

University of Manitoba, Department of Sociology
Sociology 077.728 - Theories of Criminal Behaviour - Fall 2004 (L01)

Instructor: Dr. R. Smandych

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Office Hours: Thursday, 11:00 am - 2:00 pm or by appointment

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Seminar Location and Time: Thursday 1:00pm - 3:00pm, 335 Isbister

Course Description:

This course examines the development and current state of the range of theories and approaches that criminologists have adopted in attempting to understand criminal behaviour. The major objective of the course is to assist students to develop the knowledge base and critical analytical skills needed in order for them to become more informed “consumers” of criminological theory.

Course Requirements, Evaluation, and Due Dates:

The course is divided into two parts. The first part of the course involves a critical survey of the history of criminological thought and the development of various approaches to the study of criminal behaviour that have been employed by modern criminologists. In addition to being graded on attendance and participation in class discussions based on assigned readings for the week, each student will be required to complete a review of the literature on a selected criminological theory and present the findings of this review in a seminar. Your grade for this part of the course (worth 40%) will be based 10% on your attendance and participation in the seminars, and 30% on the writing and oral presentation of your literature review. The specific criminological theory you select for your review can fall within any one of the following general theory types: biological, psychological, neoclassical, strain, control, social learning, labelling, liberal-conflict, marxist-conflict, feminist, post-modern, or any other theory that you can argue is relevant to the study of crime or crime control. As part of the preparation for your oral presentation, you will be required to assign one or two relevant readings for other students in the class to read to help them be able to prepare discussion questions to follow your presentation.

Part two of the course will involve each of the seminar participants preparing and presenting a course-related research paper. Prior to the date of their presentation, students will be expected to have completed and distributed a “first draft” of their paper to other students in the course. The presentation/seminar will then focus on the work you have done and the comments and constructive criticisms that others may have regarding your paper. After the date of your presentation, you will be expected to revise your paper in light of the comments you have received and submit a final paper by a required due date following the end of the course. The oral presentation of your paper will be graded out of 10% and the final paper will be worth 40% of your overall grade in the course. In addition, attendance and participation at research paper presentations will count for 10% of your final grade. If approval is given by the instructor, students may use the findings of the literature review they completed in the first part of the course as the starting point for writing the second more detailed research paper. Provided below is a summary of the student evaluation methods used in the course.

10%	Attendance and participation in Part 1 of course
20%	Literature review (8 to 10 pages, plus references)
10%	Oral presentation of literature review
10%	Attendance and participation in Part 2 of course
10%	Oral presentation of “first draft” of research paper
40%	Research paper (20 to 30 pages, plus references)

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

A+	90 - 100	C+	65 - 69
A	80 - 89	C	60 - 64
B+	75 - 79	D	50 - 59
B	70 - 74	F	0 - 49

Important dates in the course are:

- October 27**, class cancelled, seminar to be rescheduled
- November 17** and **November 24**, due dates for oral presentation and handing in of literature reviews (30%)
- November 17**, receipt of grade for attendance and participation in Part 1 (10%)
- November 17**, last day for voluntary withdrawal from the course
- December 1** and **December 8**, due dates for oral presentation of “first draft” of research paper (10%)
- December 15**, due date of research paper (40%)

Required Readings:

Tittle, Charles. Control Balance: Toward a General Theory of Deviance. Boulder: Westview Press, 1995.

In addition, students will be required to read selected articles and chapters of books assigned for specific seminars.

Additional Recommended Background Reading:

Students without a background in criminology are encouraged to undertake additional background reading as part of preparing for course seminars and completing other course requirements. The following textbooks and monographs are recommended for students who would like to undertake such additional reading.

Akers, Ronald. Criminological Theories: Introduction, Evaluation, and Applications. 3rd Edition. Los Angeles: Roxbury, 2000.

Barak, Gregg. Integrating Criminologies. Boston: Allyn and Bacon, 1998.

Curran, Daniel and Claire Renzetti. Theories of Crime. 2nd Edition. Boston: Allyn and Bacon, 2001.

Einstadter, Werner and Stuart Henry. Criminological Theory: An Analysis of Its Underlying Assumptions. Fort Worth: Harcourt Brace College Publishers, 1995.

Linden, Rick (ed.). Criminology: A Canadian Perspective. 5th edition. Toronto: Nelson, 2004.

Vold, George, Thomas Bernard and Jeffery Snipes. Theoretical Criminology. 4th Edition. New York: Oxford University Press, 1998.

Policy on Plagiarism and Cheating:

Plagiarism and Cheating are not allowed in this course. Students should acquaint themselves with the University's policy on "Examinations: Personations" (p.25) and "Plagiarism and Cheating" (p.26) found in the Undergraduate Calendar.

Missed Presentations:

An important component of the course is student in-class oral presentations. All students must be present on the day they are scheduled to make a presentation, unless they have a legitimate medical reason for not attending. Failure to attend on the date of the presentation will result in a mark of zero for the presentation unless prior alternative arrangements have been made with the instructor.

Late Term Papers:

Both the literature review and research paper prepared by students must be submitted by the required due dates. Failure to meet these deadlines will result in ½ grade being deducted for each day the paper is handed in late.