

SOC 2510 Criminology

Course Syllabus

Introduction

Welcome to SOC 2510 Criminology. Crime is a topic about which everyone has an opinion. Most of the time people develop their opinions on issues regarding crime and the criminal justice system from information they gain from the media, which includes print media such as newspapers and magazines, and different forms of electronic media like television, movies, and the Internet. These media sources of information on crime and criminal justice are often interesting and exciting to read or watch. However they reveal very little about the way in which university-trained criminologists approach the social-scientific study of crime and related issues concerning the development of laws and the administration of criminal justice. In this course, you will learn how criminologists approach attempting to answer questions such as: "What is crime?"; "Why do we have the criminal laws we have?"; "How can we explain different patterns of crime?"; and "What can we do to try to prevent crime and disorder, while respecting the basic human rights we have by virtue of being fortunate enough to live in a relatively free and democratic society?" These are just a few of the many important theoretical, research, and policy questions being addressed by criminologists today in Canada and internationally. By taking this course you will be exposed to knowledge that will help you develop a much better appreciation of how criminologists go about this type of work.

Contacting your instructor

For information on contacting your instructor as well as other important information from your instructor see the "Instructor Letter" link in your course website.

Course description

The *Undergraduate Calendar* of the University of Manitoba describes this course 2510 as follows:

(Formerly 077.251) A general introduction to theories of deviant behaviour and criminology. The explanation of crime with reference to physical, psychological, and social factors. Students may not hold credit for both [SOC 2510](#) (077.251) and [SOC 2511](#) (077.251). Prerequisite: [a grade of "C" or better in [SOC 1200](#) (077.120) or the former SOC 1201 (077.120)] or [a grade of "C" or better in both [SOC 1211](#) (077.121) and [SOC 1221](#) (077.122)].

SOC 2510 is an introduction to the multidisciplinary field of criminology. The course is designed for students who are thinking about pursuing careers in criminal justice, and also those students who would like to learn about the field of criminology and develop a critical understanding of issues involved in the study of crime and the development of criminal justice policy in Canada and around the world. The course consists of three Modules that cover the general topics of "Crime and Society" (Module 1), "Explanations of Crime" (Module 2), and "Patterns of Criminal Behaviour" (Module 3).

Course objectives

Upon completion of this course, you should be able to do the following:

1. Explain how criminology has developed historically as a field of social scientific study.
2. Describe the variety of methodological approaches used by criminologists to study crime and the criminal justice system.
3. Outline important contemporary debates that exist in criminology and society more generally today over the definition of crime and society's response to defined criminal acts.
4. Describe and critically assess theories of crime and the development of law.
5. Explain how theories of crime causation have influenced the development of social and criminal justice policies in the real world.
6. Discuss the findings of recent research on different patterns of criminal behaviour, including conventional or "street" crime, organized crime, corporate and white-collar crime, and cybercrime

Course materials

Required

Bookstore

The following required materials are available for purchase from the [University of Manitoba Bookstore](#). Please order your materials immediately, if you have not already done so. See your [Distance and Online Education Student Handbook](#) for instructions on how to order your materials.

1. Textbook

Linden, R., ed. 2016. *Criminology: A Canadian Perspective*, 8 th edition. Toronto: Nelson.

The textbook is a multi-authored text written by a number of leading Canadian criminologists. It also has many features that make it especially suitable for students taking introduction to criminology as an online course. Most importantly, the textbook contains:

- **clearly written learning objectives** for each chapter along with “Questions for Critical Thinking” at the end of each chapter;
- **web links** cited in the margins of each chapter and suggestions at the end of each chapter on additional “Net Work” that students can undertake online in order to gather more further information on topics covered in the chapter readings;
- **definitions and a list of “Key Terms”** included in the margins and at the end of each chapter, and a **general “Glossary” of important terms** included at the end of the textbook; and
- a **textbook companion website** that includes an extensive array of online learning tools, including: “Test Yourself” example multiple choice exam questions; “Chapter Links” to additional chapter-related web sites; a “Synopsis of Criminological Theories”; and additional “Web Resources” for students interested in criminology and criminal justice.

2. Online videos

Some of your assignments for this course, and in particular the online discussions in which you will participate, require that you first watch particular videos. A list of required videos for each unit can be found in the course website. Students must make reference to at least one required video on all assignments. Since access to specific free online videos may be terminated at any time, please contact the course instructor if you cannot access the video after several attempts on your own.

3. **Coursemate** has been bundled with the purchase of your text. You can access helpful study tools and learning activities by creating an account with NelsonBrain at <https://login.nelsonbrain.com/cb/login.htm>. Your instructor will provide you with a Course Key.

Optional

Additional Criminology Web Links

In addition to the many web links contained in the Linden textbook and its companion website, the following web sites provide up-to-date information on a number of topics we will be covering in the course. Optional web links are listed for each unit in the course website.

