

**UNIVERSITY OF BRITISH COLUMBIA
DEPARTMENT OF SOCIOLOGY**

**Sociology 250A: Crime and Society
Section 971 – Summer Term I (May – June 2013)
Tues. & Thurs. 6:00-9:00 p.m., Leonard S. Klinck (CSCI) 460**

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Course Description: This second-year survey course offers students an introduction to contemporary patterns, issues, concepts and problems in the sociology of crime. It begins with an introduction to the criminal justice system in Canada and sociological perspectives on crime. It examines competing theories of crime and criminality and considers them in the context of various forms of crime, from more familiar forms of ‘local’ crime to recent developments in global crime. The objective of the course is to encourage students to think critically about crime as a social phenomenon, as well as social, legal, and institutional responses to it.

Required Course Readings:

- Rob White, Fiona Haines, and Lauren Eisler (2013). *Crime and Criminology: An Introduction, Second Canadian Edition* (Oxford University Press). This text is available at the UBC Bookstore.
- Supplemental Readings (listed below). To reduce paper and costs most additional required readings are available on-line through the UBC library; any additional readings will be posted on UBC Connect. Students will require a campus wide login to access the course materials at the library and on UBC Connect. It is each student’s responsibility to download and print out readings as necessary.

Course Format:

The course consists of two lectures/discussions each week. The professor will lecture for much of each class; however, students are expected to participate regularly through discussion groups and in-class assignments. Students are expected to attend all classes and be prepared to discuss or comment on the relevant readings. Students who do not attend class will have serious difficulty passing the course. Students who are unavoidably absent because of illness or disability should report to the professor immediately and provide appropriate documentation as soon as possible.

Course Evaluation:

Attendance/Participation	10%
In-class Assignments	10% [0-10%]
Group Project	25%
Mid-term Exam	25% [25-35%]
Final Exam	30%

Note: The penalty for late assignments is 5% per day.

Attendance and Participation (10%)

The skills of preparation, including reading, reviewing, writing and note-taking, will become habits that will remain with you throughout your academic and professional career. You are expected to attend all classes and to take part in the class discussions to the extent you feel comfortable doing so. This course will work best if our examination of the materials we study includes a considerable amount of lively and questioning class discussion, in which a broad cross-section of the class takes part. Your grade for class participation will be based on your attendance and the general quality of your contribution to the class over the course of the semester. It will be the **quality**, more than the quantity, of your class preparation and participation that will count. If you come to class well prepared and have thought through the materials, you should receive credit for class participation.

In-class Assignments (0-10%)

Students are expected to complete two in-class assignments (one page each) that will be scheduled by the professor (see weekly schedule). Each assignment will consist of one or more questions relating to the required readings for the particular week. Students will have 30 minutes of class time to complete the assignment. The expectations are that students will demonstrate an ability to think analytically and apply the readings as specified in the assignment. **Please note: All students are expected to write the in-class assignments; however, students will have the option in the class during which the assignment is completed to decide whether their mark for the assignment is included in their final mark. Students who decide not to count their in-class assignment marks will have the appropriate percentage (5-10%) added to their mid-term exam mark. Students who miss the class in which an assignment is scheduled will not be allowed to make it up unless arrangements are made in advance with the professor.**

Group Project (25%)

Students will be required to do a group project with 3-4 other class members. The assignment will include a short written component and an oral component to be presented in class. Details will be provided during the first few weeks of the term. Grading of the assignment will be based on the quality of both the oral and written components and will include content, style, creativity, and presentation.

Mid-term Exam (25-35%) May 30, 2013

Final Exam (30%) June 20, 2013

The mid-term exam will cover material from the first half of the course, and the final exam will cover material from the second half of the course. Both exams will cover ALL course materials (including lectures, readings, presentations and films). The format will include a combination of short answer and essay questions. Students who decide not to count their in-class assignment marks will have the appropriate percentage (5-10%) added to their mid-term exam mark.

Academic Dishonesty:

Please review the UBC Calendar “Academic Regulations” for University policy on cheating, plagiarism, and other forms of academic dishonesty. Also visit www.arts.ubc.ca and go to the student section for useful information on avoiding plagiarism and on correct documentation.

Grading:

UBC courses are graded on a percentage basis. Corresponding letter grades are assigned automatically by the Registrar's Office.

