

# **SOC 2610 A02: Sociology of Criminal Justice and Corrections**

**Department of Sociology – University of Manitoba**

**Fall 2015**

**3 Credit Hours**

**Instructor:** James Gacek

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(NOTE: 'SOC 2610 A02' must be included in the email subject line in order to be read)

**Office Phone:** (204) 474-6501

**Lectures:** MWF, 9:30-10:20am, 308 Tier

## **Required Readings:**

- 1) Griffiths, Curt T. (2015). Canadian Criminal Justice: A Primer. 5<sup>th</sup> Ed.
- 2) Gorkoff, Kelly and Richard Jochelson (2012). Thinking about Justice: A Book of Readings.

## **Course Description:**

This course will provide a descriptive, analytical, and theoretical introduction to the Canadian criminal justice system. The field of criminal justice is inherently an interdisciplinary field. Therefore, we will examine and discuss the system of criminal justice utilizing criminological, sociological, political, legal, philosophical and historical approaches. Various materials will be covered in order to survey the contemporary criminal justice system from the initial contact of the offender through prosecution, sentencing, incarceration, and release into the community. Emphasis will be placed on the role of the police, prosecution, the courts and corrections, as well as their practices and policies relative to the offender. Examining the debates and issues within the criminal justice system will allow us to think differently about crime and criminal justice within a Canadian context.

## **Assessment Value & Testing/Due Dates:**

Test 1	30%	Oct. 9
Test 2	25%	Nov. 4
Test 3	20%	Dec 9
Written Assignment	20%	Nov. 25
Participation/Discussion	5%	

### **Other Important Dates:**

Sept. 11 <sup>th</sup>	First day of class
Oct. 12 <sup>th</sup>	Thanksgiving Day – no classes
Nov. 18 <sup>th</sup>	Last day for voluntary withdrawal (VW) without penalty
Nov. 11 <sup>th</sup>	Remembrance Day – no classes
Dec. 9 <sup>th</sup>	Last day of classes

### **Grade Distribution:**

<b>A+</b> = 90-100%	<b>A</b> = 80-89.9%
<b>B+</b> = 75-79.9%	<b>B</b> = 70-74.9%
<b>C+</b> = 65-69.9%	<b>C</b> = 60-64.9%
<b>D</b> = 50-59.9%	<b>F</b> = 0-49.9%

### **Important:**

PowerPoint assisted lectures will be the primary method of instruction. While this method will provide you with an outline of important material, be advised that this should not be a student's only way to engage with the course. It is in your best interest to take notes in addition to the PowerPoint lectures. Time permitting, lectures will be augmented with guest speakers and videos. **All of the materials are testable.** All tests are non-cumulative, however, please be mindful of certain themes that arise throughout the course.

Come and see me if at some point you get lost in the course. Even the brightest of scholars have difficulties now and then, so do not feel discouraged if you cannot follow along. I am happy to help.

**It is in your best interest to stay up-to-date with readings.** Doing so will allow you to incorporate lecture material quickly, engage in discussions, take tests and complete the assignments with relative ease. Staying up-to-date with the readings will make the course more informative, enjoyable, and highly interesting. Also, try engaging with your fellow students—various accounts indicate that students learn more from engagement and discussion than passive and obedient learning.

All tests will be a combination of multiple choice and true/false questions. A test can only be missed for a legitimate medical or personal reason. Students who cannot write a test for one of those reasons must inform the instructor **prior to** the test with appropriate documentation from a legitimate source. Students who miss a test must provide proper documentation to be considered for re-scheduling. Students who do not do so will be given a grade of zero. ID must be presented during tests.

### **Information Regarding the Tests:**

- Please bring your student ID with you to all tests as you may be asked for identification.

- All cell phones and electronic devices must be turned OFF during tests.
- No aids are allowed for tests.
- You must supply your own pencils and writing utensils for tests.
- Anything covered in the textbook, additional readings, and/or during lectures, up to and including the class prior to the test, is fair game to be tested on. Also not that you are responsible for learning material in the assigned chapters and readings even if it is not discussed in class.
- Under no circumstances will early tests be given.
- A grader/marker may be used to assist in marking a portion of the tests and/or written assignments.

