

**UNIVERSITY OF MANITOBA
DEPARTMENT OF SOCIOLOGY
077:371 L02**

**SOCIOLOGY OF CRIMINAL CAREERS
January to April, 2004
M/W/F 11:30
308 Tier
3 Credit Hours**

INSTRUCTOR: Dr. Tannis Peikoff
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OFFICE HOURS: Fridays 9:30 to 10:30 or by appointment

REQUIRED TEXTBOOKS:

Cromwell, Paul	<u>In Their Own Words: Criminals on Crime.</u> (3rd edition) Roxbury Publishing Co. 2003.
Scott, Kody	<u>Monster: The Autobiography of an L.A. Gang Member.</u> Penguin Books. 1994.
Coleman, James William	<u>The Criminal Elite: Understanding White-Collar Crime:</u> St. Martin's Press. 2001.

COURSE OBJECTIVES AND DESCRIPTION:

The primary objective of this course is to provide students with a better understanding of offenders' careers in three specific types of crime: conventional or street crime, 'white collar' crime, and organized crime.

In the first section, the careers of the offenders will be studied in much the same way as careers in legitimate enterprises. As much as possible, we will discuss reasons for entry, progression through stages of the career and reasons for exiting the career. In all cases, attention is paid to gender.

Specifically, criminal careers will be examined with respect to: definition and seriousness of the offences, characteristics of the offenders, relationship to the victims, motives, and progression of criminal involvement over time.

The second section, 'white collar crime', is subdivided into occupational and corporate crime. The first part will examine crimes by professionals. The second part will examine corporate crimes such as crimes against employees and crimes against the public.

The third section, 'organized crime', will discuss both traditional forms of organized crime and current issues in transnational crime from a sociological perspective.

COURSE EVALUATION

Final grades will be based on the following:

Test # 1:	Feb. 9	20%
Test # 2	Mar. 15	20%
Test # 3	April 7	20%
Book review	due in class Feb. 13 th	15%
Group project	due in class March 31	20%
Evaluations		5%

Tests are not cumulative. Students are responsible for all assigned readings, lecture material, material discussed by speakers, class discussions and video presentations.

Make-up tests will be allowed if there is a valid reason such as illness. You must inform me within one week of the missed test. In the case of illness, a note from your doctor is required.

Late book reviews and projects will be given a lesser grade of 5% for every day that they are late.

Papers and Group projects will not be accepted past one week from the due date.

GRADES

90-100= A+	70-74= C+
85-89= A	60-69= C
80-84= B+	50-59= D
75-79= B	49 or less=F

ACADEMIC INTEGRITY

Students should acquaint themselves with the university's policy on Examinations: 'Personations' (p.28) and 'Plagiarism and Cheating' (p.29) found in the Undergraduate Calendar".

GROUP RESEARCH PAPERS

The class will be divided into groups of four or five students. All students in the group will be given the same mark for the project. Your paper will be worth 20% of your final grade. You will be required to present your paper on a date that will be announced in class. Your group may also be asked to prepare some of the assigned readings for class discussions. Towards the of this term, you will be required to assess the input of the other students in your group. This assessment will be worth 5% of your grade.

The university acknowledges the right of all students to observe recognized Holy Days of their faith which fall within the academic year. The instructor should be notified in writing of a student's intended absence in advance, and at least three weeks notice should normally be given where special arrangements are sought.

Students with special learning needs should identify themselves to the instructor at the beginning of the term.

All students are encouraged to introduce themselves.

***Note: Last day for voluntary withdrawal without academic penalty is **March 17, 2004**.

DISRUPTIONS

Disruptions due to excessive talking or early departures from the classroom are especially distracting to large classes. Please be considerate and respectful of the needs and rights of others in the class. Students should be aware that any persistent disruption may result in disbarment from the course. Any student who has a legitimate reason for leaving class early should inform the instructor at the beginning of class.

COURSE OUTLINE

The course is divided into three sections, each of which deals with a different type of crime.

PART 1 TRADITIONAL/ STREET CRIME

DIFFICULTIES DOING RESEARCH

“Introduction to Ethnographic Research”

Cromwell Chapter 2: ‘A Snowball’s Chance in Hell’

CRIMINAL LIFESTYLES AND DECISION MAKING/ HOW RATIONAL?

Cromwell Chapter 3: ‘The Socially bounded decision making of persistent property offenders’

Cromwell Chapter 4: ‘Women, Work and Crime’

Cromwell Chapter 5: ‘Looking at the Squares’

Cromwell Chapter 6: ‘Aging Criminals: Changes in the Criminal Calculus’

Cromwell Chapter 7: ‘Getting Out of the Life: Crime Desistance by Female Street Offenders’

VIOLENT CRIME

Homicide

Cromwell Chapter 21: ‘Interview With a Serial Killer’

Robbery

On reserve: ‘Robbers as decision makers’

Cromwell Chapter 19: ‘Creating the illusion of impending death.’

PROPERTY CRIME

Cromwell: Chapters 8, 9, 10, 11

GANGS AND CRIME

Shakur: ‘Monster: The Autobiography of an L.A. Gang Member’

Cromwell Chapter 22: ‘Becoming a Gang Member’

PART 2: WHITE COLLAR CRIME

WHAT IS WHITE COLLAR CRIME?

Coleman Chapter 1

OCCUPATIONAL CRIME

Cromwell Chapter 12: 'Denying the Guilty Mind'

Cromwell Chapter 13: 'How Doctors Defraud Medicaid'

Coleman Chapter 2:

p.16-23: 'Embezzlement and Computer Crime'

p.27-32: 'Fraud in the Professions'

p.35-39: 'Conflicts of interest in the Professions'

On Reserve:

Daly: 'Gender and Varieties of White Collar Crime'

Rosoff et al: 'Computer Crime'

CORPORATE CRIME

The Crimes

Coleman Chapter 2: pp. 23-58; 68-88

Enforcement

Coleman Chapter 4

Causes

Coleman Chapter 5

What can be done?

Coleman Chapter 6

On Reserve

Beare 'Organized corporate criminality'

PART 3: ORGANIZED CRIME

*note: all of the following readings are on reserve at Dafoe library as well as e-reserve.

What is organized crime?

Beare "Characteristics of Organized Crime in Canada"

History and causes of organized crime

Class lectures

Organized crime groups and activities

Hopper and Moore 'Women in outlaw motorcycle gangs'

Albini et al 'Russian Organized Crime'

Hersh 'The Wild East' (optional)

Present and Future trends: Transnational organized crime

Godson and Olson 'International Organized Crime'

Ruggiero 'Fuzzy Criminal Actors'

Law enforcement

Schlegel 'Transnational Crime'

*More readings may be added during the course.