

**UNIVERSITY OF MANITOBA  
DEPARTMENT OF SOCIOLOGY**

**SOCIOLOGY OF CRIMINAL CAREERS**

**SOC3710 A01 24488**

**11:30-12:20**

**3 Credit Hours**

**201 St. John's College**

**January to April 2010**

**INSTRUCTOR:** Dr. Tannis Peikoff  
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**OFFICE HOURS:** By appointment

**TA:**  
**EMAIL:**  
**OFFICE:**  
**TA OFFICE HOURS:**

**REQUIRED TEXTBOOKS:**

Cromwell, Paul	<u>In Their Own Words: Criminals on Crime</u> , (5th edition) Roxbury Publishing Co. 2010.
Scott, Kody	<u>Monster: The Autobiography of an L.A. Gang Member</u> .
Friedrichs, David	<u>Trusted Criminals</u> (4th edition). Thomson/Wadsworth Publishing, 2010.

\* A copy of all of the above texts has been placed on reserve at Dafoe Library.

## **COURSE OBJECTIVES AND DESCRIPTION:**

This course is designed to provide students with an understanding of careers in three specific types of crime: conventional or street crime, 'white collar' crime, and organized crime. An objective of this course is to critically analyze the underlying conditions that lead to careers in these types of crimes. Wherever possible, the perspective of the offenders is taken into account through accounts provided by the offenders themselves who discuss their motives and life experiences.

The first section of the course examines the decision-making process of offenders in several traditional or street crimes. The second section, 'white collar crime', examines fraud, cybercrime, crimes in the professions and corporate crime. The third section, 'organized crime', examines both traditional forms of organized crime and current issues in transnational organized crime.

## **COURSE EVALUATION**

Final grades will be based on the following:

Book review due <i>in class</i>	Jan. 28	20%
Test # 1:	Feb. 5	25%
Test #2	Mar. 15	25%
Take home assignment	Apr. 12	25%
Participation		5%

Tests are not cumulative. Students are responsible for all assigned readings, lecture material, material discussed by speakers, class discussions and video presentations.

**Missed Exams:** Make-up tests will be allowed if there is a valid reason such as illness. You must inform me within one week of the missed test. In the case of illness, a note from your doctor is required.

**Late Written Assignments:** Late assignments will be given a lesser grade of 5% for every day that they are late.

Students are expected to do the required readings and be prepared to engage in discussions on the topics covered in the readings

## **GRADES**

90-100= A+	70-74= C+
85-89= A	60-69= C
80-84= B+	50-59= D
75-79= B	49 or less=F

## **GROUP DISCUSSIONS**

Your class will be asked to discuss the assigned readings in groups and present their findings in class.

The university acknowledges the right of all students to observe recognized Holy Days of their faith which fall within the academic year. The instructor should be notified in writing of a student's intended absence in advance, and at least three weeks notice should normally be given where special arrangements are sought.

### **ACADEMIC INTEGRITY**

Students should acquaint themselves with the university's policy on Personation at Examinations: (section 4.2.8p.26) and 'Plagiarism and Cheating' (Section 7.1) found in the Undergraduate Calendar". The faculty of Arts also reserves the right to submit work that is suspected of being plagiarized to Internet sites designed to detect plagiarism.

**\*Last day for voluntary withdrawal without academic penalty: March 19, 2010.**

### **DISRUPTIONS**

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 any 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 OUTLINE**

### **PART 1 TRADITIONAL/ STREET CRIME**

*\* Note: readings may be added to or deleted from this list*

#### **CRIMINAL LIFESTYLES AND DECISION MAKING**

##### **READINGS:**

Cromwell Chapter 1 “The Socially Bounded Decision Making of Persistent Property Offenders”

Cromwell Chapter 2 “The Reasoning Offender: Motives and Decision-Making Strategies”

Cromwell Chapter 3 “Opportunities and Decisions: Interactional Dynamics in Robbery and Burglary Groups”

Cromwell Chapter 25 “Aging Criminals: Changes in the Criminal Calculus”

#### **STREET GANGS**

Cromwell Chapter 18 “Gang-Related Gun Violence: Socialization, Identity, and Self”

Cromwell Chapter 19 “Gender and Victimization Risk among Young Women in Gangs”

#### **VIOLENT CRIME**

Homicide      Class lectures and Alex Cheesequay video

Robbery      Cromwell Chapter 9 “Creating the Illusion of Impending Death: Armed Robbers in Action”

#### **PROPERTY CRIME**

Auto theft      Class lectures

### **TEST #1**

## **PART 2: WHITE COLLAR CRIME**

### **WHAT IS WHITE COLLAR CRIME?**

Friedrichs, Chapter 1 “The Discovery of White Collar Crime”: pp. 1-20.

### **COSTS OF WHITE COLLAR CRIME**

Friedrichs, Chapter 2 : “Studying White Collar Crime” pp. 49-58.

### **FRAUD**

Friedrichs Chapter 7 “: “Fraud” pp. 202-211

Cromwell Chapter 16: “Telemarketing and the Changing nature of Professional Crime”

Cromwell Chapter 7: “Identity Theft: Assessing Offenders’ Motivations and Strategies”

### **COMPUTER CRIME**

Friedrichs – Chapter 7: “Technocrime, Including Computer Crime”, pp. 211-217

Cromwell Chapter 6: “Becoming a Computer Hacker: Examining the Enculturation and Development of Computer Deviants”

### **OCCUPATIONAL CRIME**

Friedrichs, Chapter 4 : “Medical crime pp. 92-96; Legal crime pp.96-98.Friedrichs, Chapter 6: “

### **FINANCE CRIME**

Friedrichs Chapter 6: pp. 168-188

### **CORPORATE CRIME**

Friedrichs, Chapter 3

### **EXPLAINING WHITE COLLAR CRIME**

Friedrichs, Chapter 8: “Explaining White Collar Crime: Theories and Accounts” pp. 231-248.

### **WHAT CAN BE DONE?**

Friedrichs, Chapter 12: “Responding to the Challenge of White Collar Crime” pp. 345-367

## **TEST #2**

## **PART 3: ORGANIZED CRIME**

\*note: all of the following readings are on reserve at Dafoe library

### **INTRODUCTION:**

Finckenaure, James      'Problems of Definition: What is Organized Crime?'

### **ORGANIZED CRIME ACTIVITIES**

Class lectures

### **PARADIGMS AND THEORIES OF ORGANIZED CRIME**

Class lectures

### **ORGANIZED CRIME GROUPS and THEIR HISTORY**

Albini et al              'Russian Organized Crime'

### **POLITICAL AND CORPORATE ALLIANCES**

Ruggiero              'Fuzzy Criminal Actors'  
Beare:                  'Organized corporate criminality'

### **TRANSNATIONAL ORGANIZED CRIME**

Godson and Olson      'International Organized Crime'

### **CONTROLLING ORGANIZED CRIME**

Schlegel              'Transnational Crime'

**Test #3**