

University of Manitoba, Department of Sociology

Sociology 2510 A01 – Criminology – Fall 2009 (T1)
Slot 1 – MWF (8:30-9:20) – Room 137 Isbister (3 credit hours)

Instructor: Dr. Russell Smandych
Office: 303 Isbister Building
Office Hours: TBA, or by appointment
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Course Description:

This course is designed to introduce students to the multi-disciplinary field of criminology. The course is divided into three parts.

In the first part of the course we address a number of questions aimed at introducing students to the field: "What is criminology?", "What is crime?", "How do most people learn about crime?" and "How do criminologists approach the study of crime and the criminal justice system?".

In the second part of the course we examine the range of theories and explanations that criminologists have developed to account for crime. Specific attention is given to examining the development of major schools of criminological thought, the nature and adequacy of various theories of criminal behaviour, and the criminal justice policy implications that stem from accepting particular theories of crime causation.

The third part of the course is devoted to discussing specific-types of crime. Particular attention is given to examining recent research on conventional, organized, and white-collar and corporate crime.

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 lectures and readings.

The course evaluation will consist of three in-class tests, three short written essay assignments (of approximately 600-900 words), and a mark for attendance and participation. Provided below is a breakdown of the value of each of the course requirements and related approximate test and assignment due dates:

Test 1	20%	(Friday, October 9)
Assignment 1	10%	(Wednesday, October 14)
Test 2	20%	(Friday, November 20)
Assignment 2	10%	(Monday November 23)
Test 3	20%	(Wednesday, December 9)
Assignment 3	10%	(Friday, December 11)
Attendance/Participation	10%	

Letter grades will be assigned as follows:

A+	=	93 - 100%	C+	=	65 - 69%
A	=	85 - 92%	C	=	60 - 64%
B+	=	75 - 84%	D	=	50 - 59%
B	=	70 - 74%	F	=	0 - 49%

Tentative Outline of Topics to be Covered:

1. What is Criminology?
2. What is Crime?
3. How Do We Learn About Crime?
4. How Do Criminologists Approach the Study of Crime?
5. History of Criminological Thought and Early Theories of Crime
6. Psychological Perspectives on Criminality
7. Sociological Theories of Crime and the Behaviour of Criminal Law
8. Conventional Crime
9. Organized Crime
10. White-Collar and Corporate Crime

Required Course Readings:

R. Linden, **Criminology: A Canadian Perspective**. Sixth Edition. Toronto: Nelson, 2009.

In addition, a number of additional required readings (in the form of electronic PDF files) will be made available free of charge to students by the instructor at the beginning of the course.

Missed Tests: 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 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 last date for voluntary withdrawal is Wednesday November 18, 2009.

Sociology 2510 – Course Syllabus and Required Readings

PART I

1. What is Criminology?
Linden, chapter 1
 2. What is Crime?
Linden, chapters 2-3
 3. How Do We Learn About Crime?
Readings: TBA
 4. How Do Criminologists Approach the Study of Crime?
Linden, chapters 4-6
- 1st in-class test
 - 1st written assignment due

PART II

1. History of Criminological Thought and Early Theories of Crime
Linden, chapter 7; other readings TBA
 2. Psychological Perspectives on Criminality
Linden, chapter 8
 3. Sociological Theories of Crime and the Behaviour of Criminal Law
Linden, chapters 9-13
- 2nd in-class test
 - 2nd written assignment due

PART III

1. Conventional Crime
Linden, chapter 14
 2. Organized Crime
Linden, chapter 15
 3. White-Collar and Corporate Crime
Linden, chapter 16; other readings TBA
- 3rd in-class test
 - 3rd written assignment due