

UNIVERSITY OF BRITISH COLUMBIA
SOCIOLOGY 250A (971): CRIME & SOCIETY
SUMMER 2015 – TERM 1

Tuesdays & Thursdays, 4-7pm, Buchanan A203

COURSE INSTRUCTOR: Andrea Polonijo
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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 and crime-related data collection in Canada, followed by an examination of competing theoretical perspectives on deviance, criminality, and crime control. 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. We will also discuss a number of substantive issues concerning forms of crime and approaches to crime control in local and global 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 activities and discussions.

REQUIRED COURSE READINGS:

1. White, R., Haines, F., & Eisler, L. (2013). *Crime and Criminology: An Introduction*, 2nd Canadian Edition (Oxford University Press). Text available at the UBC Bookstore.
2. Articles & Case Excerpts (listed for each week below). Links to these required readings are posted on connect.ubc.ca. It is each student's responsibility to download and print these 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 it is a distraction to yourself and your peers.

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 earlyalert.ubc.ca.

COURSE EVALUATION & PROCEDURES

Attendance & Participation	10%	Ongoing
In Class Assignments	2 X 5% [0-10%]*	May 21 & June 9
Mid-term Exams (Non-Cumulative)	2 X 30% [60-70%]**	May 26 & June 11
Final Group Presentation	20%	June 16 or 18

ATTENDANCE & PARTICIPATION (10%): Regular attendance and participation is key for your learning in this course. This grade will reflect your regular attendance, active listening, participation in small group activities, and quality of contributions to class discussions.

IN CLASS ASSIGNMENTS (0 – 10%): Two in-class assignments consist of one or more written response questions that will require you to think analytically about and apply the readings assigned for the particular class. You may refer to print copies of the readings during the assignments, so bring your textbook (or a printed copy of the chapter if using an e-book) and printed copies of the journal articles. If you forget to bring printed copies of your readings, the instructor will NOT have copies available to borrow. You will have 30 minutes of class time to complete each assignment.

**PLEASE NOTE: Everyone is expected to write and submit the in-class assignments. However, you will have the option in the class during which the assignment is completed to decide whether your in-class assignment is included in your final grade. If you decide not to count your in-class assignment, you will have 5% added to the weight of your next mid-term exam. If you miss the class in which an assignment is scheduled you will receive a grade of 0 for the assignment and will NOT have the option of applying the 5% to your midterm.*

MID-TERM EXAMS (60 – 70%; NON-CUMULATIVE): The first mid-term exam will cover ALL course materials (readings, lectures, discussions, movies) from classes 1-4. The second mid-term exam will cover ALL course materials from classes 6-9. The format will include a combination of multiple choice, definition, and short answer questions. Rescheduling of exams will only be permitted when the University has granted an academic concession.

*** PLEASE NOTE: If you decide not to count your in-class assignment 1 mark, you will have 5% added to the weight of your first midterm. If you decide not to count your in-class assignment 2 mark, you will have 5% added to the weight of your second midterm.*

FINAL GROUP PRESENTATION (20%): You will be required to collaborate with ~6 class members to deliver an oral presentation in class 11 or 12. Your group will need to critically apply two of the theoretical perspectives covered in this course to a specific case relating to a particular form of crime. Grading criteria are outlined at the end of this syllabus.

REVIEW OF MARKS: The instructor and TA will mark carefully to ensure that the grades represent a fair and accurate assessment of your work, however occasionally errors do happen. If you believe an error has been made, please send the instructor an email documenting the error in question,

and she will review your work. Be aware that requests for mark reviews may result in a new mark 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 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

SCHEDULE OF REQUIRED READINGS

CLASS 1. INTRODUCTION TO CRIME AND DEVIANCE (MAY 12)

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

Required Readings:

- White, Haines, & Eisler – Chapter 1: The Study of Crime
- Review the course syllabus

CLASS 2. CLASSICAL CRIMINOLOGY, CRIMINAL LAW, & CRIME STATISTICS (MAY 14)

We will discuss Classical Criminology, which continues to influence Canadian criminal law today. We will also consider issues relating to crime-related data collection and reporting.

Required Readings:

- White, Haines, & Eisler – Chapter 2: Classical Criminology
- R v. Latimer case excerpt (under “Course Content” on UBC Connect)

CLASS 3. BIOLOGICAL & PSYCHOLOGICAL POSITIVISM (MAY 19)

We will discuss historical and contemporary applications of Biological and Psychological Positivism to understanding crime and deviance.

Required Readings:

- White, Haines, & Eisler – Chapter 3: Biological and Psychological Positivism
- Pp. 43-57 in Lombroso, C., Gibson, M., & Rafter, N. (2006) *Criminal Man*. Durham: Duke University Press. (under “Library Course Reserves” on UBC Connect)

CLASS 4. SOCIAL STRUCTURE & LABELING THEORIES (MAY 21)

We will consider social structure and labeling theories of crime and deviance. Students will write in-class assignment #1.

Required Readings:

- White, Haines, & Eisler – Chapters 4 & 5: Sociological Positivism & Labeling Perspectives
- Coutin, S. (2005). Contesting criminality: Illegal immigration and the spatialization of legality. *Theoretical Criminology*, 9(1): 5-33. (under "Library Course Reserves" on UBC Connect)

CLASS 5. MIDTERM EXAM #1 & WORK ON GROUP PRESENTATIONS (MAY 26)

No readings.

