

UNIVERSITY OF MANITOBA
Department of Sociology
THEORIZING CRIME, LAW, AND SOCIAL JUSTICE
Sociology 3310 A01
(FALL, 2011, 3 Credit Hours)
10:00am to 11:20, Monday/Wednesday/Friday
214 Tier

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Course Objectives:

This course explores the importance of theorizing in addressing contemporary issues related to crime, law, and social justice. Through discussion of prominent theorists and theoretical trends within the fields of criminology, socio-legal studies, and sociology, it seeks to emphasize the value of theory as a means for increasing understanding, expanding problem-solving horizons, and advancing social justice. Our focus will be on theoretical approaches drawn from the work of Critical Criminologists who have adapted and developed contemporary social theories for addressing questions of crime, law and social justice.

Required Readings:

Critical Criminology in Canada: New Voices, New Directions. Edited by Aaron Doyle and Dawn Moore. University of British Columbia Press, 2010.

Reading Package (available from the Bookstore).

Assignments and Grades:

Discussion Group on Essay Topics	5%
Essay Outline	10%
Chapter Summaries	20%
Essay	30%
Take-home exam	25%
Participation	10%

Discussion Group on Essay Topics

On September 30 students will be placed into discussion groups of 3-4 students to discuss their ideas for essay topics. Each student will be expected to bring at least 2 possible essay topics to class (hand or type written on a separate sheet paper with your name at the top). Acceptable topics include any issue or concern related to the course materials (i.e., lecture and texts). A place to start when deciding upon an essay topic would be to think about what areas of criminology are of interest to you (e.g., drugs, policing, property crime, corporate crime) or to think about a more general area of sociological investigation that is not typically examined through a criminological lens (e.g., homelessness, aging, environment, war). Based on this initial idea, you can begin to ask critical criminological questions: how are laws created with respect to this topic? By whom? Whose interests are served? Whose interests are ignored? Who is criminalized or excluded? Do structures of inequality, such as class, gender, race/ethnicity, sexuality, age, etc, factor into how law is developed and enforced in this area?

If you have difficulty deciding upon an essay topic, please make an appointment to meet with me. Although I will not give you a topic, I will probe your interests to help you discover an appropriate topic.

Essay Outline

A good essay grows from a thorough outline. To make a thorough outline you will need to begin researching your essay topic, drawing on at least 2 or 3 journal articles or book chapters to gain a sense of how you might frame your argument. With this knowledge in hand, you may begin to sketch your outline. The basic architecture of your outline should be as follows:

A) Introduction

- Thesis statement.
- General information to provide sufficient context for thesis statement.

B) Body Paragraph 1

- Opening sentence
- Important details

C) Body Paragraph 2

- Opening sentence
- Important details

D) Body Paragraph 3

- Opening sentence
- Important details

E) Body Paragraph ... etc [Continue this pattern for as many paragraphs as you require]

- Opening sentence
- Important details

F) Conclusion

- Re-examine thesis in light of information discussed in the body of the essay.

For a 10-page essay you will likely need an outline that runs approximately 2 pages. Outlines are due no later than October 28, although I encourage you to submit them earlier. Email outlines to: Andrew_Woolford@umanitoba.ca.

Chapter Critical Summaries

Students must submit critical summaries of six of the assigned readings from the course outline. Each summary (250-500 words) should briefly describe the main themes of the reading and then critically reflect on one or more issue the author discusses that caught your attention. Ideally, you should summarize chapters that are relevant to your essay topic, since I expect you to draw upon course materials in writing your essay. Electronic copies of your summaries must be emailed to me at Andrew_Woolford@umanitoba.ca by no later than 5pm on November 9th. Critical summaries will be graded primarily based on content (summary and critical insight), but extremely poor grammar and spelling will make your summaries more difficult to read and therefore will likely result in a lower grade. Late summaries will be penalized 3% per day with weekends counting as 2 days.

