

**UNIVERSITY OF BRITISH COLUMBIA  
DEPARTMENT OF SOCIOLOGY**

**Sociology 470A: Sociology of Crime and Justice  
Section 001 - Term 1 (September – November 2014)**

**Tuesday/ Thursday 9:30-11:00  
Room: Geography 201**

**Instructor:** Dr. Renisa Mawani  
**Office Location:** Room 2315 - Anthropology and Sociology Building  
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**Office Hours:** Thursdays 11:30 – 12:30 or by appointment

***Course Description:***

Questions of crime and justice have become significant national and international issues that have been newly politicized in unprecedented ways. In national and global media coverage, we repeatedly hear claims of “injustice” including crimes against the person and crimes against humanity, and the “just” responses of law. However, it is becoming increasingly apparent that both national and international reactions to crime – responses which are often legitimized under the promises of “justice” – often produce outcomes that are profoundly unjust and that exacerbate existing local, national, regional, and global inequalities.

This seminar-style course will explore the tensions and contradictions between crime and justice. Throughout, we will examine the origins of law, its relation to justice, and how “justice” has been conceived, socially, legally, and politically. In addition, we will critically examine the ways in which official legal responses to interpersonal and mass violence often produce injustice, particularly for those individuals/ communities already marginalized.

The course readings draw from a range of disciplines including sociology, anthropology, cultural studies, legal-studies, and political theory. Topics to be covered include theories of law and justice, law and violence, the prison and death penalty, mass violence and genocide, justice and natural disasters and the search for global justice.

***Please note: this is a very reading intensive course.***

***Course Format:***

This course is a seminar not a lecture. Although I will be discussing the weekly readings in class, seminar participants will be required to attend **all** classes fully prepared to engage in dialogue/ debate. It is assumed that participants will have read and digested the weekly required readings by Tuesday and will be able to ask insightful questions and offer thoughtful comments in class discussions.

**From week 7 onwards, the Thursday seminars will be student-led.**

**Required Readings:**

All readings will be available in a course package available through the UBC bookstore.

**Course Evaluation:**

Group Presentation	15%
In class Mid-term Exam	35%
Seminar Participation	15%
Take Home Final Exam	35%

**NOTE: THE LATE PENALTY FOR ASSIGNMENTS/ PAPERS IS 5% PER DAY (including weekends)**

**Please Note the Following Important Dates:**

Last date for withdrawal without a W on your transcript – September 16/14

Last date for withdrawal with a W instead of an F on your transcript – October 14/14

**Group Presentation** **15%**

In the second week of classes, students will have an opportunity to choose a week to lead the Thursday seminar. Groups will be limited to approximately three to four students, depending on seminar enrollment.

The expectation is that the group will have critically evaluated the readings, will choose one or several themes that emerge from the readings, and will focus on these issues to generate meaningful class discussion and participation.

**At least one week prior to the presentation**, the group will be expected to submit **three discussion questions** that are thematic and that draw on the required readings. These questions must be sent to the Professor for approval prior to being distributed to the class. The questions are intended to guide the in-class conversation and to stimulate critical discussion. Students must make copies of the questions for distribution to the class.

It would be useful for the group to bring in pedagogical devices including newspaper articles, video clips, photographs, legal cases, or policy documents as a way of animating the weekly readings, encouraging class discussion, and contemplating the broader implications.

The group presentation will be evaluated on the significance/ relevance of the discussion questions and issues raised. The seminar presentation grade will be assessed according to the following criteria: organization, coherence, relevance, critical engagement, originality, and creativity. The presentation grade will be based on all of these elements, in addition to active participation by all group members.

**Mid-Term Exam** **35%**

The mid-term exam will be held in class on **October 7/14**. The mid-term is intended to evaluate your knowledge of the materials and ideas discussed in class as well as your ability to think critically about the readings/ issues we cover. A list of possible essay questions will be handed out one week prior to the midterm. Several of these questions will be on the exam and students will be required to choose one. It is expected that your responses will draw from course readings, lectures, presentations, and films and will be graded accordingly.

**Seminar Participation** **15%**

Seminar participation is an integral part of this course. Given that this is a fourth year seminar, the success of the class discussion depends on the attendance and participation of all students. Students will be expected to actively participate in creating a learning environment that is stimulating and productive. This requires all students to complete the readings prior to the Tuesday class and to actively participate by asking questions and offering comments/ critical insights.

Each week, seminar participants will be given several discussion questions (distributed either by the Professor or by other students doing weekly presentations). These questions are intended to guide students through the readings. To enhance participation, students are advised to reflect on these questions and to prepare notes for class participation.

Please remember, if you are absent from class, it will not be possible for you to participate verbally or otherwise. Attendance is mandatory. Students who come to class and do not participate will not do well in this component.

**Take Home Final Exam** **35%**

A take home final exam will be handed out in the last class, **November 27/14**. The final will consist of two essay questions and students will be required to complete one. The take home exam should be 12-13 pages in length, and **MUST** be double spaced and typed in 12 point font with 1 inch margins. **Please note, this is a formal essay.** Students will be expected to use proper citations of course materials using an acceptable referencing format (including ASA, APA, Chicago Manual Style, or some other style agreed upon by the Professor). You will be graded on content (ie. argument), creativity, grammar, style, organization, and use of course materials (discussions, readings, films). The take-home exam is due **in one week**, on December 5/14.