University of Manitoba Libraries

The following optional materials are available from the University of Manitoba Libraries (See the link to the University of Manitoba Libraries in your course website.):

Selected Online Criminology and Criminal Justice Journals

A good place to start for students who are interested in learning more about advanced research in criminology and criminal justice are the following peer-reviewed journals available online through the

University of Manitoba Libraries at
<http://umanitoba.ca/libraries/>:

African Journal of Criminology and Justice Studies
Australian and New Zealand Journal of Criminology
British Journal of Criminology
Canadian Journal of Criminology and Criminal
Justice Contemporary Justice Review
Crime, Law and Social Change
Criminology and Criminal Justice
Criminology and Public Policy
Criminology: An International Journal
Critical Criminology: An International Journal
European Journal of Criminal Policy and Research
European Journal of Criminology
Feminist Criminology
Global Crime
International Criminal Justice Review
Journal of Experimental Criminology
Journal of Research in Crime and Delinquency
Journal of Scandinavian Studies in Criminology and Criminal Justice
Justice Quarterly
Punishment and
Society Theoretical
Criminology

Required hardware and software

You require the following items for your computer for this course:

Computer with speakers.

Course overview

As noted in the course description, this course is divided into three modules that cover the broad topics of “Crime and Society” (Module 1), “Explanations of Crime” (Module 2), and “Patterns of Criminal Behaviour” (Module 3). This section contains an explanation of course topics covered in each Module as well as brief descriptions of the learning activities in which students will be normally expected to participate.

Each of the three course **Modules** is divided into a number of individual **Units**. Each of these units corresponds to course material covered in a specific related chapter, or in a few cases two chapters, of your course textbook, as well as to supplementary required and optional course web links and online videos.

You will participate and be evaluated in this course through required online discussions, quizzes, and short essays. At the end of the course, you will write a closed-book final examination designed specifically to test your overall knowledge of information covered in the course textbook. See the Course Schedule for due dates. **Note:** If at any point in the course you find that you cannot access the SOC 2510 course website to complete any of the evaluations, please contact your instructor immediately to discuss possible alternative methods of completing specific course requirements.

Provided below is an overview of the specific topics covered in each Module, along with more detailed information concerning the specific learning activities you will be undertaking as part of the course.

Module 1–Crime and Society

This module addresses a number of questions aimed at introducing the field through brief discussions about the definition and scope of criminology, the nature of crime and criminal law, how criminologists study crime and the criminal justice system, and important recent developments in criminological theory and research which show that criminology is a continually evolving field of study.

- Unit 1** Crime, Criminals, and Criminology;
- Unit 2** The Origins and Role of Criminal Law;
- Unit 3** Counting and Correlating Crime;
- Unit 4** Feminism and Criminology.
- Unit 5** Victimology, Victim Services, and Victim Rights in Canada

Module 2—Explanations of Crime

This module examines the range of theories and explanations that criminologists have developed to account for crime. Specific attention is given to the nature and adequacy of various theories of criminal behaviour and the criminal justice policy implications that follow from accepting particular theories of crime.

- Unit 1** Early Theories of Crime;
- Unit 2** Psychological Perspectives on Criminality;
- Unit 3** Strain and Control Theories;
- Unit 4** Interactionist Theories;
- Unit 5** Conflict Theories;
- Unit 6** Contemporary Conflict Criminology
- Unit 7** Deterrence, Routine Activity, and Rational Choice Theories

Module 3—Patterns of Criminal Behaviour

This module provides an introduction to the study of specific patterns of criminal behaviour. Particular attention is given to examining recent research on conventional or street crime, organized crime, and corporate and white-collar crime.

- Unit 1** Organized Crime;
- Unit 2** Corporate and White-Collar Crime
- Unit 3** **Cybercrime and Cyberdeviance**

Learning activities

The specific learning activities for each course Module include:

1. Read the online unit notes and listen to the audio files in the order that they appear.
2. Review the instructions and requirements related to each of the assignments you have been asked to complete for the Module. (For example: for Module 1, go to the “Assignments” section and read the requirements of “Online Discussion 1”, “Quiz 1”, and “Essay 1”.)
3. Note the due dates for each assignment.
4. Read the chapters of the course textbook for each unit, devoting particular attention to information contained in each chapter that appears to be related to one or more of your assignments.***
5. Access any web sites and view any online videos that are stated in the course syllabus to be required resources.
6. Access and view any “optional” web sites and online videos that you think might help you in completing your assignments. (For example, it is highly recommended that you try the “Test Yourself” multiple choice questions on course textbook companion web site in order to help you prepare for the course quizzes).
7. Complete each of your Module assignments (online discussion, quiz, essay).
8. Submit each of your assignments online using the course website before or on the required due date.

*** **Note:** Each of the chapters in the course textbook contains a number of “Questions for Critical Thinking” and a list of “Key Terms” related to the content of the chapter. You should use these resources to help you focus on important information and issues. At the end of each unit, you should summarize each reading in your own words. Ask yourself: “What are the authors’ main points?”; “What are the key concepts?” and, if the author is making a controversial point, “Do you agree with the author’s line of argument, and why?”