Essay

Students will write an 8-10 page, double-spaced, argumentative essay that deals with a topic related to critical criminology. Essays should reference at minimum three of the assigned readings, as well as no fewer than 3 outside sources (i.e., journal articles or book chapters that were not assigned for this course). Essays are to be submitted electronically to Andrew_Woolford@umanitoba.ca by 5pm on November 29. Late essays will be penalized 3% per day with weekends counting as 2 days. A more detailed research topic/outline/essay handout will be distributed within the first 2 weeks of class.

Take Home Final:

On December 7th a take-home exam of 4 questions will be distributed in class. Students are required to write critical and argumentative essays on 2 of the 4 questions. Take home exams must be submitted electronically to Andrew_Woolford@umanitoba.ca by no later than noon on December 14.

Participation:

In addition to our discussion group on essay topics, students will be expected to participate regularly in classroom discussions. This includes coming to class prepared, having read the assigned materials and with one or two questions about those materials ready for discussion. Opportunities for participation will come in the form of general class discussions, paired discussions, small group discussions, and other exercises intended to involve students in the course materials.

Voluntary withdrawal deadline is: November 16, 2011

Academic Integrity: Students should acquaint themselves with the University's policy on 'Personations at Examinations' (section 5.2.9) and 'Plagiarism and Cheating' (8.1) found online under UManitoba Catalogue 2011-2012 (General Academic Regulations, Section 8. Academic Integrity). The Faculty of Arts also reserves the right to submit student work that is suspected of being plagiarized to Internet sites designed to detect plagiarism.

Grading:

Cut-off points for converting percentage grades into letter grades:

A+: 100- 90%	A: 89-80%	B+: 79-75%	B: 74-70%
C+: 69-65%	C: 64-60%	D: 59 - 50%	F: below 50%

Course Outline:

Section1 (Sept. 9 to Sept. 16): Introduction to Critical Criminology and its Approach to Law and Social Justice

Readings:

Doyle and Moore, Introduction

Reading Package, Chapter 1 (Ratner) and Chapter 2 (Ericson and Carrier)

Section 2 (Sept. 19 to Sept. 26): What Does it Mean to be Critical?

Readings:

Doyle and Moore, Chapter 2 (Hogeveen)

Reading Package, Chapter 3 (Garland) and Chapter 4 (Pavlich)

Section 3 (Sept. 28 to Oct. 5): Criminologists in the Contemporary Crime Market

Readings:

Doyle and Moore, Chapter 1 (Dupont) and Chapter 3 (Huey)

Reading Package, Chapter 5 (Haggerty)

Section 4 (Oct. 7 to Oct. 12): Critical Criminology and Corporate Crime

Readings:

Doyle and Moore, Chapter 4 (Williams)

Reading Package, Chapter 6 (Snider)

Section 5 (Oct. 15 to Oct. 19): Critical Criminology and Genocide

Readings:

Doyle and Moore, Chapter 5 (Woolford)
Reading Package, Chapter 7 (Friedrichs)

Section 6 (Oct. 21 to Oct. 27): Critical Criminology and Restorative Justice

Readings:

Doyle and Moore, Chapter 6 (Young)
Reading Package, Chapter 8 (Anderson)

Section 7 (Oct. 29 to Nov. 4): Critical Criminology and Marginalization

Readings:

Doyle and Moore, Chapter 7 (Hannem)
Reading Package, Chapter 9 (Wacquant)

Section 8 (Nov. 7 to Nov. 14): Feminist Critical Criminology

Readings:

Doyle and Moore, Chapter 8 (Balfour)
Reading Package, Chapter 10 (Martel)

Section 9 (Nov. 16 to Nov. 19): Critical Realism

Readings:

Doyle and Moore, Chapter 9 (Rigakos and Frauley)
Reading Package, Chapter 11 (Pires and Acosta)

Section 10 (Nov. 21 to Nov. 26): Critical Criminology, Social Justice and the City

Readings:

Doyle and Moore, Chapter 10 (Freeman)
Reading Package, Chapter 12 (Brenner and Theodore)

Section 11 (Nov. 28 to Dec. 5): The Politics of Critical Criminology

Readings:

Doyle and Moore, Chapter 11 (Walby)
Reading Package, Chapter 13 (Cohen)

December 7th: Take-Home exam distributed and review.