



Western University
SOCIOLOGY 2266A-001

Introduction to Criminology
Fall 2017
Mon 9:30-12:30, SH3345

Instructor: Dr. Sean Waite

Office Hours: Fridays, 9am-11am
Department of Sociology, Office: SSC 5401

Email: swaite3@uwo.ca

Teaching Assistants:

TBD

Course Description

Criminology is an interdisciplinary field built around the scientific study of crime and criminal behaviour, including their form, causes, legal aspects, prevention, and control. This course provides a comprehensive introduction to the sociological aspects of crime in Canada. The measurement patterns, causes and social explanations of criminal behaviour will be examined.

Course Organization

Class time will combine lectures, structured class discussions, conferences and possibly short films.

Antirequisites: There are no anti-requisite to this course.

Prerequisites: 1.0 from: Sociology 1020, 1021E, 1025A/B, 1026F/G, 1027A/B.

Learning Outcomes

At the end of this course students will be able to:

1. Explain the extent and nature of crime in Canada and how it compares to the United States.
2. Understand the data and methods used by criminologists to study crime, including their strengths and limitations.
3. Understand the underlying assumptions, strengths and weaknesses of competing criminological theories.
4. Understand the social causes and consequences of crime.
5. Critically analyze the criminal justice system, laws and public policies aimed at controlling crime.

Required Text

1. Schmallegger, Frank and Rebecca Volk. 2017. *Canadian Criminology Today 6th edition*. Toronto: Pearson.
2. Reiman, Jeffrey and Paul Leighton. 2013. *The Rich Get Richer and the Poor Get Prison: Ideology, Class and Criminal Justice*. Tenth Edition. Boston: Pearson.
3. Articles or book chapters assigned in the detailed reading list, excluding those marked optional.

Previous editions of these books are available; however, it is your responsibility to read the most updated content.

Optional Readings

1. Beckett, Katherine and Theodore Sasson. 2004. *The Politics of Injustice: Crime and Punishment in America*. Thousand Oaks: Sage.
2. Goffman, Alice. 2014. *On the Run: Fugitive Life in An American City*. Chicago: University of Chicago Press.
3. Alexander, Michelle. 2012. *The New Jim Crow: Mass Incarceration in the Age of Colorblindness*. New York: The New Press.

Method of Evaluation

Midterm Exam:	October 30, 2017	25%
Final Exam:	During April Exam Period	40%
Research Paper Proposal:	Due: October 16, 2017	10%
Research Paper:	Due: December 4, 2017	25%

Evaluation Breakdown

Midterm and Final Exam

This course will consist of two in class examinations (midterm and final). Both will consist of predominantly multiple-choice questions but they may also contain true or false, fill-in-the-blank or short answer questions. The detailed format of the examination, including the number of questions, will be provided prior to the exam date. The final exam will be cumulative but there will be a ***greater focus*** on material from the second half of the course. The material on the exams will cover lectures, discussions, films, documentaries and readings.

Research paper and proposal

Students will write an original research paper on any criminological topic we have discussed in class. Please see me if you are concerned about the suitability of your topic. You are expected to integrate at least one criminological theory into their analysis and should also consider how age, class, race/ethnicity and gender relate to your topic. There is no strict page count for this assignment; however, students will find it difficult to successfully defend a thesis statement in less than 10 pages and with fewer than 8 academic sources. Students should not write papers that are longer than 20 pages.

Note: There are some topics that students find particularly interesting and want to write about, such as serial killers or mass murder. These are indeed criminological topics but are often studied exclusively from the psychological and psychiatric perspective. Students who write on these topics should do so from a sociological perspective and integrate age, race/ethnicity, class and gender into their analysis. I strongly suggest students interested in writing on these topics to see me during office hours before submitting their research proposals.

