



Western University
SOCIOLOGY 2266a
Section 002
Introduction to Criminology
Fall 2015
2:30-5:30pm B&G 0153
Instructor: Pamela Rose Glatt

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Office Hours: TBA

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Course Description:

This course will provide students with a comprehensive introduction to the sociological aspects of crime in Canada and the discipline of criminology in general. Topics such as crime measurement and the causes and social explanations of criminal behaviour will be examined. The course is divided into three broad areas. First, the course will introduce students to classic criminological theories, such as routine activity theory, differential association, and rational choice (to name a few). Next, we will examine how other fields have influenced the discipline of criminology, including psychological and biological explanations of crime. Lastly, this course will introduce students to a few special focus areas of criminology including (but not limited to) wrongful convictions, violent crime, serial killing, and criminal law. The purpose of this course is to provide students with a broad overview of the discipline of criminology. Special attention will be given to Canadian criminology, but relevant criminological research and theories from elsewhere will also be considered.

Prerequisite(s):

Sociology 1020 (formerly 020) or Sociology 1021E (formerly 021E)

****Important note:** You are fully responsible for ensuring that you have successfully completed all necessary prerequisites. Unless you have either the prerequisites for this course or written special permission from your Dean to enroll in it, you will be removed from this course and it will be deleted from your record. This decision may not be appealed. Furthermore, you will receive no adjustment to your fees in the event that you are dropped from a course for failing to have the necessary prerequisites.

Antirequisite(s): None

Course Objectives

1. An understanding of the different mechanisms and assumptions related to various criminological theories
2. Knowledge of academic research related to crime, including classic and more recent perspectives
3. Analytical and critical thinking skills about law making, law breaking and social reactions to crime
4. An understanding of empirical and theoretical criminology

Required Text(s):

The following textbook is available at the University bookstore in the UCC. It is recommended that you buy the updated version as there may be slight changes in the material. If you choose to buy a previous version you are responsible for ensuring that you are reading the correct material.

Title: Criminology in Canada: Theories, Patterns and Typologies.

Authors: Larry Siegel & Chris McCormick

Edition: sixth

Publisher: Nelson Education

ISBN-13: 978-0-17-653174-4

ISBN-10: 0-17-653174-2

Method of Evaluation:

1. Mid-term examination (multiple choice and written answer)..... 40%
2. Final examination (multiple choice and essay)..... 60%

*Please note that the final exam is NON-cumulative.

*Please note that tests will cover BOTH lecture and reading material. More details on the breakdown of the tests will be provided in class.

Important Policies

Grade Appeals

If you want to appeal a grade you are given in this course (whether overall or individual assignment/exam grade) then you must adhere to the following guidelines. If you are appealing a grade on an exam, then you must first meet with me, and review your exam before requesting a grade appeal. Once you have reviewed your exam, then you can have an informal meeting with me regarding your grade appeal, during which you must provide legitimate readings as to why I should consider changing your grade. Explanations such as you need a certain mark to qualify for a program your grades in other classes are higher, you put in a lot of effort, etc are not legitimate excuses. Please note that when you appeal a mark, there is ALWAYS the possibility that the mark can go up, down or stay the same!

Email

When contacting me via email, please use only your UWO account. I will not respond to emails from any other account. Please allow up to two days for a response, as I receive many emails from students and it may take some time for me to respond to every email. If you have a dire question regarding an assignment/ exam, please make sure to email me in advance, NOT the night before the test, as I cannot guarantee that I will be able to respond quickly.

Accessing the Class Homepage via OWL (Handout)

Most of the material for this course will be posted on OWL. You can access this through the following link: <https://owl.uwo.ca/>, and you sign in using your student login and password. It is strongly recommended that you sign in during the first week of class to insure that everything is working properly. The homepage for this course will contain a number of different folders that will contain things like the course outline, lecture overheads, tutorial information, and grades.

