

SOCI 250A 004: Crime & Society

Wednesday 15:00-18:00
Professor Valerie Spicer
Office

Chemical and Biological Engineering Building Room 102
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Office Hours – Tuesday 18:00 to 19:00 and by appointment

Required Text: Siegel, Larry and Chris McCormick. *Criminology in Canada: Theories, Patterns, and Typologies*, (2012, 5th ed.), Toronto: Nelson.

Course Overview

This class will examine crime as a social phenomenon, with an emphasis on the changing definitions of crime in relation to social and political change in Canada. The scope and nature of the crime problem, the growth of criminology as a science and profession, and relationships between components of society and the law will be addressed. Current events and multi-media resources will be utilized throughout the semester to demonstrate the unique and evolving connections between law, crime and contemporary Canadian society.

Course Requirements and Evaluation

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

Midterm Quiz 30%	February 11 th 2015
Final Exam 40%	April (per Formal Exam Schedule)
Term Paper 30%	March 18 th 2015

Examinations: There will be one quiz and a final exam for this course. The quiz will be held in class on February 11th 2015. The quiz will be multiple choice and short answers. The final exam will be at the end of the term during the formal examination period. The format for the final exam will be a combination of multiple choice, short answers and essay questions.

Please note:

1. Rescheduling of an exam will be allowed only in instances of documented medical problems or other officially documented emergencies. Make-up exams may be of a different format than the original exam.
2. During the exam, mobile devices should be turned off and if consulted will result in 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. Quiz marks 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. You must present photo identification at the final exam.

Term Paper: The term 8 to 10 page paper is due on March 18th 2015. Late papers will not be accepted and result in a zero grade. This paper will be an opportunity for you to explore an area within the field of criminology that holds particular interest for you. To that end, a fair degree of latitude will be afforded to you regarding your choice of topic. The term paper guidelines are included at the end of this document.

Submission Protocols: Under no circumstances will papers be accepted by e-mail, fax 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) or use the essay drop box in the Anthropology/Sociology building.

Term Paper Guidelines

Your term paper should be a critical 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.

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 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.

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 about how to properly reference, there are 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. The UBC library also has excellent online information about this, including how to reference using the APA format.

Plagiarism: Students must be aware of the penalties for plagiarism and other form of academic misconduct. Please read the UBC Calendar or Website for the University’s policies on cheating and plagiarism. 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, or handwritten comments) 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. 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.

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.

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. The attached grading matrix provides further details.

Term Paper Grading Matrix

Criteria	A+	A	A-	B+	B	B-	C+	C	C-	D	F
Composition	Proper use of English grammar punctuation and spelling.			A few errors, but general use is correct.			The use of English distracts the reader.			Numerous English errors.	
	Sentences are varied and clearly constructed.			Well-structured essay.			Sentences are weak and the essay lacks structure.			Run on sentences and fragments.	
	Creative use of English (words are not repeated).			Routine use of English.			The vocabulary is simple and words are not varied.			Same words used over and over again.	
Content	Statements are clear and fully explained.			Statements are clear, but the explanations fall short.			Statements are confusing and poorly explained.			Statements are completely unclear.	
	Content is compelling.			Content is interesting.			Content is lacking.			Off topic.	
	Arguments are substantiated with reasoned thought.			Arguments are not fully substantiated.			Arguments are not substantiated.			Arguments presented, but never discussed.	
	The writer demonstrates interest in the subject.			The writing is correct, but does not fully engage the reader.			The writing does not engage the reader. The essay is still in a draft form.			The writer did not proof read this essay and there are several significant errors.	
References	Use of course materials.			Some use of course materials.			Limited use of course materials.			Sparse use of course materials.	
	Use of outside materials.			Some use of outside materials.			Limited outside materials.			No use of outside materials.	
	Proper use of referencing.			Referencing is not entirely correct.			Referencing is very poorly used.			Referencing is incorrect.	
	Proper bibliography.			Bibliography is not consistent.			Bibliography is incomplete.			Bibliography is incomplete.	
Composition: 11/30				Content: 14/30				References: 5/30			

COURSE OUTLINE

- January 7:**
Readings
- Introduction to Crime & Society**
No required readings
- Overview of course content and expectations
 - Introduction to concepts of crime, law and criminology
 - What is criminology?
 - Defining Crime
- January 14:**
Readings:
- Criminal Law and Process**
Chapters 1 and 2
- Overview of criminology
 - History
 - What do criminologists do?
 - Understanding the criminal process
 - Functions of the law
- January 21:**
Readings:
- The Nature and Extent of Crime**
Chapter 3 and 4
- *The Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms*
 - Methods of collecting crime data
 - Crime patterns
 - Age and crime
 - Gender and crime
 - Victims and victimization
- January 28:**
Readings:
- Criminological Theory**
Chapter 5 to 7
- Choice Theory
 - Trait Theories
 - Social Structure Theories
- February 4:**
Reading
- Criminological Theory**
Chapter 8 to 10
- Social Process Theories
 - Social Conflict Theory
 - Integrated Theories

February 11: MIDTERM EXAM (3:00-4:15)

Video: To be announced

Readings: None required

February 18: Midterm Break

February 25: Property Crime

Readings: Chapter 11

- Theft, break and enter, graffiti and arson
- Offender management strategies
- Prolific offenders
- Drug addiction, mental health and offending

March 4: Violent Crime

Readings: Chapter 10

- Roots of violence
- Sexual assault, murder, assault
- Violence in sports
- Violence in schools and recent events
- Gun control

March 11: Fear of Crime and Public Disorder

Readings: None required

- Fear of crime
- Social and physical disorder
- Micro-meso-macro urban realities
- Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design
- Crime prevention and problem oriented policing

March 18: Public Order Crimes and Crimes of the 21st century

Readings: Chapter 13 and Chapter 14

- Law and morality
- Drugs and crime revisited
- Sex work and the law
- Crimes of the 21st Century – globalization and technology

***** TERM PAPER DUE MARCH 18 *****

March 25: White Collar Crime, Organized Crime and Gangs

Readings: Chapter 12 and 14

- Understanding the different types of white collar crime
- Controlling white collar crime

- Impact of legal constructions of white collar crime
- Social perceptions of white collar crime
- Organized crime
- Gangs in BC

April 1:

Hot Topics in Crime & Society Today

- The Right to Die Polygamy
- Insight Injection Site
- Murdered and Missing Women
- Topic of Students' Choice
- *Overview of Final Exam and Q & A session*

April 8:

REVIEW