

SOC 225 (B2) — Criminology
Winter 2017
Department of Sociology
University of Alberta

Instructor: Chris Hay

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Office: Tory 5-12

Office Hours: Thursdays 11:30 – 12:30 or by appointment.

Lecture Time: Tuesdays and Thursdays 12:30 – 1:50pm

Lecture Room: TL 12

Course Description: Crime is complicated! In this class, we will explore and tease out the complexities surrounding crime and criminal behaviour, with a particular focus on why crime occurs. We will conduct a sociological and social psychological study of crime, exploring various theories that try to “explain” criminal behaviour and criminal careers, different types of crime, the ways that crime is measured in Canadian society, and how Canadian criminal law regulates crime. Throughout the class, we will be critically analyzing various explanations of criminality, challenging taken-for-granted assumptions about crime, and problematizing common perceptions and popular images of crime.

Course Objectives:

- Understand the major criminological explanations of crime and their respective shortcomings.
- Be able to explain crime through criminological theory.
- Understand the nature of a variety of criminal activities, and how social context impacts criminal decision-making and behaviour.
- Be able to critically assess explanations of crime.
- Understand the origins and elements of criminal law.
- Understand how crime is measured in Canadian society.
- Become a critical consumer of the media and political discourse about crime and criminals.

Required Text: Linden, Rick. 2016 *Criminology: A Canadian Perspective*. Eighth Edition. Toronto: Nelson.

**Please note that there is a cheaper and environmentally friendly electronic-version of this text available online.*

Supplementary Text: Periodically, additional reading/media materials may be posted on EClass.

Teaching Approach: The course will consist of lectures, required readings, class discussions, and possibly guest speakers. Everything that is covered in the classroom and in the readings should be considered “fair game” for tests. In other words: the content of guest lectures and videos may be covered on tests and on the final exam. You are also responsible for all assigned readings, whether or not such readings are specifically covered in class.

Classroom Atmosphere: The classroom will be a dynamic and lively place of learning, discussion, and debate. As such, I expect that you all do the readings before class and come to class prepared to engage with the material and ready to participate in class discussions. We will be learning *with* and *from* each other, so it is important that we all come to class with an open mind, ready to share ideas and – potentially – have them challenged by someone else (you should also feel free to question me!). When we discuss different points of view, it is imperative that we always do so respectfully and professionally, so please respect whoever is speaking and refrain from chatting and distracting other students.

Grade Evaluation:

| <u>Exams</u> | <u>Weight</u> | <u>Date</u> |
|--------------|---------------|--------------------|
| Test 1 | 30% | February 07 |
| Test 2 | 35% | March 14 |
| Final Exam | 35% | TBA |

Both tests and the final exam will be multiple choice, scantron examinations. The final exam is non-cumulative. Students must show their UAlberta ID or a piece of government issued photo ID prior to submitting their midterms or exam. Final marks will neither be scaled nor put on a bell curve. Final grades will be converted to the 4- point scale according to the following schedule:

| | | | |
|----------------------|----|--------|-----|
| Excellent | A+ | 95-100 | 4.0 |
| | A | 90-94 | 4.0 |
| | A- | 85-89 | 3.7 |
| Good | B+ | 80-84 | 3.3 |
| | B | 76-79 | 3.0 |
| | B- | 72-75 | 2.7 |
| Satisfactory | C+ | 68-71 | 2.3 |
| | C | 64-67 | 2.0 |
| | C- | 60-63 | 1.7 |
| Poor Minimal Pass | D+ | 55-59 | 1.3 |
| | D | 50-54 | 1.0 |
| Fail | F | 0-49 | 0 |

Attendance: Students who attend class will be more likely to understand the material and will therefore be in a better position to do well in the course. Attendance at lectures is extremely important because some topics presented in class are not covered in the readings. If you do need to miss class because of illness or other commitments, please arrange to get notes from another students. My lecture notes will not be available online.

Missed Mid-term Tests: If you miss one of the tests, you must contact me within two days after the test date to request an opportunity to write a make-up test, with regard to circumstance. A make-up test will only be granted if there are legitimate medical or compassionate grounds. Deferred tests are intended to accommodate students who have experienced an incapacitating illness or severe domestic affliction; applications based on minor or inconsequential ailments will not be approved. Excused absences are not automatic and are at the discretion of the instructor, who may request supporting documents as follows:

- For incapacitating medical illness, students can present one of the following:
 - o “University of Alberta Medical Statement” signed by a doctor
 - o “Medical Declaration Form for Students” (for Faculty of Arts students).
 - o Statutory Declaration” (for students in Faculties other than Arts, to be obtained from the Office of the Registrar).