Evaluation and grading

Distribution of marks

Evaluation	Percentage
Online Discussion 1	5%
Online Discussion 2	5%
Online Discussion 3	5%
Quiz 1	5%
Quiz 2	5%
Quiz 3	5%
Essay 1	15%
Essay 2	15%
Essay 3	15%
Final examination	<u>25%</u>
Total	100%

Grading scale

Letter grade	Percentage range	Description
A+	93 – 100	Exceptional
A	86 – 92.5	Excellent
B+	79 – 85.5	Very good
B	72 – 78.5	Good
C+	65 – 71.5	Satisfactory
C	58 – 64.5	Adequate
D	50 – 57.5	Marginal
F	less than 50	Failure

Note: All final grades are subject to departmental review.

Assignment due dates

Consult your course schedule for the assignment due dates.

Assignments

Online discussions

You will be required to participate in 3 online discussions worth 5 marks each. The online discussion area will be open for one week. You will respond to the instructor's questions and one other student's posting. See the online discussion board marking rubric in your course website.

Quizzes

You will be required to complete 3 online quizzes worth 5 marks each. The quizzes will consist of multiple choice and true/false questions that will be similar to the questions you will have on your final examination.

The quizzes will be open for a 24 hour period.

Essays

At the end of each Module there is an assignment that involves writing a short essay on a specific question derived from your readings. Each essay is worth 15 marks. Each essay is to be between 700 and 900 words (or roughly 3 typewritten pages, double-spaced using 12 point font). In order to be fair to all

students, marks will be deducted from essays that exceed this length. Also, the instructor does not accept late essays unless the student has made contact prior to the essay due date with a valid medical or personal reason for requesting an extension on the essay due date. See the essay writing instructions and marking rubric in your course website.

Note: If the assignment due date falls during the Mid-term Break in February, it will be due on the Monday following the Mid-term Break. If you are unable to submit an assignment on time, contact your instructor well in advance of the due date, for we cannot guarantee that the instructor will accept late assignments.

Examination

Note: The final exam will be conducted at the University of Manitoba, Fort Garry campus or at an alternate location off-campus. **All students must declare** an exam location. The Registrar's Office is responsible for scheduling the final exam. Once finalized, the exam date and time information will be posted on the University of Manitoba Exam site.

The final examination will be a two-hour examination. The exam will be cumulative; that is, it will cover all of the assigned textbook chapter readings and all of the material contained on the course website, including required audio and video materials. The exam will contain similar questions to those included in your earlier online quizzes and to those you can find on the companion textbook website.

Note: It is your responsibility to plan ahead to make sure that you will be available to write the final examination scheduled by the Registrar's office. The link to the site is available in your **Course Schedule**.

Plagiarism, cheating, and examination impersonation

You should acquaint yourself with the University's policy on plagiarism, cheating, and examination impersonation as detailed in the General Academic Regulations and Policy section of the University of Manitoba *Undergraduate Calendar*. Note: These policies are also located in your *Distance and Online Education Student Handbook* or you may refer to Student Affairs at <http://www.umanitoba.ca/student>.

Distance and Online Education (DE) Student Resources

In your course website there are links for the following:

- Contact Distance and Online Education Staff
- Distance and Online Student Handbook
- Distance and Online Education Website

Acknowledgements

Content specialist:

Russell Smandych, Ph.D.
Department of Sociology
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Dr. Smandych is Professor of Sociology at the University of Manitoba, where he has taught since 1986. Dr. Smandych has been recognized both nationally and internationally for research he has completed in the fields of Canadian youth justice system reform, law and Indigenous peoples, global criminology and criminal justice, and Canadian and comparative common-law legal history. He has published extensively in leading journals including the *Adelaide Law Review*, *Australasian Canadian Studies*, the *Canadian Journal of Criminology*, the *Canadian Journal of Law and Society*, the *International Criminal Justice Review*, *Law and History Review*, *Legal History*, and the *Manitoba Law Journal*. He is the editor of seven books that cover topics including the history of childhood, youth crime and the youth justice system, governmentality and crime control, criminal justice history, cultural imperialism, and global criminology and criminal justice. In addition to teaching and doing research at the University of Manitoba, Dr. Smandych has held honorary academic appointments as a distinguished scholar and visiting professor at the University of Waikato and Victoria University of Wellington, in New Zealand, Macquarie University and University of Adelaide, in Australia, and at University College Dublin, in Ireland. In addition to his academic pursuits, Dr. Smandych spends his leisure time cross-country skiing (during Manitoba's long winters), and riding his bicycle during Manitoba's equally beautiful summers.

Content specialist (Minor updates, 2012):

Tracey Peter, Ph.D.
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Dr. Tracey Peter is an Assistant Professor of Sociology at the University of Manitoba, where she has taught since 2004. Dr. Peter has taught courses in research methods and statistics, the sociology of law, deviance, and introductory sociology. Dr. Peter's research interests include: mental health and well-being, trauma and violence, suicidal behaviour and prevention, social inequality, and political sociology. Dr. Peter has published several articles in these areas, as well as one co-authored book on research methods. In addition to participating in several community initiatives in the areas of mental health, suicide prevention, and trauma recovery, Dr. Peter participates in a National New Investigators Network where scholars collaborate on quantitative research in the area of cognitive, behavioural, and health outcomes among Canadian youth as they transition into early adulthood.

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