You must submit a two-page research paper proposal on **October 16, 2017**. You should include a working thesis and **at least five academic citations** to demonstrate that you have started to review of the literature on your topic. This must be in [American Sociological Association \(ASA\) format](#). You will be evaluated on the thoroughness of your proposal, the references cited, style and the relevancy of the topic. Students who are less comfortable with academic research and writing will benefit from conferences tentatively scheduled for **September 25, 2017** and **October 2, 2017**.

Formatting requirements

Marks may be deducted if you do not follow these instructions:

Times New Roman font	Pages should be numbered in the right side of the <u>footer</u> starting on the first page of text, not the title page	Paragraph spacing should be double-spaced.
12-point font size		Your full name should appear in the right side of the header.
Always use the name as it appears on OWL.	Pages should be staples, no paper clips, no folders, no glue, no tape, no gum, or other inventive ways of holding papers together	ASA (American Sociological Association) style.
1 inch (2.54cm) margins on all sides		

How to Contact Me

- In person: during office hours or by appointment in SSC 5401
- By telephone: 519-661-2111 xxxxxxxx
- By email: swaite3@uwo.ca

If you have questions regarding the course, material, readings, assignments or general evaluation please ask during class. There will likely be other students who have the same question. I am typically available for 10 minutes after each class for quick questions. If you have more substantive or private questions please come to my office hours.

I respond to emails within 24 hours but I will not respond to questions where the answer can be found on the course outline. Similarly, I will not respond to questions that require a considerable amount of detail to answer. These are questions that should be asked in class or during office hours. I only respond to emails sent to swaite3@uwo.ca. Any emails / messages sent over OWL will not be answered.

How to Contact Your Teaching Assistants

- XXXXX
- XXXXX
- XXXXX

How to get important information

Make sure to check the course OWL site regularly for course updates, cancellations, and other course-related postings. You are also responsible for any emails I send to your Western email account. Please be sure that you can receive and access emails from this account.

Important Policies

Plagiarism

Students must write their assignments in their own words. Whenever students take an idea from another author, they must acknowledge their debt both by using quotation marks where appropriate and by proper referencing such as footnotes or in-text citations. Plagiarism is a major scholastic offence (the [Scholastic Offence Policy](#) can be viewed in the Western Academic Calendar).

Missed Exams

Make-up exams will be granted with approved documentation only. If you have a conflict with one of the exam dates, it is your responsibility to discuss it with the *Academic Counseling office* at least one week before the regularly scheduled exam and provide documentation of the conflict. If approved, you will be allowed to schedule a make-up exam.

If you miss an exam (or assignment due date) due to illness or for any other unforeseen reason, you must provide notification of and documentation for the reasons for your circumstances to your *Academic Counselor* within 48 hours. If your problem is medical in nature, you should be seen by your doctor on the date of the exam or on the date an assignment is due. If your Academic Counselor agrees that your reasons are legitimate and are supported by your medical doctor's documentation, you will be allowed to write a make-up exam (or hand in your assignment at a later date).

Make-up Exams

All make-up exams are scheduled on Fridays. Unless illness or a lengthy absence from campus make this impossible, the make-up exams will be scheduled for the Friday immediately following the regularly scheduled exam. Early make-up exams (i.e., make-up exams before the regularly scheduled exam) will not be granted.

Late Assignments

All assignments are ***due in class***. Late assignments can be emailed to me (swaite3@uwo.ca). If I receive your assignment by email, it is considered late. Only under the rarest of circumstances do I accept none late assignments via email. For each day your assignment is late you will be deducted 1% from the final grade. For example, 1/10 each day the research proposal is late or 1/25 for each day the final paper is late.

Scantron Exams

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.

Laptops, Phones and Tablets

All types of technology are welcome in my class but ***they must not interfere with my lecture or distract other students***. In the white-collar (and increasingly blue-collar) job market will be expected to use technology in a professional manner. You should practice this in my class but please note that research suggests students do better when taking notes by hand. If your electronic device distracts me or other another student (Twitter, Facebook, movies, games etc.) you will be asked to put them away and not permitted to use them for the remainder of the class. Cell phones should be shut off at the beginning of class.

