

**DEPARTMENT OF SOCIOLOGY  
UNIVERSITY OF BRITISH COLUMBIA**

**SOCIOLOGY 250a - CRIME AND SOCIETY  
(3.0 Credits)**

Winter 2014/15 - Term 1  
September - December  
Thursday, 6-9pm  
**Room:** Buchanan A103

**Instructor:** Chris MacKenzie  
**Office:** Anso 149  
**e-mail:** mackz@mail.ubc.ca  
**Office hours:** right after class

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**Course Description**

This 3.0 credit course is an introduction for students to the sociological study of crime. The major theoretical traditions, substantive issues and crime control strategies in the field will be explored. In examining the theoretical perspectives sociologists use to uncover the aetiology of criminal behaviour, we will come to appreciate the strengths and limitations inherent in each theory and more importantly the necessity of adopting a theoretically multi-valent approach in understanding what causes crime in our society. Topics such as homicide, white collar crime and youth violence will be studied with an eye to separating accurate patterns from statistical inaccuracy and popular myth. Throughout the course a primary goal for you will be to develop a critical understanding and appreciation of the complexities that surround criminal behaviour and crime control by challenging not only your own assumptions about these topics but those expressed by the media, politicians and public at large. Classes will be a combination of group discussion, lectures, and the occasional video or guest speaker.

**Required Text**

Adler, Freda, et al. 2012 *Criminology*, Second Cdn. Edition. Toronto: McGraw-Hill Ryerson

**Course Requirements and Evaluation**

There are no prerequisites for this course. Evaluation will be based on the following:

|                    |     |                                     |
|--------------------|-----|-------------------------------------|
| Midterm Quiz       | 20% | October 23                          |
| Final Exam         | 40% | December (per Formal Exam Schedule) |
| Term Paper         | 40% | October 30                          |
| Term Paper Outline | *   | September 25                        |

\* see term paper guidelines

**Examinations:** There will be **one quiz** and a **final exam** for this course. The **quiz** will be held in class on the specified date. The quiz will have a multiple choice format. The **final exam** will be at the end of term during the **formal examination period**. The format for final exam may be a combination of multiple choice, short answer and essay questions. All sections of the final exam will be cumulative from the beginning of term.

**PLEASE NOTE:**

1. Rescheduling of an exam will be allowed only in the instances of documented medical problems or other officially documented emergencies (travel plans do not constitute a valid reason for rescheduling an exam and will not be considered). Makeup exams may be of a different format than the original exam.
2. During any exam, should your mobile phone or any other device ring or make any noise you will receive a grade of zero for the exam.
3. Quiz answer sheets will not be returned. If you would like to go over your quiz, just ask the TA or myself. Marks for the quizzes will be posted in class. Requests for quiz marks via email will not be accommodated.
4. Make sure you bring several pens and pencils to all your exams. Nothing will be supplied should you forget. All exams are closed book. Any papers, packs or bags you have should be placed on the floor beside you. You may be required to leave your bag at the front of the class and present photo identification.

**Term Paper:** The **8-10 page term paper** will be due on the date specified above. An **outline** for the paper is also **required** and due on the noted date. Further details about the paper can be found in the attached term paper guideline. ***Please be aware that late outlines and term papers will not be accepted.***

**Things to Think About:**

- Like any course, class attendance is a base expectation and requirement. While attendance is not taken, it is important that you understand there is information that is not available anywhere else other than during class time. Regular attendance is therefore strongly encouraged. Once we begin our in class discussions, you may well want to make arrangements to get notes from someone in the inevitable situation that you do have to miss a class.
- While there is no mark for participation in this course, there is nonetheless the expectation that you will come to class each day prepared to contribute to class and group discussions. Each day we will be taking time to discuss topics relevant to our subject in an effort to make sense not only of the course material, but of our own common sense perceptions about crime. The class will be divided into a number of smaller groups at the beginning of the course and as such you will have the opportunity to share ideas and clarify concepts for one another in an informal setting. **The expectation for these discussion periods is for you to take responsibility for your own learning** - this means you should come to class prepared to discuss the material and ask questions about things you are having trouble clarifying for yourself.

