

An Introduction to Criminology
Sociology 2266B, Section 530
Winter 2012

Department of Sociology
Brescia University College

Lectures: Tuesdays: 4:30 to 5:30 p.m. & Thursdays: 3:30 to 5:30 p.m. in BR-136

Instructor: Dr. Steven Kleinknecht **Office:** BR-210 **Office Hours:** Mondays: 1:00 to 2:30 p.m.
Phone: 519-432-8353 x. 28279 **E-mail:** skleinkn@uwo.ca

COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course will introduce you to the discipline of criminology. It provides an overview of the processes that influence the meaning of crime. The course will introduce the idea that crime is best understood as a criminal event that involves precursors, transactions, and the aftermath. Methods used to collect crime data will be discussed and the strengths and limitations of each method will be examined. Various theoretical perspectives on crime will be presented including theories that suggest criminal motivation is influenced by factors that are external to the individual, theories that examine the role of social control and rational choice as they relate to offending, and theories that examine crime in terms of victims, opportunities, and routine. Types of crimes that occur in the domains of the household, leisure, and work will be examined using the model of crimes as criminal events. The course concludes by evaluating the nature and types of various responses used in crime control.

LEARNING OBJECTIVES

By the end of this course you will be able to:

- Understand the major theoretical perspectives used to interpret crime;
- Analyze crime as a criminal event with stages and processes which include precursors, transactions, and an aftermath;
- Interpret crime trends and patterns to better your understanding of crime and put the criminal event in perspective;
- Understand the prominent research methods used in criminology;
- Define and apply key criminological concepts;
- Understand the various social contexts in which crime occurs and the types of crimes that occur in these social arenas; and,
- Apply a new, critical perspective about criminal behaviour that challenges your assumptions about the nature of crime.

Be sure to also *develop your own learning goals for this course* by answering the following questions: Why are you interested in criminology? What skills, knowledge, and attitudes do you hope to develop? Where does this course fit into your overall learning objectives?

REQUIRED TEXT

Sacco, Vincent F., and Leslie W. Kennedy. 2011. *The Criminal Event: Fifth Edition*. Toronto, ON: Thomson Nelson.

Newburn, Tim (ed.). 2009. *Key Readings in Criminology*. Cullompton, UK: Willan Publishing.

Note: It is not essential to buy this text. It represents an extensive compilation of major criminological works and you will only be required to read a small number of these. Copies of this anthology and the Sacco and Kennedy text are on reserve in the Brescia library.

E-MAIL

I will not be answering questions regarding course material (e.g., definitions of concepts, differences between theories, etc.) via e-mail. I find that these types of questions are best answered by meeting in person. I suggest that you use e-mail for addressing administrative issues about the course and arranging to meet with me. I will do my best to respond to e-mail messages within 24 hours. Please use "Sociology 2266B" as part of the subject line. I also encourage people to setup and use their UWO e-mail account for school business.

OFFICE HOURS

Do not hesitate to come to see me during my office hours. I am here to help with any questions you might have. This time not only serves as a great way to clarify understandings of the course material, but I also enjoy talking with people about sociology in general, educational pursuits, and career aspirations. If you are unable to make it to my office hours I will usually be around after class, or you can make an appointment to meet with me.

LECTURE ETIQUETTE

Please respect your classmates and your instructor during lecture. To help everyone stay focused, avoid whispering with your neighbours and the use of computers for non-class related activities. Cell phones should be turned off and put away. If there is a problem with classroom conduct you may be asked to leave for the duration of the lecture.

LEARNING RESOURCES

In my mind, taking a vested interest in learning is the key to academic success. Some of the specific things that you can do to help with learning in this course (and others), include: (1) Regularly attending class; (2) Staying on top of your readings; (3) Keeping good lecture and reading notes; (4) Participating in the applied learning exercises; (5) Meeting with your professor during office hours when you need extra help or would like to discuss the course material on a more sustained basis; (6) Using the study aids on the text website (<http://www.criminalevent-5e.nelson.com/student/>) to help review course material; and, (7) Staying organized and on top of your assignment(s), and developing and executing good study habits (e.g., reviewing your material on a regular basis).

