

UNIVERSITY OF BRITISH COLUMBIA
SOCIOLOGY 250A 003: CRIME & SOCIETY
WINTER 2014/2015 TERM 2

Tuesdays & Thursdays, 3:30-5:00pm; Frederic Lasserre 104

COURSE INSTRUCTOR:

Andrea Polonijo
Email: apolo@mail.ubc.ca
Office: TBA
Office Hours: By Appointment

TEACHING ASSISTANTS:

Students with surnames A-L
Heather Holroyd
Email: heather.holroyd@alumni.ubc.ca
Office: TBA
Office Hours: Tuesdays 2-3pm

Students with surnames M-Z

Nicole Malette
Email: n.malette@alumni.ubc.ca
Office: ANSO 1315
Office Hours: Thursdays 2-3pm

COURSE DESCRIPTION: This three-credit, second-year survey course offers students an introduction to the sociological study of crime. We will begin this course with an introduction to the criminal justice system in Canada, followed by an examination of competing theoretical perspectives of deviance, causes of crime, definitions of criminality, and societal reactions to criminal activity. In doing so, we will discuss the strengths and limitations of each perspective and consider how each perspective may be applied to different forms of crime. In the latter half of the course, we will focus on substantive issues concerning forms of crime (e.g., violent crimes, white collar crimes, environmental crimes) in a variety of contexts. Throughout the course, students should develop a critical appreciation of the complexities of crime as a social phenomenon.

COURSE FORMAT & EXPECTATIONS: This course consists of a combination of key readings, interactive lectures, small group activities, and large class discussions. Active listening as well as participation in group activities and class discussions are all valuable parts of the learning experience. Students should come to class having read all of the assigned readings and be prepared to actively listen to and contribute to class discussion and activities.

REQUIRED COURSE READINGS:

1. Textbook: White, R., Haines, F., & Eisler, L. (2013). *Crime and Criminology: An Introduction*, 2nd Canadian Ed.(Oxford University Press). Available at the UBC Bookstore.
2. Supplemental Readings (listed for each week below). Available on-line through UBC Connect (www.connect.ubc.ca) or the UBC Library (www.library.ubc.ca). It is each student's responsibility to download the supplemental readings as necessary.

TECHNOLOGY USAGE: You are welcome to use a laptop or tablet in class, provided you are using it for course-related activities (e.g. note taking, working on group projects at designated times). Please refrain from using your laptop/tablet for non-course related activities (e.g. checking e-mail, reading the news, social networking), as such activity is a distraction to yourself and your peers. Please turn off cell phones before entering class.

EARLY ALERT: During the term, I will do my best to reach out and offer support if I am concerned

about your academic performance or wellbeing. I also encourage you to come and speak with me if you need assistance. In addition, I may identify my concerns using Early Alert. This program allows academic, financial, or mental health concerns to be identified sooner and responded to in a more coordinated way. Early alert requests are treated confidentially. For more information, please visit www.earlyalert.ubc.ca.

COURSE EVALUATION & PROCEDURES

(SUBJECT TO REVISION)

Attendance & Participation	10%	Ongoing
In Class Assignment 1	5%	January 20
Midterm Exam	25%	February 12
In Class Assignment 2	5%	March 10
Group Presentation	20%	Weeks 10-12
Final Exam	35%	Exam Period

ATTENDANCE & PARTICIPATION (10%): Regular attendance and participation is key for your learning in this course. This grade will reflect your attendance, active listening, participation in class activities, and quality of contributions to class discussions. If you regularly attend the class and keep up with the course materials, you should receive credit for class participation.

IN CLASS ASSIGNMENTS (2 x 5%): Students are expected to complete two in class assignments that require them to respond to one or more questions related to the required readings for the particular week. The expectation is that students will demonstrate the ability to think analytically and apply the readings as specified in the assignment. Students will have 30 minutes of class time to complete the assignment. Students will be permitted to refer to print copies of the readings (no e-books or online resources) while completing the in class assignments.

MIDTERM EXAM (25%): The mid-term exam covers ALL course materials from weeks 1-6. The format will include a combination of multiple choice, definition, and short answer questions. Rescheduling of an exam will only be allowed in situations of documented medical emergencies or other emergencies.

GROUP PRESENTATION (20%): Students will collaborate with ~5 other class members, and deliver an oral presentation in weeks 10-12. Groups will be required to critically apply the theoretical perspectives covered in this course to a form of crime that they have selected. Group projects will be assessed based on the quality of the presentation, including: content, style, creativity, and presentation. Further details will be provided in class.

FINAL EXAM (35%): The final exam will address ALL materials covered in this course (readings, lectures, movies, group presentations). It will include a combination of multiple choice, definition, short answer, and essay questions. Rescheduling of an exam will only be allowed in situations of documented medical emergencies or other emergencies

REVIEW OF MARKS: The instructor and teaching assistants will mark carefully to ensure that grades represent a fair and accurate assessment of your work, however occasionally errors do happen. If you believe an error has been made, you may resubmit your assignment to the instructor for review with a paragraph describing the error in question. Be aware that requests for grade reviews may result in a new grade that is lower than the original.

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:

January 19, 2015: Last day to withdraw without a W on your transcript

February 13, 2015: Last day to withdraw with a W instead of an F on your transcript

SCHEDULE OF REQUIRED READINGS
(SUBJECT TO REVISION)

PART I: UNDERSTANDING CRIME

WEEK 1. INTRODUCTION TO CRIME AND DEVIANCE (JAN. 6 & 8)

We will review the aims and expectations of the course, and begin to consider various approaches to defining crime and deviance.

