

**UNIVERSITY OF MANITOBA
Department of Sociology**

**CRIMINOLOGY
Sociology 2510 (A01)
(Term 2, 2008 - 3 credit hours)
Slot 4, 8:30-9:45am
Tuesday and Thursday
215 Tier**

Instructor: Andrew Woolford
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Course Objectives:

This course will provide an overview of the field of criminology with an emphasis on the impact crime has on communities, victims and offenders. Beginning with early theories of criminality, we will follow the path of criminological thought through to its present forms. Conceptual and theoretical insights from the criminological literature will be applied to phenomena such as prisons, the Canadian justice system, policing, surveillance, media representations of crime, drugs, street crime, corporate crime, women and crime, and genocide and war crimes. With respect to all of these topics, students will be asked not to take the existence of crime as a given, but instead to question the definition of crime and its application to various socially-derived, or 'criminalized', others.

Required Reading:

Criminology: A Canadian Perspective, 2004 Fifth Edition. Edited by Rick Linden, Toronto: Thomson-Nelson.

Creating Criminals: Prisons and People in a Market Society by Vivien Stern, Halifax: Fernwood Press.

Evaluation:

Participation:	15%
In-Class Tests: (3 x 20%)	60%
Book Review:	25%
Total	100%

Participation (15%): In-class participation will be an important component of this class. On selected Thursdays students will be divided into small working groups and assigned the task of discussing and producing a brief written report on critical questions related to the assigned

readings and lectures (to be handed in at the end of class or on the following Tuesday). A group mark will be assigned to this assignment. Students must provide a medical note if they miss class and require a make-up assignment. I also reserve the right to lower the participation grades of students who regularly miss lectures. Higher participation grades will go to those students who both do well in the discussion groups and contribute to regular classroom discussion.

In-Class Tests (3 x 20% for 60% of final grade): In-class tests will be held on January 31st, March 6th, and April 10th. Each test will consist of multiple choice questions (approximately 50-60%) and short answer questions (approximately 40-50%).

(Note: students are required to provide a medical note within one week if a test is missed and they require a make-up or a grade of zero will be awarded.)

Book Review (25%): Students are to write a 6-8 page book review due on March 27th. Late reviews will be penalized three percentage points per day (weekends count as two days). A more detailed description of this assignment will be handed out in class.

Note: These assignments are marked (in general) according to the following criteria: Summary of text (15%), Spelling and grammar (15%) and critical analysis/answers to questions (70%). However, poor spelling and grammar that leads to the review essay being unclear and difficult to understand will likely result in a lower overall grade.

Academic Honesty: Students should acquaint themselves with the University's policy on 'Examinations: Personations' (p. 27) and 'Plagiarism and Cheating' (p. 28) 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.

Grading:

Cut-off points for converting percentage grades into letter grades:

A+ : 100-90%	A : 89-85%	B+ : 84-80%	B : 79-75%
C+ : 70-74%	C : 69-60%	D : 59-50%	F : below 50%

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." Accordingly, the final grade distribution in this course may be raised or lowered to achieve this equity and, therefore, your final grade may be changed.

Course Outline:

(Note: This is a tentative outline and may be subject to change)

PART ONE: CRIME IN CANADA: CANADIAN CRIMINAL LAW AND THE ‘COUNTING’ OF CRIME

In this section we will examine the historical development of the criminal law, and its specific application in the Canadian context. We will also analyse the measurement of crime with a critical focus on how certain actions come to be defined as ‘criminal’ and on the methods used to calculate crime rates.

Week 1a: Introduction (Jan 8)

Readings: Linden, Chapter 1.

Week 1b: *Crime in the Canadian Context* (Jan 10)

Readings: Linden, Chapter 2

Week 2: *The Canadian justice system* (Jan 15 and 17)

Readings: Linden, Chapter 3

Week 3: *Counting Crime and “Making Crime Count”* (Jan 22 and 24)

Readings: Linden, Chapter 4

PART TWO: EXPLAINING CRIME: SOCIAL, BIOLOGICAL AND PSYCHOLOGICAL FACTORS

The purpose of this section is to critically engage the dominant theoretical paradigms for explaining crime. We will ask of the various approaches: What are the advantages and limits of each approach? Is a universal explanation of criminal behaviour possible? And, what are the ethical and sociological implications of each theoretical framework?

Week 4: *Early Criminological Theories* (Jan 29 and 31)

Readings: Linden, Chapter 7

Week 5: *Psychological Theories* (Feb 5 and 7)

Readings: Linden, Chapter 9

Week 6: *Social Control Theory* (Feb 12 and 14)

Readings: Linden, Chapter 13

Week 7: *Strain Theories* (Feb 26 and 28)

Readings: Linden, Chapter 10

Week 8: *Interactionist Theories* (March 4 and 6)

Readings: Linden, Chapter 12

Week 9: *Critical Criminology* (March 11 and 13)

Readings: Linden, Chapter 11

PART THREE: CRIME: THE HUMAN CONSEQUENCES

In this section we will look at four types of crime. These examples will be used to illustrate the 'human consequences' of crime; that is, the everyday repercussions crime has for groups and individuals. We will also examine the 'crimes of the powerful' in order to demonstrate that crime is committed by individuals from all sections of the socio-economic spectrum.

Week 10: *Women's Crime and Crime Against Women* (March 18 and 20)

Readings: Linden, Chapter 6

Week 11: *Genocide and War Crimes* (March 25 and 27)

Readings: Alex Alvarez, Selections from *Governments, Citizens and Genocide* (On Reserve)

Week 12: *Street Crime* (Apr 1 and 3)

Readings: Linden, Chapter 14

Week 13: *Corporate Crime* (Apr 8)

Readings: Linden: Chapter 16

Voluntary withdrawal deadline is March 20, 2008.