ASSESSMENT OF LEARNING

Applied Learning Exercises

- Working both individually and in groups you will carry-out exercises designed to extend your knowledge of course material through direct application of criminological ideas
- **Missed exercises:** Given that you might miss a class for unforeseen reasons, you are permitted 1 missed exercise without penalty. It is not necessary to approach me about the missed class. If additional accommodation is necessary, you should seek accommodation through the Dean's office, not your professor.
- Counts for **10%** of your final mark

Test #1

- Multiple choice questions
- Written in-class **Tuesday, February 7th**
- Covers the material up to and including February 2nd
- Counts for **25%** of your final mark

Test #2

- Multiple choice questions
- Written in-class **Tuesday, March 13th**
- Covers the material from February 9th up to and including March 8th
- Counts for **25%** of your final mark

Final Exam

- Multiple choice and short essay questions
- Written during the final exam period
- Multiple choice questions cover material from March 15th up to and including April 10th
- Short essay questions cover the criminological theories addressed throughout the course
- Counts for **40%** of your final mark

For academic accommodation to be considered for any course component worth less than 10% of the final course grade, it is the responsibility of the student to approach the course instructor(s) in a timely fashion. Documentation may be required to be submitted to the academic advisor. If documentation is required, the request for accommodation will be decided by the academic advisor in consultation with the instructor. If documentation is not required, the instructor will make the final decision as to whether or not accommodation will be granted. The policies governing requests for academic accommodation for course components worth 10% or more of the course grade are outlined in the Academic Policies section included at the end of the course outline.

CLASS SCHEDULE

Date	Topic	Reading
Jan. 10	Course Introduction	
Jan. 12	Defining Criminology Examining the Public's Fascination with Crime	SK: 1: 1-5 SK: 5-20, N: 4.1
Jan. 17 & 19	Crime vs. Deviance A Brief History of Criminology	SK 1: 20-43, N: 1.2 SK 4: 128-132, N: 2.4
Jan. 24 & 26	The Criminal Event	SK: 2, N: 25.1
Jan. 31 & Feb. 2	Crime Data and Research Methods Psychological and Biological Theories	SK: 3, N: 3.1 & 35.3 SK: 4: 126-145, N: 6.4
Tues. Feb. 7	<u>TEST #1 (25%)</u>	
Feb. 9	Strain, Learning, & Subcultural Theories	SK 4: 145-167, N: 8.3
Feb. 14 & 16	Social Control, Labelling, Deterrence, & Rational Choice Theories	SK 5, N: 10.3
Feb. 21 & 23	<i>Reading Week</i>	
Feb. 28 & Mar. 1	Opportunity Theories of Crime and Victimization Interactionist Theories of Crime	SK 6: 200-216, N: 14.4 SK 6: 216-227
Mar. 6 & 8	Consequences of Criminal Events	SK 7, N: 32.4
Tues. Mar. 13	<u>TEST #2 (25%)</u>	
Mar. 15 & 20	Crime and the Family and Household	SK 8, N: 17.4
Mar. 22	Crime and Leisure	SK 9, N: 13.4 & 20.2
Mar. 27 & 29	Crime and Work	SK 10, N: 18.1
Apr. 3 & 5	Public Policy and Responses to Crime	SK 11, N: 24.2 & 30.2
Apr. 10	Catch up and Review Exercise	
<p>FINAL EXAM (40%) – Written during the final exam period – Date & location set by the Registrar's Office</p>		

BRESCIA UNIVERSITY COLLEGE ACADEMIC POLICIES AND REGULATIONS

1. POLICY REGARDING MAKEUP EXAMS AND EXTENSIONS OF DEADLINES

When a student requests academic accommodation (e.g., extension of a deadline, a makeup exam) for work representing 10% or more of the student's overall grade in the course, it is the responsibility of the student to provide acceptable documentation to support a medical or compassionate claim. All such requests for academic accommodation **must** be made through an Academic Advisor and include supporting documentation. Academic accommodation on medical grounds will be granted only if the documentation indicates that the onset, duration and severity of the illness are such that the student could not reasonably be expected to complete her academic responsibilities. Appropriate academic accommodation will be determined by the Dean's Office in consultation with the student's instructor(s). Please note that personal commitments (e.g., vacation flight bookings, work schedule) which conflict with a scheduled test, exam or course requirement are not grounds for academic accommodation.

If supporting documentation is from a family physician, Hospital Urgent Care Centre or Emergency Department, or a walk-in clinic a UWO Student Medical Certificate (SMC) is **required**. To download an SMC go to <https://studentservices.uwo.ca/secure/index.cfm> and follow the link under "Medical Documentation".

