

SOCIOLOGY 2250
CRIMINOLOGY
FALL 2002

SEP. 19 2002

Instructor: Oswald S. Warner, BSc., MLIR, Ph.D.
Time/Place: Tues. & Thurs. 11.30-12.50pm Room B202
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Description:

In this course, we seek to understand, measure, and examine the occurrence and distribution of criminal activity in Canada. This course will therefore be conducted from a largely critical perspective in order to provide learners with an alternative to the structural functionalist perspective that pervades both social discourse and much sociological teaching.

Overview of Course Objectives:

In addition to acquiring specific knowledge, learners should gain some specific skills in this course. All courses you have been exposed to so far have a built-in bias, as does this course. Having an alternative way to analyze events helps learners to build their critical thinking skills. In this course, we would therefore challenge common assumptions by formulating questions, identifying and weighing appropriate evidence, and reaching reasoned conclusions.

However, you do not have to believe everything you read or hear in this course. But, you do need to learn the perspectives and learn the strengths and weaknesses of the ideas. Disagreement is therefore welcomed, so long as it is educated disagreement. We all have opinions, but we need to find out how they stack up against social data. Feel free to debate points, but recognize that debates will ultimately be won based on empirical facts, rather than feelings.

Readings:

The required readings:

Siegel, Larry J. and Chris McCormick. 2003. (2nd ed.)
*Criminology in Canada: Theories, Patterns, and
Typologies*, Thomson Nelson.

Silverman, Robert A., James J. Teevan and Vincent F. Sacco.
2000. (6th ed.) *Crime in Canadian Society*, Toronto, ON:
Harcourt Brace & Company, Canada.

Occasional short handouts which learners are responsible for reading and understanding.

Learners are expected to read assigned readings in advance of the dates they are listed for. Generally, readings are a very manageable amount. They are less than the expected 125 pages per week for junior classes.

Lecture Format:

Most lectures will supplement the readings. Learners are encouraged to bring questions about the readings, issues raised by the readings, etc. to the attention of the class for answer, discussion, and/or debate.

The lecture format presumes interruption by learners to discuss, question, demand clarification, etc.. Likewise you should feel free to demand the instructor slow down, explain, or do anything else you need to understand the lectures. Additionally, some class meetings will include viewing video material. Learners are responsible for knowing all material presented in class, as all are testable material.

Evaluation Format:**Exams:**

Two (2) take-home exams and a final exam that will cover the basic themes in the lectures, readings, discussions, and video material will account for 70% of your final grade.

Group Criminology Reports:

Over the last decade, the criminal justice systems of most countries have been under considerable pressure from criminals as well as from law-abiding citizens. For example, in the case of Canada, the criminal justice system has had to address such contentious issues as Crime and Deportation, Welfare Fraud, Corporate Fraud, Child Abuse and Infanticide, Child Pornography, Youth Crime, and Domestic Violence and Intimate Femicide.

In groups of equal size, learners are to research and report on such issues as identified above. That is, you are expected to determine what is the nature of the law, the sources, nature, and rationales of the pressures, what legal changes are being contemplated, and what are your groups' views of the pressures and legal changes.

The findings of your groups' research, as well as views, are to be presented to the class during the two (2) discussion periods that have been identified in the syllabus. At the end of the presentation, each group has to provide the instructor with a short, written report. Group members' evaluation of each other's contribution in the group criminology report will account for 10% of your final grade while the instructor's evaluation of the submitted reports will account for 5% of your final grade.

TRRs: Thematic Reading Reports:

With each TRR valued at 2.5% of your grade, you are to submit four (4) TRRs based on the required chapters' readings in the texts. What is expected here is that you report on the important/salient themes addressed in the chapters' readings. This means that you must write on the chapters in Siegel and McCormick (2003) and on one (1) chapter in Silverman, Teeyan, and Sacco (2000).

These TRRs are to encourage reading of the required chapters in advance of their lecture/discussion dates on the syllabus and as such will provide you with an opportunity to be more informed of what is being discussed.

TRRs are to be submitted on a ONE PAGE paper. This paper

must be wordprocessed, single spaced or double spaced but MUST ONLY BE ON ONE SIDE OF A PAGE AND ARE NOT TO BE LESS THAN 400 WORDS.

These TRRs are to be submitted on or before the date on which the chapters are to be discussed on the course syllabus. TRRs due dates are fixed unless they are changed by me. NO exceptions will be granted unless in cases of crisis or emergency. Should a crisis or emergency arise that will prevent you submitting your TRRs on time, said situation must be documented in writing to my satisfaction. Late TRRs received without a verified excuse will have a 0.5 deducted for each day of lateness. There will also be a deduction of 0.5 for TRRs less than 400 words. As such, you should provide a word count figure in your TRRs.

Note: It is vitally important that you take great care, not only with what you write but, with how you write. This necessitates that you pay attention to essay writing format/requirements of sentence construction, spelling, etc.

Individual Participation:

Individual participation grades will be calculated based upon attendance. Attendance is important not only to your final grade but also to your understanding of what is being discussed. Therefore, I will from time to time give simple quizzes (or curve busters) and these would also be used as a measure of attendance, participation, and understanding of course material and concepts. However, if an occasion arises that necessitates your absence from class for a day or a period of time let me know in advance. I will arrange with you to go over what you have missed during one of our office hours.

