

THE UNIVERSITY OF WESTERN ONTARIO
Department of Sociology
2016-2017

Sociology 2253A-001
Administration of Criminal Justice

Wednesdays 2:30-5:30, B&GS 0165

Instructor

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Office Hours: By appointment only; usually before or after class.

Course Description

This course presents a sociological analysis of the criminal justice system in Canada (public involvement, police, courts, and correctional programs). The organization, structure and functioning of the criminal justice system are examined and critiqued.

Learning Objectives

1. To learn the components of the criminal justice system and describe the criminal justice process in America and its evolution.
2. To develop an improved understanding of the relationship of the public and various social groups/actors to criminal justice and criminal justice processes.
3. To articulate the major philosophies, theories and concepts underlining policing, criminal law and corrections.
4. To understand how knowledge of crime and criminal justice processes are constructed through media, government statistics, research and other sources.

Antirequisite(s): The former Sociology 253F/G.

Prerequisite(s) 1.0 from Sociology 1020, 1021E, 1025A/B, 1026F/G, 1027A/B.

Required Texts

Griffiths, Curt T. 2014. *Criminal Justice in Canada: A Primer (5th edition)*.
Toronto: Nelson.

Selected readings on OWL. See each week for list of readings

Evaluation

Mid-term	October 26	50%
Final exam	TBA	50%

Exam format

The format for both exams will be as follows: multiple choice (60 questions = 60 marks) and fill in the blank (40 questions = 40 marks). Exams will draw primarily from lecture notes and in-class videos (**including examples provided in class**). You are also responsible to know the assigned readings (at least 25% of the exam questions will be drawn from readings). This format does not change.

The mid-term will be held in our usual classroom on the date/time noted; final exams are scheduled by the registrar. Your exam scores will be posted on webct when. The score posted is out of 50% - that is 50% of your exam raw score which computes to 50% of your final grade in this course. If you want to know what your raw score was on the exam, double what is posted.

Please also note that there are no make-up assignments for poor test scores.

Exam re-evaluation

In the event that a mark is re-evaluated, please note that I reserve the right to adjust the mark both upwards and downwards, if I am of the view that something was graded incorrectly the first time.

Missed Exams

I have added the faculty policy on the last page (which says go to Academic Counseling (AC) with documentation). You should also contact me immediately, so that I'm aware of what's going on and that you have or will be going to AC.

Makeup Exams

In the event that a mid-term exam is missed, students will make up the exam on a day to be scheduled by me. Make-up exams for finals will be held after the final exam period has ended (late December/early May). Note that make-up exams will be in **essay format** only because I cannot write two completely different multiple choice exams.

Late student policy

Students who come late to class are a distraction for both myself (who teaches largely from memory) and for other students who look up to see who is coming in late or are trying to crane around to see an overhead while the late-comer tries to find a seat). If I'm interrupted, then I have to stop and try to mentally find my place again while everyone waits. If students have their work disrupted, they may miss some information that is useful for passing their tests.

If you are going to be late and you know it, please drop me a little note and let me know. If I am prepared for the interruption, it's not a problem. Then please exercise consideration for others by taking a seat at the front or along the sides so as to disrupt the fewest number of people possible. If you are significantly late, then I ask you to consider waiting until the break, so as to avoid disrupting the concentration of others.

Laptop and cell phone usage policy

Laptops are prohibited in my classroom. If you require a laptop for academic reasons, then you are invited to discuss this with me and I will advise you on any necessary steps to be taken.

Students who text message or otherwise fiddle with their phones will be asked to turn them off. Your presence in this class constitutes your agreement to this practice.

Frequently asked questions:

1. "I missed a video." Where possible I list if you can find it online (youtube, etc.). If not, check the library first to see if the video is available there. If it's not, then ask other students in class for notes on the video missed. I do not know loan out videos.
2. "what's on the exam?" (all the material covered in the period preceding the exam, including assigned text readings). All exams are mixed format and **non-cumulative**. You are responsible to bring pencils, pens and so on.
3. "How much of the video do I need to know?" You need to know it all and in detailed fashion. Consider the videos as being just as important as the other lecture materials. I will expect you to be able to use detailed examples from the videos to explain key concepts, etc.
4. "How much of the text do I have to know for an exam?" All of the assigned reading. If you're unsure, focus on both material covered in class and on highlighted terms and concepts.
5. "I missed a lecture and I don't know anyone in class, can you give me your notes?" The lecture notes are placed on webct; additional notes from class are in my head and not available for you to borrow. On the upside: this is a great excuse to make friends in class.
6. "If I have to have a make-up exam, when will it be?" In the event of a mid-term make-up (as approved by Academic Counselling and/or the Registrar's office), it will be before the beginning of the final exam period. In the event that you must make up a final exam, it will likely be held **after the last date for final exams (end of December)**.

Please check Department of Sociology web site (<http://sociology.uwo.ca/>) for class cancellations or changes

Please note that this syllabus does NOT constitute a legal contract. Although we will stick fairly closely to the topics/schedules outlined herein, I reserve the right to make adjustments as necessary.

Lecture Schedule and Readings

September 14 – Course introduction

Reading: Chapter 1

September 21: Understanding crime (statistics, media, and sources of knowledge)

Film: *Capturing the Friedmans*. Available on YouTube:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UaatTnsx9-s>

Reading: Chapter 2

September 28: Police I: Organization; Patrol; Criminal Investigation

Reading: Chapter 4

October 5: Police II: Police and the Public; Police subculture; Use of force

Reading: Chapter 5

October 12: Police III: Forensics

Film: *Forensics: You Decide (Nature's Evidence)*. Available on YouTube:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NgAOptG2ZXs>

Reading: Chapter 6 (to page 135 only) and OWL Reading from TOUGH CRIMES titled "Corpora Delicti: The Trial of Jake Wanner."

October 19: Courts I: Structure of the courts and pre-trial decision-making

Reading: Chapter 7 and Chapter 8 (only to page 189) OWL Reading from TOUGH CRIMES titled "The Rest of the Story."

October 26: Exam 1 (held in class; usual time and place)

November 2: Courts II: Controversial issues

Reading: Chapter 8 (page 189 to the end of chapter) and OWL Reading from SHRUNK titled "Not Criminally Responsible; Or Not."

November 9: Victims

Reading: Chapter 3 (pages 48-51); Chapter 6 (pages 139-141 (sections on marginalized and missing women))

November 16: class is cancelled today!

November 23: Sentencing

Reading: Chapter 9

November 30: Corrections

Readings: Chapter 10 and 11

December 7: Parole: Decision-making and release

Reading: Chapter 12

Relevant Policies

Policies on Examinations

Electronic devices will not be permitted to be used during tests of other examinations. Computer-marked multiple-choice tests and/or exams may be subject to submission for similarity review by software that will check for unusual coincidences in answer patterns that may indicate cheating.

Policy on Accommodation for Medical Illness

Western's policy on Accommodation for Medical Illness can be found at 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 519 661-2111 x 82147 for any specific question regarding an accommodation. Information regarding accommodation of exams is available on the Registrar's website:

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:

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://uwo.ca/health/mental_wellbeing/index.html) for a complete list of options how to obtain help.