

UNIVERSITY OF BRITISH COLUMBIA  
DEPARTMENT OF SOCIOLOGY

**Sociology 470: Crime and Justice**  
**Section 001 – Term I (May – June 2014)**  
**Tues. /Thurs. 12:00-3:00 p.m., Buchanan D222**

**Professor:** Dr. Elizabeth Bruch

**Contact Info:** embruch@mail.ubc.ca

**Office Hours:** TBA

**Course Description:** This seminar-style course explores questions of crime and justice at the national, regional and international level. It focuses on tensions and contradictions between law and justice in the responses of individuals, communities, institutions and states to crimes and other ‘injustice.’ We use notable and controversial ‘cases’ to critically examine the ways in which official legal responses to interpersonal and mass violence struggle to enact justice and, often, instead reproduce injustice. The course readings draw from a range of disciplines including sociology, law, cultural studies, and political theory, and from a variety of resources including scholarly work, case law, media reports, governmental and non-governmental organization information. Topics to be covered include theories of justice, law and violence, the prison and legal system, criminal justice, mass violence and genocide, and human rights and global justice. The course methodology emphasizes class discussion, written assignments, and student-led class discussion.

**Required Course Readings:** Custom Course Package (available at UBC Bookstore); additional readings posted on UBC Connect.

**Course Format:** The course consists of two sessions each week organized in seminar style. The professor may occasionally lecture and will lead discussion for part of each class; however, the course will primarily be organized around student discussion and participation. It is a highly active and participatory course. **Students are expected to participate individually and in discussion groups, as well as through in-class exercises and 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 and participate will have 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 and Participation	10%
In-class Assignments	30%
Team Discussion Leadership	30%
Final Research Paper	30%

**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 take part in the class discussions and to challenge yourself to develop your participation skill to a higher level. 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**, not solely the quantity, of your class preparation and participation that will count. If you come to class well-prepared, have thought through the materials and contribute to the discussion, you should receive full credit for class participation.

**In-class Assignments (30%)**

Students are expected to complete three (3) in-class writing assignments (worth 10% 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 up to that point. Students will have 30-45 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; 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.

**Team Discussion Leadership (30%)**

A number of class sessions (depending on enrollment) will be led by student teams of 2-3 persons. Each team will be responsible primarily for organizing and leading class discussion of the topic and materials for the week. In the first week of class, you should be prepared to sign up for the topic that you are interested in from those listed on the syllabus (beginning with the class on May 22). You will be responsible for meeting as a team in advance of your class to research the topic and plan the class discussion. You will also be responsible for providing any additional assigned reading material to the class in advance of the presentation. Once the schedule of presentations and topics is set, a revised syllabus for these sessions and any additional readings will be issued. You are encouraged to organize the discussion in any format you think most likely to further your classmates' understanding and appreciation of the topic. You will be evaluated on the quality of your preparation and the substantive content communicated in the class discussion. Details will be provided in a class handout. Please note: All components of this assignment are due on the dates scheduled. The penalty for late assignments is 5% per day (or portion of day); students who miss the class in which they are scheduled to lead discussion will not be allowed to make it up unless arrangements are made in advance with the professor.

**Final Research Paper (30%)****Due: 5:00 p.m., June 24, 2014 (by email)**

Students are required to write a final research paper exploring in-depth one or more of the 'cases' discussed in class. The paper will be 10-15 pages in length, and students will be required to submit a topic proposal and an outline in advance. Details will be provided in a class handout. Please note: The penalty for late assignments is 5% per day (or portion of day). No paper will be accepted after Friday, June 27, 2014.

**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](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

**Please Note the Following Important Dates:**

Last day to withdraw without a W on your transcript: **May 16, 2014**

Last day to withdraw with a W instead of an F on your transcript (course cannot be dropped after this date): **May 30, 2014**

**Course Outline and Readings:**  
**[subject to revision]**

***Part I: What is Justice?*****Week 1 (Tues.): Introduction: Ideas of Justice – May 13**

Required Readings: Course syllabus; Michael J. Sandel (2009), *Justice: What’s the Right Thing to Do?*, New York: Farrar, Straus & Giroux (Ch. 1, pp. 3-30); John Rawls (1999), *A Theory of Justice* (revised ed.) Cambridge, MA: Harvard University Press (Chapter 1, excerpt, pp. 3-19)

**Week 1 (Thurs.): Systems of Law and Justice – May 15**

Required Readings: Amartya Sen (2011), *The Idea of Justice*. Cambridge, MA: Harvard University Press (Introduction, excerpt, pp. 1-24); Matthew Robinson (2010), “Assessing Criminal Justice Practice Using Social Justice Theory,” *Social Justice Research*, 23:77-97

***Part II: Institutions of Justice*****Week 2 (Tues.): Law and the Legal System – May 20****In-class Assignment #1**

Required Readings: Patricia Wald (1995), “Violence under the Law: a Judge’s Perspective,” pp. 77-104 in *Law’s Violence* (Austin Sarat and Thomas Kearns, eds.). Ann Arbor, MI: University of Michigan Press; Katherine R. Kruse (2005), “Lawyers, Justice, and the Challenge of Moral Pluralism,” *Minnesota Law Review*, 90: 389-411 (excerpt)

