

**UNIVERSITY OF MANITOBA  
DEPARTMENT OF SOCIOLOGY**

**CRIMINOLOGY  
(3 CREDIT HOURS)**

**SOC 2510, A03 - Term 1, 2009  
1:00 – 2:15  
235 Isbister**

Instructor: Dr. S. Brickey  
Office: 301A Isbister Building  
Office Hours: Tuesday & Thursday 11:30 – 12:00 or by appointment  
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**Course Description**

Major themes of the course:

1. Areas of Study Within Criminology
2. Measuring Crime
3. Non-Sociological Explanations of Crime
4. Micro and Macro Sociological Explanations of Crime

The purpose of this course is to introduce the student to the study of crime as a social phenomenon. Although a number of issues will be covered in the course, the primary area to be examined is the major theoretical explanations that have been developed to explain criminal behaviour. Specific attention will be paid to the policy implications of the different theoretical explanations, and how race, class, and gender have been linked to explanations of crime. Some common myths about the incidence of crime and the factors that lead to crime will also be explored. It is hoped that the student will develop some insight into the linkages between the causes of crime and the social control of crime.

**Grade:**

Your course grade will be determined by the following:

Term Test 1:	27.5%
Term Test 2:	27.5%
Term Test 3:	20%
Group Writing:	20%
Peer Evaluation:	5%

**Grading Scheme**

<u>Percent</u>	<u>Letter Grade</u>
90-100	A+
80-89	A
75-79	B+
70-74	B
65-69	C+
60-64	C
50-59	D
49 & lower	F

**Tests:**

There will be three term tests. The tests will cover material from the required reading, lectures and information that comes out in class discussions. The tests will consist of multiple-choice and essay questions. There will be no final examination. University of Manitoba Senate Policy #1307 requires “a post-examination review of final grades in multi-sectioned courses that will ensure an equitable correspondence between grades and level of performance in all sections.”

Students unable to write a term test on the scheduled date must contact the instructor prior to the test. Should a medical problem cause the student to miss a term test, it is the student’s responsibility to provide a doctor’s certificate and to contact the instructor to arrange a time to write a make-up test. Failure to write one of the term tests will result in a mark of zero for that part of the grade.

## **Group Writing Assignments**

In the second week of the course, the class will be divided into groups of six. The group to which you are assigned will remain the same for the duration of the course. Approximately every third class, you will be given a question or series of questions, which your group will discuss and provide a written answer. The material to assist you in developing your answers will come from the required reading and the lectures. One person in the group will record the answer and submit it to the instructor at the end of class. The person responsible for recording the group's answer will rotate every week. It will also be the responsibility of the recording person to mark down which individuals are present for that week's assignment.

For each assignment all students in the group will be given the same mark. Your total mark for this component of the course is worth 20% of your final mark and will be based on the your best 5 marks out of the 6 assignments. If you miss a week, you will be given a zero for that week's assignment. There will be no make-ups for group writing assignments. All members of the group are expected to participate in the development of the best answer for the assignment.

### **Peer Evaluation:**

In the last week of class you will be asked to assess the performance of the other members of your group. This assessment will be used in determining each individual student's contribution to the group writing assignments.

### **Academic Integrity:**

Students should acquaint themselves with the University's policy on "Personation at Examinations" (Section 4.2.8) and "Plagiarism and Cheating" (Section 7.1) found in the 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.

### **Student Responsibilities:**

The university recognizes the right of all students to observe recognized holidays of their faith, which fall within the academic year. With instructor discretion, necessary arrangements can be made to ensure studies are not jeopardized. The instructor should be notified of a student's intended absence in advance and at least three weeks notice of absence should normally be given where special arrangements are sought.

Students with special learning needs (who for legitimate reasons require extra time to write a test, or who require aids or other supports) should identify themselves to the instructor at the beginning of the term in order to arrange suitable accommodation.

Disruptions due to excessive talking or early departures from the classroom are especially distracting to large classes. Please be considerate and respectful of the needs and rights of others in the 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.

**Course text:**

R. Linden Criminology: A Canadian Perspective, 6th Edition

In addition, there are readings on reserve at the Elizabeth Dafoe library. This material is marked with an asterisk.

**Reading Assignments**

**Section One:** In this section the student will be introduced to the history of law in society, the major elements of criminal law, the sub-disciplines within the general field of criminology, the problems associated with measuring the incidence of crime and the patterns associated with conventional crime.

1. Introduction: Linden chs. 1, 2,3
2. Measuring Crime: Linden chs. 4, 5  
September 22: Group Writing
3. Conventional Crime: Linden chs.14  
September 29: Group Writing

<p><b>TEST 1</b></p>
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<p>(Tentative date: Thursday, October 8)</p>
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**Section Two:** In this section we will examine a number of different explanations for the causes of crime. These explanations will include early theories of crime that continue to have an impact on criminal justice practices, biological explanations, psychiatric and psychological explanations, and sociological explanations. We will also look at the recent theoretical and empirical work that has been done in the area of women and crime. Reflecting the literature in this area, both women as offenders and as victims will be covered.

4. Non-sociological Explanations of Crime: Linden chs. 7,8,  
October 20: Group Writing

5. Sociological Explanations: Linden chs. 9 pp. 385-388, ch. 13  
October 29: Group Writing

6. Women and Crime: Linden ch. 6

**TEST 2**

(Tentative date: Tuesday, November 10)

**Section Three:** The final section of the course will examine two of the more recent theoretical positions within criminology. The first is the interactionist perspective, which attempts to understand criminal and deviant behavior in the context of the labels that individuals receive from their behaviour. Conflict theories share the view that in order to understand crime it is important to first understand the role of power in society.

7. Interactionist Perspective: Linden, pp. 371-384 389-394  
\* Braithwaite, J. "Crime, Shame and Reintegration"  
\*Williams and McShane "Labeling Theory"

8. Conflict Theories: Linden ch. 10  
November 19: Group Writing

*(Voluntary Withdrawal Deadline: November 18)*

9. Organized Crime & Corporate Crime: Linden chs. 15,16  
December 1: Group Writing

**TEST 3**

Tentative date: Tuesday, December 8