

SOC 2610 A02 – Sociology of Criminal Justice and Corrections – Winter 2013 (3 cr. hrs.)

312 Tier Building
Tuesday/Thursday 10:00 a.m. – 11:15 a.m.

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Office hours: 11:30 T/TH, 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 Text:

Griffiths, Curt (2011). Canadian Criminal Justice: A Primer. (4th edition) Toronto: Thomson-Nelson Canada Ltd.

Note: While the majority of the assigned readings will be from the text, additional articles may be assigned from time to time.

Evaluation:

Grades will be determined on the basis of three term tests and an assignment:

Test #1	27.5%	(February 5 th)
Test #2	27.5%	(March 12 th)
Test #3	20%	(April 9 th)
Assignment	25%	(no later than March 28 th)

Letter grades will be assigned as follows:

A+	90 - 100%	(Exceptional)	C+	65 - 69%	(Satisfactory)
A	80 - 89%	(Excellent)	C	60 - 64%	(Adequate)
B+	75 - 79%	(Very Good)	D	50 - 59%	(Marginal)
B	70 - 74%	(Good)	F	0 - 49%	(Failure)

Note: 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**. In the case of 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. Active cell phones, pagers, PDAs, etc. are not welcome. Laptop/tablet computers may only be used to facilitate note-taking, and solely at the instructor's discretion.

Academic Integrity:

Students are advised to acquaint themselves with the University of Manitoba policies on academic dishonesty, including impersonation at exams (s. 5.2.9) and plagiarism and cheating (s 8.1) in the online 2012-2013 Undergraduate Calendar. The Faculty of Arts also reserves the right to submit student work that is suspected of being plagiarized to Internet sites designed to detect plagiarism.

Voluntary Withdrawal:

Students should be familiar with the rules and procedures for voluntary withdrawal. The final date for withdrawal without academic penalty is March 20th, 2013.

Course Schedule

The dates below are approximate and may be adjusted as the course progresses. Note that while the majority of the assigned reading will be from the textbook, additional articles may be assigned from time to time.

Introduction (Jan. 8 to Jan. 22)

An Overview of the Canadian Criminal Justice System (Griffiths, ch. 1)
Challenges in Criminal Justice (Griffiths, ch. 2)

Part I: Police (Jan. 24 to Feb. 14)

History, Structure, and Police Procedure (Griffiths, ch. 3, 4, 5)

Part II: Courts (Feb. 26 to Mar. 14)

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

Part III: Corrections (Mar. 19 to Apr. 4)

Community and Institutional Corrections (Griffiths, ch. 9, 10)
Life After Incarceration: Release and Re-Entry Into the Community (Griffiths, ch. 11)

Please Note:

University of Manitoba Senate Policy #1307 requires “a post-examination review of final grades in multisectioned courses that will ensure an 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 this equity and, therefore, your final grade may be changed.

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. It is prohibited to record or copy 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 any of the lectures, materials provided or published in any form during or from this course.

Assignment – Critical Assessment of Justice-themed Television

This assignment requires that you complete an 8 – 10 page (double-spaced, standard margins & borders) critical examination of a dramatic television program that focuses on one of the main elements of the criminal justice system (policing, courts, or corrections). Programs you may choose from include: *CSI* (any location), *Law and Order* (any version), *Cold Case*, *Prison Break*, *Criminal Minds*, *Medium*, *Blue Bloods*, *Outlaw*, *The Defenders*, *NCIS*, *Hawaii Five-O*, etc. Note that the programs listed above represent only a very small sample of the plethora of justice-themed television programs. The programs may be current episodes or re-runs, and you must watch a minimum of three episodes 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 criminal justice system. Students examining American crime programs should be aware that they are required to compare the depiction of the American system to the Canadian system. Provide a brief summary of each episode (do not assume that your professor has watched the program). Then, assess the nature and accuracy of the program's portrayal of the criminal justice system based upon the lectures and readings from this class. Be sure to draw on concepts and ideas from the textbook and the lecture. Also, consider the following questions:

- Does the program accurately portray the workings of the criminal justice system?
- Were there any parts of the program that you found to be unrealistic?
- 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?
- Do you think the program has an underlying political or ideological agenda?

Your paper 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.

Papers are due no later than March 28th, 2013. Late papers will be subject to a 10% per day (including weekends and holidays) deduction from the grade.