**Week 2 (Thurs.): Prisons and Punishment – May 22**

Required Readings: Michel Foucault, *Discipline and Punish* (“The Gentle Way in Punishment,” pp. 104-131) New York, NY: Random House; Loic Wacquant (2000), “The New ‘Peculiar Institution’: On the Prison as Surrogate Ghetto,” *Theoretical Criminology*, 4(3): 377-389; Standard Minimum Rules for the Treatment of Prisoners (1977) (UBC Connect)

**Week 3 (Tues.): Alternatives: Inquiries and Truth Commissions – May 27**

Required Readings: Stephen D. Roper and Lilian A. Barria (2009), “Why Do States Commission the Truth? Political Considerations in the Establishment of African Truth and Reconciliation Commissions,” *Human Rights Review*, 10: 373-391; South African TRC Report (Summary) (UBC Connect); Marie-Benedicte Dembour and Emily Haslam (2004), “Silencing Hearings? Victim-Witnesses at War Crimes Trials,” *European Journal of International Law*, 15, 151-177

***Part III: Exploring Justice in the Law: Challenging Cases*****Week 3 (Thurs.): The Case of Violence in the Family – May 29****In-class Assignment #2**

Required Readings: *R. v. Lavallee*, 1 S.C.R. 852 (1990) (excerpts, UBC Connect); Christopher Morris and Marilyn Pilon (1992), “The Battered Wife Defence: The Lavallee Case,” *Parliamentary Research Branch* (UBC Connect); *R. v. Latimer*, 1 S.C.R. 3 (2001) (excerpts, UBC Connect); Sally Hayward (2009), “The Canadian Legal System, the Robert Latimer Case, and the Rhetorical Construction of (Dis)ability: ‘Bodies That Matter?’,” *Developmental Disabilities Bulletin*, 37(1-2):187-201

**Week 4 (Tues.): The Case of Mental Illness – June 3**

Required Readings: Gary Chaimowitz (2012), “The Criminalization of People with Mental Illness,” *Canadian Journal of Psychiatry*, 57(2): 1-6; Dorothy Cotton and Terry G. Coleman (2010), “Canadian police agencies and their interactions with persons with a mental illness: a systems approach,” *Police Practice and Research*, 11(4): 301-314

**Week 4 (Thurs.): The Case of Violence and Discrimination – June 5**

Required Readings: Amnesty International (2009), “No More Stolen Sisters: The Need for a Comprehensive Response to Discrimination and Violence against Indigenous Women in Canada” (UBC Connect); *R. v. Kummerfield and Ternowetsky* (excerpts, UBC Connect); Sherene Razack (2002), “Gendered Racial Violence and Spatialized Justice: The Murder of Pamela George,” in *Race, Space and the Law* Toronto, Ont.: Between the Lines Press

**Week 5 (Tues.): The Case of History: Residential Schools – June 10**In-class Assignment #3

Required Readings: Michelle Stewart (2001), “The Space Between the Steps: Reckoning in an Era of Reconciliation,” *Contemporary Justice Review*, 14:1, 43-63; Government of Canada, “Statement of Apology” (June 11, 2008) (UBC Connect); Residential Schools Settlement Agreement Notice (UBC Connect)

***Part IV: Exploring Justice Globally: Cases of Mass Injustice*****Week 5 (Thurs.): Crimes Against Humanity – The Living Disappeared – June 12**

Required Readings: Statute of the International Criminal Court (2002) (UBC Connect); Lisa Avery (2005), “A Return to Life: The Right to Identity and the Right to Identify Argentina’s ‘Living Disappeared,’” *Harvard Journal of Law and Gender*, 28: 235-272; Alicia Portnoy (1998), *The Little School* (excerpts, pp. 25-43) San Francisco, CA: Midnight Editions Press.

**Week 6 (Tues.): Social and Environmental Justice – June 17**

Required Readings: African Charter on Human and Peoples’ Rights (1986) (UBC Connect); Social and Economic Rights Action Center v. Nigeria (1996 petition) (UBC Connect); Social and Economic Rights Action Center v. Nigeria (2001 African Commission on Human Rights) (UBC Connect); Matthew Hrubec (2010), “The Law of Peoples and Global Justice: Beyond the Liberal Nationalism of John Rawls,” *Human Affairs*, 20:135-150; Nancy Fraser (2005), “Reframing Justice in a Globalizing World,” *New Left Review*, 36: 1-19

**Week 6 (Thurs.): Genocide – June 19**

Required Readings: Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide (1948) (UBC Connect); *The Prosecutor v. Jean-Paul Akayesu* (ICTR 1998) (excerpts, UBC Connect); Mark A. Drumbl (2000), “Restorative Justice and Collective Responsibility: Lessons for and from the Rwandan Genocide,” *Contemporary Justice Review*, 5(1): 5-22 “Defending Humanity,” *American University Journal of Gender, Social Policy and Law*, 9:1-9 (2001)

**Final Research Papers Due – Tuesday, June 24, 5:00 p.m. (submit by email to [embruch@mail.ubc.ca](mailto:embruch@mail.ubc.ca)).** Please note: The penalty for late assignments is 5% per day (or portion of day). No paper will be accepted after Friday, June 27, 2014.