Grade Breakdown:

Exam 1	20%
Exam 2	20%
Final Exam	30%
Group Criminology Research Report	
Learners' Self-Evaluation	10%
Instructor's Evaluation	05%
Four (4) SRRs	10%
Individual Participation	05%
Five (5) Attendance (1% each)	
Total	100%

DATE	TOPIC	READINGS
Sept. 5	<u>INTRODUCTION/COURSE OVERVIEW</u>	None
Sept. 10	<i>Segal and McCormick (2000)</i> <u>Preface</u>	xii-xv
	<i>Silverman, Teevan and Sacco (2003)</i> Sacco, "Media Construction of Crime"	Ch. 1
	<u>CONCEPTS OF CRIME, LAW, AND CRIMINOLOGY</u>	
Sept. 12	<i>Segal and McCormick (2000)</i> <u>Crime and Criminology</u>	Ch. 1
	<i>Silverman, Teevan and Sacco (2003)</i> Introduction	2-10
Sept. 17	TTR 1 DUE	
Sept. 17/19	<i>Segal and McCormick (2000)</i> <u>The Criminal Law and Its Processes</u>	Ch. 2
	<i>Silverman, Teevan and Sacco (2003)</i> Boyd, "Canadian Criminal Law"	Ch. 2
	Silverman and Kennedy, "Battered Wife Defense"	Ch. 4
Sept. 24	TTR 2 DUE	
Sept. 24/26	<i>Segal and McCormick (2000)</i> <u>The Nature and Extent of Crime</u>	Ch. 3
	<i>Silverman, Teevan and Sacco (2003)</i> Kong, "Canadian Crime Statistics"	Ch. 5
	Kennedy and Veitch, "Why Are Crime Rates Going Down in Edmonton?"	Ch. 6
	Carrington, "Trends in Youth Crime in Canada"	Ch. 7
	Duchesne, "Street Prostitution in Canada"	Ch. 3
	Video, "Young Offenders"	
Oct. 3	EXAM 1 QUESTION GIVEN OUT	
Oct. 3	TTR 3 DUE	
	<i>Segal and McCormick (2000)</i>	

Oct. 3/8	<u>Victims and Victimization</u>	Ch. 4
	Johnson, "Violence Against Women: A Special Topic Survey"	Ch. 8
	Gartner and MacMillan, "Victim-Offender Relationship and Reporting of Crime against Women"	Ch. 9
Oct. 10	TTR 4 DUE	
Oct. 10	EXAM 1 QUESTION DUE	
	<u>THEORIES OF CRIME CAUSATION</u>	
Oct. 10/15	<i>Segal and McCormick (2000)</i> <u>Choice Theory</u>	Ch. 5
	<i>Silverman, Teevan and Sacco (2003)</i> Benaquisto, "Inattention to Sanctions in Criminal Conduct"	Ch. 14
	Video, "The Politics of Punishment: Crime and Punishment"	
Oct. 17	<i>Segal and McCormick (2000)</i> <u>Trait Theories</u>	Ch. 6
Oct. 22	TTR 5 DUE	
Oct. 22/24	<i>Segal and McCormick (2000)</i> Social Structure Theories	Ch. 7
	<i>Silverman, Teevan and Sacco (2003)</i> Hagan, "Power-Control Theory"	Ch. 11
	Wood and Griffiths, "Patterns of Aboriginal Crime"	Ch. 18
	Hartnagel, "Crime Among Provinces"	Ch. 12
Oct. 29	TTR 6 DUE	
Oct. 29 Oct. 31	<i>Segal and McCormick (2000)</i> <u>Social Process Theories</u>	Ch. 8
	<i>Silverman, Teevan and Sacco (2003)</i> Lagrange and Silverman, "Low Self- Control and Opportunity"	Ch. 15
	McMillan, "Changes in the Structure of Life Courses and the Decline of Social Capital"	Ch. 16
	Gordon and Nelson, "Crime, Ethnicity, and Immigration"	Ch. 19

NOV 5	GROUP CRIMINOLOGY REPORT	
NOV 7	GROUP CRIMINOLOGY REPORT	
Nov. 12	<i>Segal and McCormick (2000)</i> <u>Social Conflict Theories</u>	Ch. 9
NOV. 14	EXAM 2 QUESTION GIVEN OUT	
	<u>CRIME TYPOLOGIES</u>	
Nov. 14	TTR 7 Due	
Nov. 14/19	<i>Segal and McCormick (2000)</i> <u>Violent Crime</u>	Ch. 11
	<i>Silverman, Teevan and Sacco (2003)</i> Brunschot, "Assault Stories"	Ch. 10
	Gartner, Dawson, and Crawford, "Woman Killing: Intimate Femicide in Ontario"	Ch. 20
	Video, "Rape Law"	
	Video, "UK Guns"	
NOV. 21	EXAM 2 DUE	
Nov. 21	TTR 8 Due	
Nov. 21/26	<i>Segal and McCormick (2000)</i> <u>Property Crimes</u>	Ch. 12
Nov. 28/ Dec. 3	<i>Segal and McCormick (2000)</i> <u>Crimes of Power-White Collar, Corporate, and Organized Crime</u>	Ch. 13
	<i>Silverman, Teevan and Sacco (2003)</i> Beare, "Organized Crime and Money Laundering"	Ch. 21
	Keane, "Corporate Crime"	Ch. 22
Dec. 5	<i>Segal and McCormick (2000)</i> Public Order Crimes- Legislating Morality	Ch. 14
	Video, "Child Pornography"	
Dec. 9-13	Final Exams Date to be Determined	