### **Information Regarding the Article Review Paper:**

Papers must be typed and handed in as hard copy. Later papers will not be accepted, nor will extensions be provided, unless the reason for lateness falls under the missed test policy (see above). Any extensions are at the instructor's discretion. **NOTE:** If you fail to turn in the paper on the assigned due date, late papers will incur a penalty of 2 marks for each day the paper is late unless the student has contacted the instructor before the paper due date for a time extension due to legitimate medical or personal reasons (see above). Any term work that has not been claimed by students will be held for four (4) months from the end of the final examination period for the term in which the work was assigned. At the conclusion of this time, all unclaimed term work will become property of the Faculty of Arts and by destroyed according to FIPPA guidelines and using confidential measures for disposal.

### **Student Conduct:**

Disruptions due to excessive talking, cell phone use (including texting), or early departures from the classroom are especially distracting to both the instructor and your fellow peers. Please be considerate and respectful of the needs of others in the class. Please refrain from texting, messaging, Facebooking, etc. during class. Students should be aware that 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.

All students, faculty and staff have the right to participate, work and learn in an environment that is free of discrimination and harassment.

Please be respectful of the needs of classmates and instructors/professors by avoiding the use of unnecessary scented products while attending lectures. Exposure to scented products can trigger serious health reactions in persons with asthma, allergies, migraines or chemical sensitivities. Please consider using unscented necessary products and avoiding unnecessary products that are scented (e.g. perfume).

### **Academic Integrity:**

Students should acquaint themselves with the University's policy on plagiarism, cheating, exam personation ("Personation at Examinations" (Section 5.2.9) and "Plagiarism and Cheating" (Section 8.1) and duplicate submission by reading documentation provided by the Arts Students Resources web site at: <http://www.umanitoba.ca/faculties/arts/student/index.html>. Ignorance of the regulations and policies regarding academic integrity is not a valid excuse for violating them.

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. The minimum penalty for plagiarism on a written assignment is an F on the paper and may result in an F-DISC (discipline) in the course. This notation appears on the student transcript. For repeat violations, this penalty can also include suspension from the Faculty of Arts for a period of one year. The minimum penalty for academic dishonesty on a test is an F for the test and an F-DISC (discipline) in the course plus a suspension from the Faculty of Arts for a period of one year. The F and the disciplinary notation appears on the student's transcript. For repeat violations, the penalty may include suspension from the Faculty of Arts for a period up to 5 years.

**Services for Students with Disabilities:**

Students with documented disabilities, temporary or chronic medical conditions, requiring academic accommodations for tests/exams (e.g., private space) or during lectures/laboratories (e.g., note-takers) are encouraged to contact Accessibility Services to discuss appropriate options. All information about a student's disability or medical condition remains confidential. <http://umanitoba.ca/student/saa/accessibility/>

**Academic Regulations and Policies:**

It is your responsibility to be familiar with the information on Academic Regulations and Policies in the University Calendar. This section covers classroom regulation, grading, transcripts, challenge for credit, student discipline (academic and non-academic misconduct), appeals including grade appeals, University Policies and Codes, and graduation. Importantly, it is your responsibility to be familiar with information regarding Academic Misconduct, and in particular plagiarism.

Students facing a charge of academic or non-academic misconduct may choose to contact the University of Manitoba Students' Union (UMSU) where a student advocate will be available to answer any questions about the process, help with building a case, and ensuring students have access to support. For more information or to schedule an appointment, visit our website at [http://umanitoba.ca/student/resource/student\\_advocacy/student\\_conduct.html](http://umanitoba.ca/student/resource/student_advocacy/student_conduct.html)

**Course Outline and Required Readings:**

**NOTE: This is a tentative schedule. Due to time constraints and/or class discussions, this schedule may change. Depending on circumstances, all topics in the outline may not be covered. You will be given adequate notice if changes occur. Readings may also change – please consult UMLearn for any changes to dates and to readings.**