Required Readings:

- White, Haines, & Eisler – Ch. 1: The Study of Crime
- Visit the Canadian Department of Justice website: www.canada.justice.gc.ca
- Review the course syllabus

WEEK 2. CANADIAN CRIMINAL LAW AND NEW RIGHT CRIMINOLOGY (JAN. 13 & 15)

We will discuss the historical development of New Right criminology, which underlies Canadian criminal law today. We will also consider how data related to crime are collected, and how the reporting of these data may shape public perceptions of crime.

Required Readings:

- White, Haines, & Eisler – Ch. 8: New Right Criminology
- Haggerty, K.D. (2001). Negotiated Measures: The institutional micropolitics of official criminal justice statistics. *Studies in History and Philosophy of Science*, 32(4), 705-722. (UBC Library)

PART II: THEORIES OF CRIME

WEEK 3. CLASSICAL CRIMINOLOGY (JAN. 20 & 22)

We will discuss the origins, strengths, and limitations of classical criminology perspectives, in relation to contemporary court decisions. Students will complete in class assignment #1 (Tuesday, January 20th).

Required Readings:

- White, Haines, & Eisler – Ch. 2: Classical Theory
- *R. v. Latimer & R. v. Creighton* (excerpts to be posted on UBC Connect)

WEEK 4. BIOLOGICAL AND PSYCHOLOGICAL POSITIVISM (JAN. 27 & 29)

We will consider biological and psychological positivism approaches to understanding criminal behavior, and discuss how these approaches have been historically applied in Canadian and global contexts.

Required Readings:

- White, Haines, & Eisler – Ch. 3: Biological and Psychological Positivism
- Pages 43-57 in Lombroso, C., Gibson, M., & Rafter, N. (2006). *Criminal Man*. Durham: Duke University Press. (eBook available from UBC library)

WEEK 5. SOCIAL STRUCTURE & SYMBOLIC INTERACTION THEORIES (FEB. 3 & 5)

We will consider social structure and symbolic interaction perspectives on crime, including: social disorganization, social ecology, subcultural, and labeling perspectives. Students are encouraged to submit questions to the teaching assistants (no later than February 5) for the Week 6 midterm review.

Required Readings:

- White, Haines, & Eisler – Ch. 4 & 5: Sociological Positivism and Labelling Perspectives
- Martinez, D., & Slack, J. (2013). What part of “illegal” don’t you understand? The social consequences of criminalizing unauthorized Mexican migrants in the United States. *Social Legal Studies*, 22(4): 535-551. (UBC library).

WEEK 6. REVIEW AND MIDTERM EXAM (FEB. 10 & 12)

We will wrap up discussion of social structure and symbolic interaction theories and review material for the midterm. Students will complete the midterm in class (Thursday, February 12th).

No required readings.

WEEK 7. RESTORATIVE JUSTICE (FEB. 24 & 26)

We focus on restorative justice responses to crime. Students will have an opportunity to meet with their groups to work on their presentations.

Required Readings:

- White, Haines, & Eisler – Ch. 9: Restorative Justice

WEEK 8. MARXIST & FEMINIST PERSPECTIVES (MAR. 3 & 5)

We will consider the strengths and limitations of critical criminological perspectives, including Marxist and feminist perspectives.

Required Readings:

- White, Haines, & Eisler – Ch. 6 & 7: Marxist Criminology and Feminist Perspectives
- Embry, R., & Lyons Jr., Philip M. (2012). Sex based sentencing: Sentencing discrepancies between male and female sex offenders. *Feminist Criminology*, 7:146-162. (UBC library)

WEEK 9. CRITICAL CRIMINOLOGY (MAR. 10 & 12)

We will conclude our discussion of critical criminological perspectives. Students will complete in class assignment #2 (Tuesday, March 10).

Required Readings:

- White, Haines, Eisler – Ch. 10 (Critical Criminology)
- Goffman, A. (2009). On the run: Wanted men in a Philadelphia ghetto. *American Sociological Review*, 74(3): 339-357. (UBC library)

PART III: FORMS OF CRIME & CRIMES IN CONTEXT

WEEK 10. VIOLENT CRIMES (MAR. 17 & 19)

We begin discussion of forms of crime and crimes in context. Group presentations will focus on violent crimes such as: domestic violence, street crime, and homicide.

Required Readings:

- Readings to be provided by groups.

WEEK 11. OTHER CRIMES (MAR. 24 & 26)

We focus on a variety of forms of crime that fall outside of the classification of violent or transnational crime. Group presentations will focus on crimes such as: cyber crime, drug crime, and white collar crime.

Required Readings:

- Simpson, S.S. (2013). White collar crime: A review of recent developments and promising directions for future research. *Annual Review of Sociology*, 39: 309-331.
- Additional readings to be provided by groups.

WEEK 12. TRANSNATIONAL CRIME (MAR. 31 & APR. 2)

We consider crimes that transcend national borders and may require the cooperation of law enforcement from multiple countries. Group presentations will focus on topics such as: environmental crime, gangs, human or drug trafficking, and corporate crime.

Required Readings:

- Sheptycki, J., (2007). Transnational crime and transnational policing. *Sociology Compass*, 1-2: 485-498. (UBC library)
- Additional readings to be provided by groups.

WEEK 13. WRAP UP & COURSE REVIEW (APR. 7 & 9)

We will wrap up discussion of forms of crime and crimes in context, and review course materials in preparation for the final exam. Students are encouraged to submit questions to the teaching assistants (no later than April 7) that will be addressed in the final exam review.

No additional readings.

FINAL EXAM DURING EXAM PERIOD - APRIL 14-29, 2015