

University of Manitoba, Department of Sociology

Sociology 3780 A01– Comparative Criminology and Criminal Justice – Winter 2008 (T2)

Slot 2 – MWF 9:30-10:20 – Room 235 Isbister (3 credit hours)

Instructor: Dr. Russell Smandych
Office: 303 Isbister Building
Office Hours: Monday, 10:30-12:00 pm, or by appointment
Phone: 474-6446
E-mail: rsmandy@cc.umanitoba.ca

Course Description: This course is designed to engage advanced undergraduate students in the cross-cultural study of crime and criminal justice. This includes an examination of the meaning of crime from a comparative perspective and the study of the organization and function of different types of criminal justice and dispute-settlement systems. The course is divided into six parts, each of which deals with a selected important development or current issue in global crime or criminal justice (as outlined in the course syllabus and list of required readings). The objective of the course is to enable students to develop a more in depth cross-cultural knowledge of crime and the operation of world criminal justice and dispute-settlement systems, along with recent research developments in global criminology and criminal justice.

Course Requirements and Evaluation: The course will consist of lectures and discussions on topics outlined in the course syllabus. Students are expected to do the required readings, and be prepared to engage in discussions of the topics covered in the readings.

The course evaluation will consist of four in-class tests, and four short written essay assignments (of approximately 600-900 words, or 2 to 3 type-written pages each). Provided below is a breakdown of the value of each of the course requirements and related approximate test and assignment due dates:

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|--------------|-----|-----------------------|
| Test 1 | 15% | (Monday, February 11) |
| Assignment 1 | 10% | (Friday, February 15) |
| Test 2 | 15% | (Monday, March 3) |
| Assignment 2 | 10% | (Wednesday, March 5) |
| Test 3 | 15% | (Monday, March 17) |
| Assignment 3 | 10% | (Wednesday, March 19) |
| Test 4 | 15% | (Friday, April 11) |
| Assignment 4 | 10% | (Monday, April 14) |

The following grade distribution will be used in the evaluation of the students' work:

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|----|----------|----|---------|
| A+ | 90 - 100 | C+ | 65 - 69 |
| A | 80 - 89 | C | 60 - 64 |
| B+ | 75 - 79 | D | 50 - 59 |
| B | 70 - 74 | F | 0 - 49 |

Tentative Outline of Topics to be Covered:

1. Perspectives on the Global Study of Crime and Criminal Justice
2. Global Crime: Developments and Issues
3. Global Trends in Policing and Security
4. Systems of Criminal Prosecution, the Courts, and Social Control
5. Convergence and Divergence in Criminal Justice and Penal Policy
6. Challenges for Global Criminology: Human Rights Crimes and International Criminal Justice

Required Course Readings:

P. Reichel, Comparative Criminal Justice Systems: A Topical Approach. 5th Edition. Upper Saddle River, N.J.: Pearson, 2007.

N. Larsen and R. Smandych, Global Criminology and Criminal Justice: Current Issues and Perspectives. Peterborough, ON: Broadview Press, 2007.

Missed Exams: If a test is missed for a legitimate medical or compassionate reason the student must get in touch with the instructor, provide related documentation if requested, and arrange for a make-up test. Under normal circumstances, the student is required to inform the instructor of their request for a make-up test within one week of the original test date. Failure to request a make-up test within the expected time frame may result in ineligibility for a make-up test and a mark of zero for that test.

Late Assignments: Late assignments will incur a penalty of 2 marks for each day the assignment is late unless the student has contacted the instructor before the assignment due date and requested a time extension. Time extensions will only be given for documented medical and compassionate reasons.

Academic Integrity: Students should acquaint themselves with the University's policy on "Examinations: Personations" and "Plagiarism and Cheating" found in the Undergraduate Calendar.

The last date for voluntary withdrawal is Monday March 20, 2008.