

University of Manitoba
Department of Sociology
SOC 2610 A01– Sociology of Criminal Justice and Corrections
Course Syllabus – Summer Session, June 2015, 3 Credit Hours

Professor: Melanie Murchison
Office: Isbister 327
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Office Hours: By Appointment
Lecture Times: M/T/W/T/F – 10:45am – 12:45pm
Classroom: Isbister 201

Calendar Description:

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 Textbooks:

Griffiths, Curt (2015). "Canadian Criminal Justice: A Primer". (5th edition) Toronto: Thomson-Nelson Canada Ltd.

Kerman, Piper, "Orange is the New Black", Spiegel & Grau (2010) (Please note, you can get this book from the library and any edition of this book is fine).

Voluntary Withdrawal Deadline is June 17th, 2015.

Lecture Schedule:

Introduction (June 1 - 3)

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

Challenges in Criminal Justice (Griffiths, ch. 2)

Part I: Police (June 4 – 9)

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

Part II: Courts (June 10 – 16)

Structure and Operation of the Criminal Courts (Griffiths, ch. 6) – **Cut off for Midterm**

Prosecution & Sentencing: Principles and Procedures (Griffiths, ch. 7, 8)

Part III: Corrections (June 17- 23)

Community and Institutional Corrections (Griffiths, ch. 9, 10)

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

Participation/ Attendance – Value 10%

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.

Midterm Examination (June 12, 2015 - Value 30%)

There is one, in-class midterm exam. They will be comprised of multiple choice, fill in the blank, true/false and short answer questions. The material for the exam includes all required readings and all lecture materials. It will be discussed in class closer to the date of the exam. Study tips and sample questions will be provided in class.

You **MUST** provide advance notice to the professor if you are unable to take an exam. Students missing a scheduled exam must provide appropriate documentation (i.e. medical note) in order to write a deferred exam. Travel arrangements and misreading of the syllabus are not valid reasons for missing an exam.

Essay (Due Date: June 23, 2015 – Value: 25%)

The Essay will be on the book “Orange is The New Black” by Piper Kerman. Please make sure you begin reading it as soon as class starts. The page limit for the essay is **7 pages**. Essays that are over the page limit will be penalized. The page count includes subheadings and citations but not the title page or bibliography. All essays should be word processed in 12 point font and be double spaced and referenced using APA citation style.

Please contact the professor if you are having difficulty with any aspect of this course. I am more than willing to discuss the course and offer suggestions to improve your study, examination, or writing habits.

Late Assignment Penalty:

Please take note of the due date for the assignment. All papers are due in person at the beginning of class on June 23, 2015. Electronic submissions will not be accepted. A late penalty of 5% may be assessed to the final paper grade for each partial day or day that your assignment is late. This means that your paper will be graded and the penalty will be deducted from that initial grade. A student requiring (not simply desiring) an extension **MUST** discuss and have their request approved **PRIOR TO THE DUE DATE**¹.

Final Exam: (Date: June 26 – 9:00am Isbister 201 - Value 35%)

The final exam is a **cumulative** Registrar-scheduled exam. It will cover the entire course with a concentrated focus on the final third of the course. It will include multiple choice, fill in the blank, short answer, and essay questions.

Grading Scale:

¹ Prior to the due date means a minimum of 48 hours before the assignment is due; except in rare circumstances.

Letter grades will be assigned as follows:

A+ 90 - 100% (Exceptional)

A 85 - 89% (Excellent)

B+ 79 – 84% (Very Good)

B 70 - 78% (Good)

C+ 65 - 69% (Satisfactory)

C 60 - 64% (Adequate)

D 50 - 59% (Marginal)

F 0 - 49% (Failure)

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 notetaking, and solely at the instructor's discretion.

Academic Dishonesty: 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 duplication submission by reading documentation provided at the Arts Student Resources Website <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.

Unclaimed term work disposal: 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 be destroyed according to FIPPA guidelines and using confidential measures for disposal.