal Minds, The Mentalist, Blue Bloods, NCIS, Hawaii Five-O, Prison Break, Oz, etc. Note that the programs listed above represent only a very small sample of the plethora of justice-themed television programs widely available on broadcast television and from specialty channels. It does not matter whether the programs are current – they may be of any age you choose as long as they deal with an aspect of the criminal justice system. You must watch a minimum of three episodes (assuming episodes are one hour) of the program. If you are in any doubt about whether a program is acceptable, check with your instructor.

The primary objective of this assignment is to critically assess the program’s portrayal of the aspect of the criminal justice system within which it is set. Students examining American crime programs should be aware that they are required to note where aspects of the American justice system differ significantly from the Canadian system.

The body of the paper will consist of three main sections corresponding to the three episodes you are analyzing. For each episode, first provide a brief summary of the relevant plot elements. Then, assess the nature and accuracy of the program’s portrayal of the criminal justice system based upon the knowledge you have gained through the lectures and readings from this class. That is, be sure to draw on specific concepts and ideas from the textbook, the lecture, and class discussions. Also, keep the following questions in mind during your analysis:

- Does the program accurately portray the workings of the criminal justice system? Why/why not?
- Were there any parts of the program that you found to be unrealistic? If so, explain why.
- How does the program, in general, portray crime and criminal justice? Is it more sympathetic to some persons (e.g., lawyers, judges, police, criminals) than others? Explain.
- Do you think the program has an underlying political or ideological agenda? Explain.

The paper you submit must be double-spaced, have standard margins & borders, and use a 12-point Roman-style font. It is to be written in essay format (i.e. introduction, body, and conclusion), and must be written in an “academic style.” That is, it must be written formally and objectively, and include a title page and a reference page. Citations must be provided for any course materials or other reference materials consulted, using an accepted referencing style of your choice (ASA, APA, MLA, etc.). The title page must include the course name & number, instructor’s name, your name & student number, date, and an informative-yet-non-stupefyingly-mundane title. Papers should be stapled only (that is, no bindings or covers should be used). Please plan carefully to allow time to locate a stapler capable of doing the job properly.

Papers are due no later than March 28th, 2014. Late papers will be subject to a 10% per day (including weekends and holidays) deduction from the grade.