**Academic Dishonesty:**

Please review the UBC Calendar "Academic Regulations" for the University's policy on cheating, plagiarism, and other forms of academic dishonesty. Also visit [www.arts.ubc.ca](http://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.

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

## Sociology 470A: Crime and Justice

### Class Schedule and Readings

#### I. ORIENTATION: WHAT IS LAW, WHAT IS JUSTICE?

##### Week 1:

Sept. 2/14	Sept. 4/14
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>No class due to IMAGINE</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Introduction to course</li> </ul>

*No Required Readings*

##### Week 2: From the 'State of Nature' to Law and Justice

Sept. 9/14	Sept. 11/14
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Lord of the Flies – film</b></li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Seminar Discussion – Professor Mawani</li> </ul>

*Required Readings:*

- Thomas Hobbes, *Leviathan*, "Of Other Lawes of Nature," p. 74-83
- John Locke, *The Second Treatise of Government*, Chapters 1,2,8 - p. 3-11, 54-70.
- Jean- Jacques Rousseau, *The Social Contract*, p. 3-19

##### Week 3: Utility, Justice, and Authority

Sept. 16/14	Sept. 18/14
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Seminar Discussion – Professor Mawani</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Seminar Discussion – Professor Mawani</li> </ul>

*Required Readings:*

- Jeremy Bentham, *An Introduction to the Principles of Morals and Legislation*, chapter 1 - p. 14-18
- John Stuart Mill, *Utilitarianism*, chapter 5 - p. 38-60

**Week 4: Justice, Distribution, and Difference**

Sept. 23/14	Sept. 25/14
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Seminar Discussion – Professor Mawani</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Seminar Discussion – Professor Mawani</li> </ul>

*Required Readings*

- John Rawls, A Theory of Justice – Chapter 1
- Iris Marion Young, Inclusion and Democracy – Chapter 7
- Charles Mills, “Racial Liberalism”

**Week 5: The Universality of Justice and its Particular Exceptions**

Sept. 30/14	Oct. 2/14
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Seminar Discussion – Professor Mawani</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Seminar Discussion – Professor Mawani</li> </ul>

*Required Readings:*

- Nancy Fraser, Justice Interruptus – Chapter 1
- Uday Singh Mehta, Liberalism and Empire – Chapter 2
- Denise Ferreira da Silva, “No Bodies: Law, Raciality, and Violence”

**II. LAW, CRIME, AND JUSTICE****Week 6: MIDTERM EXAM**

Oct. 7/14	Oct. 9/14
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>MIDTERM EXAM</b></li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Film screening: <u>Rabbit Proof Fence</u></li> </ul>

**Week 7: Law and Justice: What is the Relationship?**

Oct. 14/14	Oct. 16/14
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Seminar Discussion: Professor Mawani</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Group Presentation</li> </ul>

*Required Readings:*

- Patricia M. Wald, “Violence Under the Law: A Judge’s Perspective”
- Stephen Pritchard, “Between Justice and Law in Aotearoa New Zealand”
- Nicholas Blomley, “Law, Property, and the Geography of Violence”

**Week 8: Punishment and Justice: Part I**

Oct. 21/14	Oct. 23/14
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Seminar Discussion: Professor Mawani</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Group Presentation</li> </ul>

*Required Readings:*

- Michel Foucault, Discipline and Punish – “The Gentle Way in Punishment”
- Loic Wacquant, “From Slavery to Mass Incarceration”
- Thomas L. Dumm, “Enlightenment as Punishment”

**Week 9: Punishment and Justice: Part 2**

Oct.28/14	Oct. 30/14
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Seminar Discussion – Professor Mawani</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Film Screening – Dead Man Walking</b></li> </ul>

*Required Readings:*

- Austin Sarat, When the State Kills – Chapters 1 & 3
- David Garland, “Penal Excess and Surplus Meanings”

**III. MASS VIOLENCE AND THE QUEST FOR JUSTICE****Week 10: Genocide and its Responses**

Nov. 4/14	Nov. 6/14
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Seminar Discussion – Professor Mawani</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Group Presentation</li> </ul>

*Required Readings*

- Mahmood Mamdani, “The Politics of Naming”
- Mamdani, Saviors and Survivors – Part III, “Rethinking the Darfur Crisis” – p. 231-300
- Esmeir, “The Violence of Non-Violence”

**Week 11: Law and Justice at Home and Abroad**

Nov. 11/14	Nov. 13/14
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>No Class – Remembrance Day</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Seminar Discussion – Professor Mawani</li> </ul>

*Required Readings*

- Henry Giroux, “Stormy Weather”
- David Theo Goldberg, “Racial Europeanization”

## **IV: THE GLOBAL QUEST FOR JUSTICE**

### **Week 12: Globalization and Social Justice**

Nov. 18/14	Nov. 20/14
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Seminar Discussion – Professor Mawani</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Group Presentation</li> </ul>

#### *Required Readings:*

- Zygmunt Bauman, “The Great War of Recognition”
- Nancy Fraser, “Reframing Justice in a Globalized World”
- John Stuart Mill, “A Few Words on Non-Intervention”

### **Week 13: Making Global Communities?**

Nov. 25/14	Nov. 27/14
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Seminar Discussion – Professor Mawani</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Conclusion and class party</li> </ul>

#### *Required Readings:*

- Jasbir Puar, “Mapping US Heteronormativities”
- Judith Butler, “Violence, Mourning, and Politics”

***Final Exam due December 5/14 by 4pm***