## **Sociology 250** **Course Outline**

Please note that this progression for the course is only a guideline. We may move more quickly or slowly through particular topics depending on class interest, the depth of analysis we engage in, etc.

### **Week:**

- Sept. 04      Course Introduction; The sociological study of crime  
**Readings:** Adler Ch. 1
- Sept. 11      Defining & measuring crime  
Theoretical perspectives: Demonic, Biogenic, Psychogenic explanations  
**Readings:** Adler Ch. 2; Adler Ch. 3 (pp.60-62;70-75;79); Ch 4
- Sept. 18      Theoretical perspectives: Demonic, Biogenic, Psychogenic explanations (cont.)  
**Readings:** Adler Ch. 3(pp.70-75); Ch 4
- Sept. 25      TERM PAPER OUTLINES DUE**  
Theoretical perspectives: Classical explanations  
Substantive issue: Homicide  
**Readings:** Adler Ch. 3 (pp. 62-70); Ch. 10 (pp. 242-55)
- Oct. 02      Substantive Issue: Homicide (cont.)  
Theoretical perspectives: Social structural explanations  
**Readings:** Adler Ch.3(pp. 76-78) Ch. 5; Ch. 6 (pp. 146-48); Ch. 7 (pp. 166-76)
- Oct. 09Substantive issue: Violent and property crime  
**Readings:** Adler Ch.9 (pp. 216-25 & 233-40); Ch. 10 (pp. 255-78);Ch. 11
- Oct. 16Substantive issue: Violent and property crime (cont.)  
Substantive issue: White Collar Crime  
**Readings:** Adler Ch. 12 (pp.304-323)
- Oct. 23      Midterm Quiz**  
Substantive issue: White collar crime (cont.)  
**Readings:** see above

## Sociology 250a – Course Outline (cont.)

- Oct. 30**      **TERM PAPERS DUE**  
Theoretical perspective: Labelling theory & social process explanations  
**Readings:** Adler Ch. 3 (p. 77); Ch. 6 (pp. 136-46 & 148-64); Ch. 7 (pp. 166-70 & 176-89); Ch.13 (pp.338-40)
- Nov. 06      Theoretical perspectives: Critical criminology, left realism, feminist analyses  
Substantive issue: Women and crime  
**Readings:** Adler Ch. 2 (pp. 52-56); Ch. 6 (p. 157); Ch. 8;  
Ch. 10 (pp.256-71); Ch. 13 (pp. 352-365)
- Nov. 13      Theoretical perspectives: neo-conservative views on crime  
Crime Control Issues: Victims of crime  
**Readings:** Adler Ch. 9 (pp. 225-233)
- Nov. 20      Substantive issue: Youth Crime  
**Readings:** Adler Ch. 6 (pp. 154-164)
- Nov. 27      Crime Control Issues: Policing and Police Issues  
**Readings:** Adler Ch. 13 (pp. 336-52)

**SOCIOLOGY 250a**  
**CRIME AND SOCIETY**

**TERM ESSAY GUIDELINES**

Your term paper for this course is to be a critical *sociological* analysis of a topic of your choosing in the field of criminology. The purpose of the paper is to afford you the opportunity to demonstrate your analytic understanding of the major issues that surround the topic of your choice. You are encouraged to choose a topic that holds a particular interest or curiosity for you. For those of you suffering from “topic block,” some possible topics are listed below, but to reiterate, try and uncover what your special interest in the study of crime is before resorting to simply choosing from the list (of course, your topic may already be one of the subjects on the list). If you are unsure about the appropriateness of your topic, please come and discuss it with me.