Recording Devices

No recording devices can be used in class. Some of the topics we discuss may be sensitive. If students choose to share personal stories or experiences they should not worry that they are being recorded. If you require a recording device for medical or other reasons, please see me.

Lectures and Course Materials

Instructor generated course materials (e.g., handouts, notes, summaries, exam questions, etc.) are protected by law and may not be copied or distributed in any form or in any medium without explicit permission of the instructor. Note that infringements of copyright is an academic offence.

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

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.

Compassionate Grounds

Serious Illness of a Family Member: Inform your instructor as soon as possible and submit a medical certificate from the family member's physician to your home faculty's Academic Counseling office.

In Case of a Death: Inform your instructor as soon as possible and submit a copy of the newspaper notice, death certificate or documentation provided by the funeral director to your home faculty's Academic Counseling office.

Grade Guidelines

The Department of Sociology has grade distribution guidelines that all instructors are required to follow. For Sociology courses at the 2000 level, the number of A's is not to exceed the number of B's, and class means are expected to fall in the range of 70% with a standard deviation of approximately 10. This means that your final grade depends on your ranking relative to other students.

Disputed Grades

Student who wish to dispute the grading of an assignment must write a one-page explanation and justification for having their work reevaluated. Work will not be reevaluated on the basis that students were sick or under stress when writing.

Extraordinary Circumstances

In the event of extraordinary circumstances beyond the University or instructor's control, the content and/or evaluation scheme in this course is subject to change.

Course Schedule and Readings

	Date	Topic	Readings
1	September 11, 2017	Introduction What is criminology?	Course Outline Schmallegger and Volk: Chapter 1
2	September 18, 2017	Crime Statistics	Schmallegger and Volk: Chapter 2 Ouimet, Marc. 1999. "Crime in Canada and in the United States: A Comparative analysis." <i>The Canadian Review of Sociology and Anthropology</i> . 36.3: 389-408. Pinchevsky, Gillian M. and Benjamin Steiner. 2016. "Sex-Based Disparities in Pretrial Release Decisions and Outcomes." <i>Crime and Delinquency</i> . 62(3): 308-340.
3	September 25, 2017	Patterns of Crime Conference: Academic research. What are scholarly articles? What is peer-review? How to conduct academic research? Answer question about proposal assignment.	Schmallegger and Volk: Chapter 3 Allan, Mary. 2015. "Police-reported crime Statistics, 2015." <i>Juristat</i> . 36.1. The Many Causes of America's Decline in Crime <i>The Atlantic</i>
4	October 2, 2017	Corrections in Canada Conference: Academic writing. How to structure a research paper? How to cite academic literature? What is ASA style? Appropriate research topics? Answer question about proposal assignment.	Reitano, Julia. 2017. "Adult correctional statistics in Canada, 2015/2016" <i>Juristat</i> . Malakieh, Jamil. 2017. "Youth correctional statistics in Canada, 2015/2016" <i>Juristat</i> . 37.1. Optional: The Family Guide to Federal Corrections in BC. <i>John Howard Society</i> .
5	October 2, 2017	Reading Week	Reading Week

