

University of Manitoba

Sociology 77.378 - Comparative Criminology and Criminal Justice

Instructor: Dr. Russell Smandych

Office: 301B Isbister Building

Office Hours: Monday, 1:00 p.m - 3:00 p.m. or by appointment

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Course Description: This course is designed to engage advanced undergraduate students in the cross-cultural study of crime and criminal justice. This includes an examination of the meaning of crime from a comparative perspective and the study of the organization and function of different types of criminal justice and dispute-settlement systems. The course is divided into two parts. The first part of the course focuses on examining different cross-cultural theories of crime and models of criminal justice. The second shorter part of the course surveys selected criminal justice systems and current research in comparative criminal justice. The objective of this course is to enable students to develop a more detailed historical and cross-cultural understanding of the meaning of crime and the operation of different criminal justice and dispute-settlement systems.

Course Requirements and Evaluation: The course will consist of lectures and discussions on topics outlined in the attached course syllabus. Students are expected to do the required readings, and be prepared to engage in discussions of the topics covered in the readings. They will also be expected to participate actively in group discussions with other students in the class who have been assigned to their research project working group.

The course evaluation will consist of two in-class tests, a group project, a peer evaluation of group project work, and a cumulative final exam. Provided below is a breakdown of the value of each of the course requirements and related due dates:

Test 1 20%

Test 2 20%

Group Research Project

Literature Review 5%

Group Research Project

and Report on Team-Work

Completed 20%

Peer Evaluation of Group

Project Work 5%

Cumulative Final Exam 30%

The following grade distribution will be used in the evaluation of the students' work:

A+ 90 - 100 C+ 65 - 69

A 80 - 90 C 60 - 64

B+ 75 - 79 D 50 - 59

B 70 - 74 F 0 - 49

Required Course Readings:

R. Terrill, World Criminal Justice Systems: A Survey. 4th Edition. Cincinnati: Anderson, 1999.

F. Van Dijk, J. de Waard, The Legal Infrastructure of the Netherlands in International Perspective: Crime Control. Netherlands: Ministry of Justice, Directorate for Strategy Development, 2000.

R. Smandych, ed. Comparative Criminology and Criminal Justice (casebook sold through the University of Manitoba Bookstore)

Policy on Plagiarism and Cheating: Plagiarism and Cheating are not allowed in this course. For definitions and penalties for these offences, see the rules against plagiarism and cheating outlined in the University of Manitoba General Calendar.

Missed Exams: If a test is missed for legitimate medical reason the student must get in touch with the professor, present their medical certificate, and arrange for a make-up test. Under normal circumstances, the student is required to inform the professor of their request for a make-up test within one week of the original test date. Failure to request a make-up test within the expected time frame may result in ineligibility for a make-up test and a mark of zero for that test.

Missed Presentations: One of the requirements of the course is an in-class group presentation worth 5% of your grade. Although only one group member will be presenting on behalf of his or her group, all group members must be present for the group presentation, unless they have a legitimate medical reason for not attending. Failure to attend the group presentation will result in a mark of zero, unless prior alternative arrangements have been made with the instructor.