Laptops and Electronics

Laptops are permitted in this class. However, in order to facilitate a positive and healthy learning environment for everyone, I ask that if you bring a laptop to class, that you ONLY use it for the purposes of note-taking. If anyone is caught doing anything other than note-taking on their laptops during class time (including but not limited to browsing social networking sites), they will be told to close the lid and they will not be permitted to use it for the remainder of the class. Be sure that all cell phones are turned off at the beginning of class, and are in your bags.

Policy on Accommodation for Medical Illness

Western's policy on Accommodation for Medical Illness can be found at http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/accommodation_medical.pdf. Students must see the Academic Counsellor and submit all required documentation in order to be approved for certain accommodation: http://counselling.ssc.uwo.ca/procedures/medical_accommodation.html

Accessibility Options:

Please contact the course instructor if you require material in an alternate format or if you require any other arrangements to make this course more accessible to you. You may also wish to contact Services for Students with Disabilities (SSD) at 661-2111 x 82147 for any specific question regarding an accommodation. Information regarding accommodation of exams is available on the Registrar's website:

http://www.registrar.uwo.ca/examinations/accommodated_exams.html

Scholastic Offences

Scholastic offences are taken seriously and students are directed to read the appropriate policy, specifically, the definition of what constitutes a Scholastic Offence, at the following web site:

http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/scholastic_discipline_undergrad.pdf

Mental Health

Students who are in **emotional/mental distress** should refer to Mental Health@Western

(http://www.health.uwo.ca/mental_health/) for a complete list of options how to obtain help.

Course Schedule and Readings:

*Subject to change at the discretion of instructor. Students will be notified promptly of any changes.

Week 1 (Sept 10th): Course Introduction

- Introduction to course and instructor
- Brief introduction to criminology in general
- History of crime and criminology in a nutshell

*Readings: none

Week 2 (Sept 17th): Introduction to the study and measurement of crime, sources of criminological data

*Readings:

- Chapter 1: Crime and Criminology
- Chapter 3: The Nature and Extent of Crime
- Chapter 6: Trait Theories, p. 162-179

Week 3 (Sept 24th): Correlates of Crime

- Gender
- Race, Ethnicity and Culture
- Socioeconomic Status
- Age

*Readings:

- Chapter 4: Victims and Victimization, p. 91-109
- Chapter 6: Trait Theories, p. 216-217 (Women who kill their children)
- Chapter 7: Social Structure Theories, p. 199-210
- Chapter 14: Crimes in the 21st Century, p. 449-460

Week 4 (Oct 1st): Traditional Criminological Theories

- Rational Choice Theories
- Social Control Theories
- Learning Theories
- Strain Theories

***Readings:**

- Chapter 5: Choice Theory
- Chapter 7: Social Structure Theories, p. 215-229
- Chapter 8: Social Process Theories, p. 238-257

Week 5 (Oct 8th): Gender, Violence, and Murder

***Readings:**

- Chapter 10: Violent Crime, p. 216-327, 333-337
- Chapter 10: Violent Crime, p. 328-333

Week 6 (Oct 15th): Week 12 (Nov 26th): Wrongful Convictions

***Readings: none**

Week 7 (Oct 22nd): Midterm (2 hours)

This date may be changed due to guest lecture. Details on the set date for the midterm will be provided in the first class if this is the case.

Week 8 (Oct 29th): fall study break

Week 9 (Nov 5th): Psychological Theories of Crime, and Serial Killing

***Readings:**

- Chapter 6: Trait Theories, p. 177-187

Week 10 (Nov 12th): Mental Health and Drug Therapy Courts

***Readings: none**

Week 11 (Nov 19th): Criminal Law

- Chapter 2: The Criminal Law and its Process
- Chapter 13: Public Order Crimes: Legislating Morality

Week 12 (Nov 26th): Criminal Law Continued

***Readings: none**

Week 13 (Dec 3rd): last class

- Wrap up and exam review