6	October 16, 2017	<p>Research Proposals Due</p> <p>Victimology: The Study of Victims</p>	<p>Schmallegger and Volk: Chapter 4</p> <p>Cohen, Lawrence E and Marcus Felson. 1979. "Social Change and Crime Rate Trends: A Routine Activity Approach." <i>American Sociological Review</i>. 44(4): 588-608.</p> <p>Leber, Ben. 2017. "Police Reported Hate Crimes in Canada, 2015." <i>Juristat</i>. Cat. No. 85-002-x.</p>
7	October 23, 2017	<p>Classical and Neoclassical Thought</p> <p>Biological Roots of Criminal Behaviour</p>	<p>Schmallegger and Volk: Chapter 5</p> <p>Schmallegger and Volk: Chapter 6</p> <p>Mocan, Naci and Erdal Tekin. 2010. "Ugly Criminals". <i>The Review of Economics and Statistics</i>. 92(1): 15-30.</p>
8	October 30, 2017	<p>Midterm Examination (roughly 50 multiple-choice questions)</p> <p>Psychological and Psychiatric Foundations of Criminal Behaviour</p>	<p>Schmallegger and Volk: Chapter 7</p>
9	November 6, 2017	<p>The Meaning of Crime: Social Structure Perspective</p>	<p>Schmallegger and Volk: Chapter 8</p> <p>Merton, Robert. 1938. "Social Structure and Anomie." <i>American Sociological Review</i>. 3(5): 672-682.</p> <p>Miller, Walter B. 1958. "Lower Class Culture as Generating Milieu of Gang Delinquency." <i>Journal of Social Issues</i>. 14(3): 5-19.</p>

10	November 13, 2017	The Meaning of Crime: Social Process Perspective	<p>Schmallegger and Volk: Chapter 9</p> <p>Sykes, Gresham M. and David Matza. 1957. "Techniques of Neutralization: A Theory of Delinquency." <i>American Sociological Review</i>. 22(6): 664-670.</p> <p><u>Becker, Howard S. 1963 <i>Outsiders: Studies in the Sociology of Deviance</i>. New York: Free Press.</u></p> <p><u>Chapter 1: <i>Outsiders</i> (18 pages)</u></p> <p><u>Chapter 2: <i>Kinds of Deviance: A Sequential Model</i> (21 pages)</u></p> <p><u>Chambliss, William. J. "The Saints and the Roughnecks." <i>Society</i>. 11(1): 24-31.</u></p> <p>Wiley, Stephanie A. and Finn-Aage Esbensen. 2016. "The Effect of Police Contact: does Official Intervention Result in Deviance Amplification?" <i>Crime and Delinquency</i>. 62(3): 283-307.</p> <p>Optional: <u>Shoenberger, Nicole, Alex Heckert and Druann Heckert. 2015. "Labeling, Social Learning, and Positive Deviance: A Look at High Achieving Students." <i>Deviant Behavior</i>. 36(6): 474-491</u></p>
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11	November 20, 2017	The Meaning of Crime: Social Conflict Perspective White-Collar and Organized Crime	Schmallegger and Volk: Chapter 10 Barkan, Steven E. 2015. Chapter 13 Piquero, Nicole Leeper, Stephen G. Tibbetts and Michael B. Blankenship. 2005. "Examining the role of differential association and techniques of neutralization in explaining corporate crime." <i>Deviant Behaviour</i> . 26:159-188.
12	November 27, 2017	The New Jim Crow On the Run The Rich Get Richer and the Poor Get Prison	Alexander, Michelle. 2012. <i>The New Jim Crow: Mass Incarceration in the Age of Colorblindness</i> . New York: The New Press. (Chapter 1) Goffman, Alice. 2009. "On the Run: Wanted Men in a Philadelphia Ghetto." <i>American Sociological Review</i> . 74: 339-357. Reiman, Jeffrey and Paul Leighton. 2013. <i>The Rich Get Richer and the Poor Get Prison: Ideology, Class, and Criminal Justice</i> . Toronto: Pearson. Chapters 1, 2
13	December 4, 2017	Research Paper Due The Rich Get Richer and the Poor Get Prison Criminology and Social Policy	Reiman, Jeffrey and Paul Leighton. 2013. <i>The Rich Get Richer and the Poor Get Prison: Ideology, Class, and Criminal Justice</i> . Toronto: Pearson. Chapters 3, 4 Schmallegger and Volk: Chapter 11
14	SCHEDULED BY WESTERN	Final Examination	Roughly one hundred multiple-choice questions.