<b><u>Dates</u></b>	<b><u>Topics</u></b>	<b><u>Readings</u></b>
Sept. 11 <sup>th</sup> – Oct. 7 <sup>th</sup>	<b>Introduction to the Criminal Justice System</b> Topics covered include: -what constitutes a crime? -how can we think about justice?	Griffiths: Ch. 1 – 4 G&J: Intro, Ch. 6, Ch. 3 PDF articles

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-(mis)conceptions of the criminal justice system</li> <li>-concepts and trends in the criminal justice system</li> <li>-how do victims/media/state impact criminal justice?</li> <li>-history and evolution of policing</li> <li>-what is police work?</li> </ul>	
	<b>Test 1</b> (Oct. 9 <sup>th</sup> )	
Oct. 14 <sup>th</sup> – Nov. 2 <sup>nd</sup>	<p><b>Policing and the Criminal Courts</b></p> <p>Topics covered include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-how are police powers defined?</li> <li>-the community and policing</li> <li>-crime response/attack strategies</li> <li>-the police and vulnerable or at/risk groups</li> <li>-categories of criminal courts in Canada</li> <li>-Courtroom workgroup</li> </ul>	<p>Griffiths: Ch. 5 – 7</p> <p>G&amp;J: Ch. 2, Ch. 10</p> <p>PDF articles</p>
	<b>Test 2</b> (Nov. 4 <sup>th</sup> )	
Nov. 6 <sup>th</sup> – Dec. 7 <sup>th</sup>	<p><b>Prosecution, Sentencing, and Corrections</b></p> <p>Topics covered include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-where do judges come from?</li> <li>-what is the prosecutorial process of criminal cases?</li> <li>-the role of the jury</li> <li>-sentencing options</li> <li>-how do judges decide?</li> <li>-types of correctional institutes</li> <li>-what is ‘doing time’?</li> </ul>	<p>Griffiths: Ch. 8-11</p> <p>G&amp;J: Ch. 8, Ch. 1, Ch. 11</p> <p>PDF articles</p>
	<b>Written Assignment</b> (Nov. 25 <sup>th</sup> )	
	<b>Test 3</b> (Dec. 9 <sup>th</sup> )	

## Written Assignment

One of your requirements for this course is to produce a paper that compares, contrasts, and critiques two chapters from ‘Thinking about Justice: A Book of Readings’. The paper will be submitted in person during class **on** the due date (November 30<sup>th</sup>, 2015).

The paper will contain 4-5 pages of text that is typed in a 12 font, double-spaced with one inch margins. You must have a title page for this paper, and your pages must be numbered in the **bottom, right-hand corner** of each page. You must have a ‘References’ page with proper and consistent referencing. Citations must be in either ASA or APA, so long as the method of choice is **consistent** throughout the paper. The title page will have a title with a 16 font located front and centre along with other information in a 12 font—i.e. name(s), student number(s), date, course name and number. Name and student number will be centre below the title, and the other information will be located in the lower-right hand corner of the title page. Papers will be stapled in the **top, left-hand corner** of the paper, and papers handed into the instructor in binders and folders will **not** be accepted.

Here are four points that will be used in consideration of the grade awarded to your paper:

- 1) Presentation: Does your paper appear like a professional piece of work? Is the white paper crisp and clean? Does it have decorations all over the cover page? Does it have coffee stains? Is it stapled or are there pages falling apart? Are the corners folded together?
- 2) Content: Is it clear the student knows his or her work? Did the student summarize the article **and** provide a critical analysis in his or her work? Does the paper make perfect sense or will the instructor/reviewer have to read it several times to understand the points being made? Was it original? Was it comprehensive?
- 3) Thinking about Justice: How does each chapter conceptualize ‘justice’? Are there similarities or differences between two chapters? Are there distinctions between chapters within a section or across sections? How is each chapter significant? How could each chapter be improved?
- 4) Student’s Grammar: How much time did the student spend editing their work? Were there grammatical/spelling errors in every sentence? Did they use paragraphs appropriately?