**Particulars**

Due: See ‘Course Outline’ or ‘Course requirements and evaluation’ sections  
\*Term papers are due at the beginning of class

Value: 40% of your final grade

Format: The paper **must be typewritten; 8-10 pages** in length, not including title, reference or footnote pages; double spaced with 1” margins on 8.5” by 11” white 20 lb. bond paper; stapled (unstapled papers will have a 10% deduction applied to them) and a 12 point font (roughly) **Full references and/or footnotes must be provided** (see below). DO NOT use any plastic covers, simply staple your paper in the top left corner. **Unstapled papers will not be accepted.**

**\* You are to hand in two (2) copies of your paper. One will be kept on file, the other will be returned to you. Failure to hand in this second copy will result in a 5% deduction from the grade you receive for the paper.**

**Things to consider:**

- Your topic should have a Canadian context. If you are interested in a criminal phenomenon in another country or is international in scope (say, human trafficking or organised crime) then your paper should include a significant discussion of the Canadian place in the phenomenon.
- This is an academic paper. As such, you must use primary references for your research (journals, books, edited collections of books, etc.) not secondary references (magazines, blogs, news stories, etc.). Primary references are scholarly research sources and as such provide reliable analysis and conclusions. Secondary references typically offer only opinion and conjecture rather than any type of serious analysis. Nonetheless, secondary references can make useful examples of a phenomenon (for instance, mentioning the content of a video game if your topic is how the portrayal of violence in the media contributes to youth crime). The course textbook, for this assignment, should be considered a secondary reference.

## Term Paper Outline

Part of your term paper assignment is to develop and hand in a short but comprehensive outline of your topic. The outline **should indicate** your **topic, thesis statement** (what you will be arguing in your paper), and give a rough indication of the **paper's organisation**, and a number (a minimum of 8 not including the textbook) of **primary reference sources** you intend to use. This is only an outline, so things can (and in fact should) change, but this flexibility does not extend to your topic. You need to do enough background work so that you know there are adequate resources available to write a paper. If you do want to change your topic after the outline has been handed in, **you will have to check with me and submit a new outline**. Failure to do this will be regarded as the equivalent of failing to hand in an outline and you will lose 10% of the grade you receive for your paper (see below).

Due: See 'Course Outline' or 'Course requirements and evaluation' sections  
\*Outlines are due at the beginning of class

Format: Type written, single or double spaced, two pages maximum, stapled (unstapled outlines will not be accepted and will be treated as a late assignment)

Value: Failure to hand in a complete or unsatisfactory outline (one that does not fulfill the required criteria) by the due date will result in a **10% penalty** that will be deducted from the grade you receive for the paper (ie: a 70% paper without an outline or an unsatisfactory outline will result in a mark of 60%).

**LATE OUTLINES AND OUTLINES SUBMITTED BY EMAIL WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED.**

### NOTES:

- **Your outline will not be returned to you** unless there is a problem with it. This means that you **MUST INCLUDE** an **E-MAIL ADDRESS** or **PHONE NUMBER** with your outline so that I can contact you if there is a problem (a problem does not include handing in an incomplete outline – no references included, no thesis statement, etc). I will contact you about the problem within a week after receiving the outline. You will only be contacted if there is a problem, so if you do not hear from me proceed with your research. If you do not include an email address or phone number there will be no guarantee that your topic will be found acceptable.
- **Print out TWO COPIES** of your outline and keep one for yourself. Your outline will not be returned to you, even if you request it because your computer crashed or something else has left you without a copy.
- The course text **does not** count as a primary reference. By all means use it, but it must be in addition to the other references you have found (as noted above).
- References must be from scholarly sources - journals, books, etc. Newspapers, Blogs, editorials, and such are not academic sources (although you can use them to supplement your research). (Again, as noted above.)

- Just putting down website addresses is not providing a proper reference for the article and will not count as a documented reference.

### **Additional Information**

**1. Evaluation Process:** Your term paper will be graded in terms of content, insight, originality, analytical skill, organization, **clarity of expression**, overall presentation style, **spelling and grammar**, and **proper referencing and/or footnoting protocols**.

**2. Referencing:** References should be cited both within the text body (to indicate the source of a quote, statistic, etc.) and in a full reference section at the end of the paper. If you are unsure of how to reference properly, see the UBC library links under the 'Helpful Links' section. There are also a number of sources you can consult, including but not limited to: *The Chicago Manual of Style*; The Modern Language Association of America: *MLA Handbook for Writers of Research Papers*.