Letter Grade	A+	A	A-	B+	B	B-	C+	C	C-	D	F
Percent	90-100	85-89	80-84	76-79	72-75	68-71	64-67	60-63	55-59	50-54	00-49

Please Note the Following Important Dates:

- Last day to change between Credit/D/Fail and percentage grading (grading options cannot be changed after this date); Last day to withdraw without a W on your transcript: **May 17, 2013**
- Last day to withdraw with a W instead of an F on your transcript (course cannot be dropped after this date): **May 31, 2013**

Class Schedule and Readings:
[Subject to revision]

Part I: Understanding Crime**Week 1 (Tues.): Introduction** – May 14

Required Readings: White, Haines, Eisler – Ch. 1 (The Study of Crime); Canadian Department of Justice website (www.canada.justice.gc.ca); Syllabus

Week 1 (Thurs.): Criminal Law in Canada – May 16

Required Readings: White, Haines, Eisler – Ch. 8 (New Right Criminology); Criminal Code (excerpts on UBC Connect); Kevin D. Haggerty, “Negotiated Measures: The institutional micropolitics of official criminal justice statistics,” *Studies in History and Philosophy of Science*, 32(4), 705-722 (2001) (UBC library, available on-line)

Part II: Theories of Crime and Society**Week 2 (Tues.): Classical Criminology and Rational Choice Theory** – May 21

Required Readings: White, Haines, Eisler – Ch. 2 (Classical Theory); *R. v. Latimer* (excerpts on UBC Connect); *R. v. Creighton* (excerpts on UBC Connect)

In-class Assignment #1

Week 2 (Thurs.): Positivist Approaches to Criminology: Biology and Psychology – May 23

Required Readings: White, Haines, Eisler – Ch. 3 (Biological and Psychological Positivism); Lombroso, Cesare, Mary Gibson & Nicole Rafter, *The Criminal Man* (Durham: Duke University Press, 2006) (excerpts on UBC Connect)

Week 3 (Tues.): Social Structure Theories – May 28

Required Readings: White, Haines, Eisler – Chs. 4 & 5 (Sociological Positivism, Labelling Perspectives); Susan Coutin, “Contesting Criminality: Illegal Immigration and the Spatialization of Legality” *Theoretical Criminology*, 9(1), 5-33 (2005) (UBC library, available on-line)

In-class Assignment #2

Week 3 (Thurs.): Mid-term Exam and Preparation for Group Projects – May 30

No additional required readings

Mid-term exam

Week 4 (Tues.): Critical Perspectives on Crime and Criminology – June 4

Required Readings: White, Haines, Eisler – Chs. 6 & 7 (Marxist Criminology, Feminist Perspectives); Lori D. Moore & Irene Padavic, “Racial and Ethnic Disparities in Girls’ Sentencing in the Juvenile Justice System,” *Feminist Criminology*, 5(3), 263-285 (2010) (UBC library, available on-line)

Part III: Crime in Context**Week 4 (Thurs.): Crimes of Violence – June 6**

Required Readings: White, Haines, Eisler – Ch. 10 (Critical Criminology); additional readings provided by group(s)

Group Presentations: Domestic Violence, Serial or Notorious Killers, Street Crime, Hate Crimes

Week 5 (Tues.): Other Crimes – June 11

Required Readings: James W. Williams & Randy Lippert, “Governing on the Margins: Exploring the Contributions of Governmentality Studies to Critical Criminology in Canada,” *Canadian Journal of Criminology & Criminal Justice*, 48, 703-719 (2006) (UBC library, available on-line); additional readings provided by group(s)

Group Presentations: Drug Crime, Property Crime, Technology and Crime, White Collar Crime

Week 5 (Thurs.): Transnational Crime: Corporate and Environmental – June 13

Required Readings: James Sheptycki, “Transnational Crime and Transnational Policing,” *Sociology Compass*, 1/2, 485-498 (2007) (UBC library, available on-line); Carole Gibbs et al., “Transnational White-Collar Crime and Risk,” *Criminology & Public Policy*, 9(3), 543-560 (2010) (UBC library, available on-line); additional readings provided by group(s)

Group Presentations: Corporate Crime, Environmental Crime, Gangs, Trafficking

Week 6 (Tues.): International Crime and State Crime – June 18

Required Readings: White, Haines, Eisler – Ch. 9 (Restorative Justice); Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court (excerpts on UBC Connect); *The Prosecutor v. Jean-Paul Akayesu* (ICTR 1998) (excerpts on UBC Connect); additional readings provided by group(s)

Group Presentations: Torture, War Crimes, Crimes against Humanity, Genocide

Week 6 (Thurs.): Final Exam – June 20

No additional required readings