- For all other cases, such as domestic afflictions or religious convictions, the student should submit appropriate documentation to the situation. This could include the following:
 - o For a death in the family – a copy of the death certificate
 - o For a religious conflict – a letter from the church or pastor
 - o For a car accident – a copy of the accident report
 - o For other serious afflictions – consult with Instructor or Department about appropriate documentation

Email: Email works well for communicating simple information (Oftentimes answers can be found right on this syllabus!), but extended conversations are better conducted in person. Please make the subject of the email SOC 225 so that I can prioritize your email and get back to you as quickly as possible. I will generally reply to email inquiries from students within 48 hours. If you do not receive a reply within this period, I may have missed your email so please resubmit your question(s).

Department Set Deferred Final Exam Date: The Department of Sociology arranges a set deferred exam date for all students who are granted a deferred final exam in a Sociology course in the Winter term. This deferred date is set for **Saturday, May 6, 2017 at 9:00am. Location TBA.**

- As per the [Attendance](#) section of the University Calendar, “*a deferred final examination will not be approved if a student (a) has not been in regular attendance where attendance and/or participation are required, and/or, (b) excluding the final exam, has completed less than half of the assigned work.*”
- You will have to apply to your home faculty for a deferred final exam.

Course policies: Policies about course outlines can be found in [Course Requirements, Evaluation Procedures and Grading](#) section of the University Calendar.

Video/Audio recording: Consistent with University guidelines, “**Audio or video recording, digital or otherwise, of lectures, labs, seminars or any other teaching environment by students is allowed only with the prior written consent of the instructor or as a part of an approved accommodation plan. Student or instructor content, digital or otherwise, created and/or used within the context of the course is to be used solely for personal study, and is not to be used or distributed for any other purpose without prior written consent from the content author(s).**”

Student Accessibility Services: If you have special needs that could affect your performance in this class, please let me know during the first week of the term so that appropriate arrangements can be made. If you are not already registered with Student Accessibility Services, contact their office immediately (1-800 SUB; Email sasrec@ualberta.ca; Email; phone 780-492-3381; WEB www.ssds.ualberta.ca).

Academic Integrity: “The University of Alberta is committed to the highest standards of academic integrity and honesty. Students are expected to be familiar with these standards regarding academic honesty and to uphold the policies of the University in this respect. Students are particularly urged to familiarize themselves with the provisions of the Code of Student Behaviour (online at www.governance.ualberta.ca) and avoid any behaviour which could potentially result in suspicions of cheating, plagiarism, misrepresentation of facts and/or participation in an offence. Academic dishonesty is a serious offence and can result in suspension or expulsion from the University.”

For further information about Academic Integrity and to access the Academic Integrity Handbook for students, visit the Student Conduct and Accountability website at <http://www.osja.ualberta.ca/en/Students.aspx>.

Course Schedule

Tentative Lecture Schedule & Assigned Readings:

| Week | Topic | Readings |
|---------------|---|-----------------|
| Jan 10/12 | Introduction, Media Influence on Law Creation | Chapter 1 |
| Jan 17/19 | Media Influence and Deterrence Theory | Chapter 15 |
| Jan 24/26 | Criminal Law | Chapter 3 |
| Jan 31/Feb02 | Counting Crime | Chapter 4 |
| Feb 07 | 1st Midterm | N/A |
| Feb 09/14 | Correlates of Crime Early Theory | Chapter 5 |
| Feb 14/16 | Early Theory | Chapter 8 |
| Feb 21/23 | Reading Week | N/A |
| Feb 28/Mar02 | Conflict Theory | Chapter 11 |
| Mar 07/09 | Strain Theory | Chapter 10 |
| Mar 14 | 2nd Midterm | N/A |
| Mar 16/21 | Social Control Theory | Chapter 14 |
| Mar 23/28 | Interactionist Theory | Chapter 13 |
| Mar 30/Apr 04 | Contemporary Crim. | Chapter 12 |
| Apr 04/06 | Contemporary Crim. and Review | Chapter 12 |

- This schedule is tentative and may be adjusted as we move through the material-