

SOC 2610 A01 – Sociology of Criminal Justice and Corrections – Summer 2013 (3 cr. hrs.)

401 Tier Building
M/T/W/R/F 8:30 a.m. – 10:30 a.m.

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Office hours: 10:30 daily, 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: Nelson.
Roberts, J. & M. Grossman (2012). Criminal Justice in Canada: A Reader. (4th ed.): Toronto: Nelson.
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 a journal assignment:

Test #1	27.5%	(June 10 th)
Test #2	27.5%	(June 18 th)
Test #3	20%	(June 25 th)
Justice journal	25%	(no later than June 25 th at 4:00 p.m.)

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**. 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. 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 June 19th, 2013.

Required Readings

Note that while the majority of the assigned reading will be from the textbook and the reader, additional articles may be assigned from time to time.

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)

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 – Justice Journal

This assignment entails keeping a journal of justice-related (police, courts, corrections) news items, and analyzing them sociologically in light of the information presented in the course. Journals will consist of five, two-page analyses of criminal justice-related stories drawn from print and/or online news media sources. Each entry should provide a brief summary of the story, as well as a conceptual and/or methodological assessment of the issue or event presented in the story. That is, you should analyze the facts of the story, as well as how it is reported, in light of what you have learned from the lectures and the textbook. For example, you could examine the police response to a crime, and compare it to police procedures discussed in the texts and lecture. Another area for possible examination is how the event is presented by the media source. That is, is it presented objectively (just the facts), or does there appear to be an underlying ideology or bias in the way it is presented? Does the report (implicitly or explicitly) suggest the “cause” of the event, and/or how it should have been handled differently?

You are encouraged to begin looking for articles right away. While you will not be able to complete your analysis until later in the course, having articles in-hand now will enable you to better identify opportunities for analysis as they come up in the lecture and in your readings.

Journals should be printed on standard 8.5 by 11 inch paper, double-spaced, with standard margins. Journals should have a cover page including the course name and number, instructor’s name, and student’s name and student number. Journals should be stapled only (that is, no binders, covers, etc.). Articles from electronic sources should be printed out, and be sure to use “printer friendly” format whenever possible. Articles only available in paper format (e.g. from newspapers or news magazines) should be photocopied on to standard-sized paper.

Citations must be provided for course materials and news items, using an accepted referencing style (ASA, APA, MLA, etc.). Journals are due no later than **June 25th, 2013**. Late papers will be subject to a 10% per day (including weekends and holidays) deduction from the grade.