**3. Plagiarism:** Students must be aware of the penalties for plagiarism and other form of academic misconduct. Please read the UBC calendar's website for the University's policies on cheating and plagiarism (See the link under the 'Helpful Links' section). Evidence of plagiarism from other students' work or published materials will result in a grade of zero and disciplinary action will be taken. **Rough work:** Students should **keep all their rough work** (notes, drafts, handwritten comments, etc; either in a folder or on a flash drive) pertaining to the term paper. Should a question regarding the authenticity of the term paper or sections of it arise, students will be required to produce all their rough work **within 24 hours** of the request to see it. Should students fail to produce this rough work upon request, they will receive a grade of zero for their term paper and further disciplinary action may be taken. No excuse (including but not limited to having thrown your rough work away or not having any rough work to begin with) will be accepted as an exception to this request.

**4. Late papers will not be accepted.** Official documentation **must** accompany any requests for handing in a late paper because of an exceptional and **unavoidable** emergency.

**5. Computer, printer or other technological failures:** Unfortunately, these things do happen. However, they will not be accepted as an excuse for not handing in your assignment. In this day and age saying 'my printer failed,' 'my hard drive/flash drive crashed,' or some other such thing simply isn't good enough. And it isn't good enough for one simple reason: you should be backing up your work and printing out your rough drafts as you write them. If you do this and then come the due date your computer does fail, all you need to do is bring in your rough work or the extra flash drive and then something can be worked out. It'll not only save you getting zero on your assignment, most importantly it will save you a lot of stress.

**6. Submission Protocols:** **Under no circumstances will papers be accepted by e-mail** or by being slipped under my office door. None of these methods guarantee that I will receive

your paper. You must either hand the paper to me personally (or the TA for the course if there is one) or use the essay drop box in the Anthropology/Sociology building.

**Possible Topics**

The legalization of marihuana; Prostitution; The Youth Criminal Justice Act; The media's role in generating hysterias around crime; Feminist critiques of judicial or penal systems; the purpose of punishment in society; Alcohol and narcotic abuse as criminal offences; The history and role of the penitentiary in society; the treatment of female offenders in Canada; the merits or myths of offender rehabilitation; The role class plays in the identification and management of criminals in Canada; Elder abuse; The release of child sex offenders back into society; The emergence of elder abuse as a criminal phenomenon.

## **HELPFUL LINKS**

### **Course Outline:**

<http://soci.ubc.ca/undergraduate-program/courses/course-outlines/>

Click on the current term, scroll down to my name and the section of the course (the link doesn't go directly to the outline). Download a copy of this to your phone and you'll always have it with you. It will also let you use the links directly.

### **Sociology Department**

<http://soci.ubc.ca/>

**UBC library search** (this is where you start your research for your paper):

<http://search.library.ubc.ca/>

### **Various UBC Library referencing links:**

Evaluating and citing research:

<http://www.library.ubc.ca/>

- Go to the middle box (Get Research Help) and click on 'Evaluating and Citing Research'.

How to cite (this is broad, general information):

<http://help.library.ubc.ca/#evaluating>

- Scroll down to: [http://wiki.ubc.ca/Library:How\\_to\\_Cite\\_Sources#Start](http://wiki.ubc.ca/Library:How_to_Cite_Sources#Start) for some good graphics
- The topics menu, particularly 'major styles' may also be helpful.

APA format examples

[http://wiki.ubc.ca/images/8/81/APA\\_Style\\_Guide\\_Sept\\_2013a.pdf](http://wiki.ubc.ca/images/8/81/APA_Style_Guide_Sept_2013a.pdf)

- If you're wondering which to use or are new to referencing, this one is fine to use.

### **UBC Writing Centre:**

<http://learningcommons.ubc.ca/tutoring-studying/improve-your-writing/>

### **UBC Plagiarism policy:**

<http://www.calendar.ubc.ca/vancouver/index.cfm?tree=3,54,111,959>

### **UBC Guide to academic integrity (how to avoid plagiarism):**

<http://learningcommons.ubc.ca/resource-guides/avoiding-plagiarism/>