CLASS 6. MARXIST & FEMINIST PERSPECTIVES (MAY 28)

We will consider the strengths and limitations of Marxist and Feminist perspectives for understanding crime and deviance.

Required Readings:

- White, Haines, & Eisler – Chapters 6 & 7: Marxist Criminology & Feminist Perspectives
- Embry, R., & Lyons Jr., P.M. (2012). Sex based sentencing: Sentencing discrepancies between male and female sex offenders. *Feminist Criminology*, 7:146-162. (under "Library Course Reserves" on UBC Connect)

CLASS 7. NEW RIGHT PERSPECTIVES & WHITE COLLAR CRIME (JUNE 2)

We will discuss Traditional Conservative and Right Wing Libertarian perspectives. We will also examine responses to habitual offenders in North America and consider the reasons why white-collar crime is the "most consequential but least understood" form of crime.

Required Readings:

- White, Haines, & Eisler - Chapter 8: New Right Criminology
- 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. (under "Library Course Reserves" on UBC Connect)

CLASS 8. RESTORATIVE JUSTICE (JUNE 4)

We will have a guest lecture focusing on recent Restorative Justice responses to crime in Canada.

Required Readings:

- White, Haines, & Eisler – Chapter 9: Restorative Justice
- "Dalhousie dentistry students to decide together justice for Facebook posts", "Dalhousie students condemn restorative justice in Facebook scandal", and "Letter to Dr. Richard Florizone" (under "Course Content" on UBC Connect)

CLASS 9. CRITICAL CRIMINOLOGY (JUNE 9)

We will continue discussion of critical criminological perspectives including Structuralism, Post-Structuralism, and Left Realism. Students will complete in-class assignment #2.

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. (under "Library Course Reserves" on UBC Connect)

CLASS 10. MIDTERM EXAM #2 & WORK ON GROUP PRESENTATIONS (JUNE 11)

No readings.

CLASSES 11 & 12. GROUP PRESENTATIONS (JUNE 16 & 18)

No readings

GROUP PRESENTATION GUIDELINES

Group presentations are intended to facilitate collaborative learning about a form of crime and give you an opportunity to explore a case of interest in depth. Please note the following guidelines:

Choosing a Topic: You will sign up for your preferred topics in class on May 19. If you miss this class you will be randomly assigned to a topic. Each topic may only be covered by 1 group. You may propose your own unique topic or use one of these suggested topics: *domestic violence, street crimes, hate crimes, serial killers, kidnapping, animal cruelty, human trafficking, sexual assault, infanticide, gangs, mass shootings, internet piracy, white-collar crime, cyber bullying, environmental crime, drug trafficking, corporate crime, sports crimes, property crime.*

Choosing a Group: You may choose to form your own group OR to be assigned to a group based on topic choice. If you wish to form your own group, indicate the full names of your group members on the sign up sheet when it is distributed in class.

Preparation and Organization: You will have time in class on May 26 and June 11 to meet with your group and work on your presentation. The instructor and a TA will be present to answer questions and provide feedback.

Guidelines: Your presentation should be 15 minutes long and include the following:

- (1) A brief overview of your topic that addresses the following questions:
 - How is your topic defined?
 - What laws – if any – apply to this crime in Canada?
 - How prevalent is the crime? How do we measure it?
 - Are certain groups of people more likely to be offenders and/or victims of this crime?

- (2) A brief description of one Canadian case related to your crime, including:
- Who was involved?
 - What happened?
 - When and where did it happen?
 - What was the official response?
- (3) A critical discussion of two of the theoretical perspectives covered in this course (i.e., *Classical Theory, Biological Positivism, Psychological Positivism, Strain Theory, Labeling Perspectives, Right Wing Libertarianism, Traditional Conservatism, Restorative Justice, Left Realism, Structuralism, Post-Structuralism, Feminist Perspectives, Marxist Perspectives*) that are relevant to your specific case. The discussion should address how each perspective relates to the specific case with regard to:
- What is crime?
 - What causes crime?
 - What is the nature of the offender?
 - What response?
 - What are the strengths and limitations of each perspective for understanding this case?

You may deliver their presentation in a number of ways. You might choose to use PowerPoint or Prezi, create an original movie or mock newscast on your topic, or lead a group activity. If you show any media clips that you did not create yourself, they should not exceed 2 minutes.

Technology: The room is equipped with a computer, WiFi, DVD player, and VGA adaptor. If you plan to use your own laptop or show any video clips, please test that your technology is running smoothly BEFORE your presentation date.

Grading: The group presentation is worth 20% of your final grade, and will be assessed based on the content and quality of the presentation, with equal weighting given to:

- (1) the introduction to the topic and overview of the case
- (2) the theoretical application
- (3) the group's overall style, preparedness, and creativity

Grades will be distributed via UBC Connect, and all group members will be awarded the same grade. If you have concerns about the relative contributions of your group members or yourself, you should discuss this with the instructor as early as possible.

Attendance: Regardless of the date of your group presentation, attendance is mandatory for both presentation dates. Any student who is absent during these classes will have 5 marks deducted from their group presentation grade (the rest of the group will not be affected).