Documentation should be obtained at the time of the initial visit. If it is not possible to have an SMC completed by the attending physician, the student must request documentation sufficient to demonstrate that her ability to meet academic responsibilities was seriously affected. Please note that under University Senate regulations documentation stating simply that the student "was seen for a medical reason" or "was ill" is **not** considered adequate to support a request for academic accommodation. All documentation is to be submitted to an Academic Advisor.

Whenever possible, requests for academic accommodation should be initiated in advance of due dates, examination dates, etc. Students must follow up with their professors and Academic Advisor in a timely manner.

The full statement of University policy regarding extensions of deadlines or makeup exams can be found at <http://www.westerncalendar.uwo.ca/2011/pg117.html>.

2. ACADEMIC CONCERNS

If you feel that you have a medical or personal problem that is interfering with your work, contact your instructor and Academic Advisor as soon as possible. Problems may then be documented and possible arrangements to assist you can be discussed at the time of occurrence rather than on a retroactive basis. Retroactive requests for academic accommodation on medical or compassionate grounds may not be considered.

If you think that you are too far behind to catch up or that your work load is not manageable, you should consult an Academic Advisor. If you consider reducing your workload by dropping one or more courses, this must be done by the appropriate deadlines (refer to the Registrar's website, www.registrar.uwo.ca, for official dates). You should consult with the course instructor and the Academic Advisor who can help you consider alternatives to dropping one or more courses. *Note that dropping a course may affect OSAP eligibility and/or Entrance Scholarship eligibility.*

The Dean may refuse permission to write the final examination in a course if the student has failed to maintain satisfactory academic standing throughout the year or for too frequent absence from the class or laboratory.

3. ABSENCES

Short Absences: If you miss a class due to a minor illness or other problems, check your course outline for information regarding attendance requirements and make sure you are not missing a test or assignment. Cover any readings and arrange to borrow notes from a classmate. Contact the course instructor if you have any questions.

Extended Absences: If you have an extended absence, you should contact the course instructor and an Academic Advisor. Your course instructor and Academic Advisor can discuss ways for you to catch up on missed work and arrange academic accommodations, if appropriate.

4. POLICY ON CHEATING & ACADEMIC MISCONDUCT

Students are responsible for understanding the nature of and avoiding the occurrence of plagiarism and other academic offences. Students are urged to read the section on Scholastic Offences in the Academic Calendar. Note that such offences include plagiarism, cheating on an examination, submitting false or fraudulent assignments

or credentials, impersonating a candidate, or submitting for credit in any course without the knowledge and approval of the instructor to whom it is submitted, any academic work for which credit has previously been obtained or is being sought in another course in the University or elsewhere. Students are advised to consult the section on Academic Misconduct in the Western Academic Calendar.

If you are in doubt about whether what you are doing is inappropriate or not, consult your instructor, the Student Services Centre, or the Registrar. A claim that "you didn't know it was wrong" is not accepted as an excuse.

The penalties for a student guilty of a scholastic offence (including plagiarism) include refusal of a passing grade in the assignment, refusal of a passing grade in the course, suspension from the University, and expulsion from the University.

Plagiarism:

Students must write their essays and assignments in their own words. Whenever students take an idea or a passage from another author, they must acknowledge their debt both by using quotation marks where appropriate and by proper referencing such as footnotes or citations. Plagiarism is a major academic offence (see Scholastic Offence Policy in the Western Academic Calendar).

All required papers may be subject to submission for textual similarity review to the commercial plagiarism detection software under license to the University for the detection of plagiarism. All papers submitted for such checking will be included as source documents in the reference database for the purpose of detecting plagiarism of papers subsequently submitted to the system. Use of the service is subject to the licensing agreement, currently between The University of Western Ontario and Turnitin.com.

Computer-marked Tests/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. Software currently in use to score computer-marked multiple-choice tests and exams performs a similarity review as part of standard exam analysis.

5. PROCEDURES FOR APPEALING ACADEMIC EVALUATIONS

All appeals of a grade must be directed first to the course instructor. If the student is not satisfied with the decision of the course instructor, a written appeal signed by the student must be sent to the Department Chair. If the response of the department is considered unsatisfactory to the student, she may then submit a signed, written appeal to the Office of the Dean. Only after receiving a final decision from the Dean may a student appeal to the Senate Review Board Academic. A Guide to Appeals is available from the Ombudsperson's Office, or you can consult an Academic Advisor. Students are advised to consult the section on Academic Rights and Responsibilities in the Western Academic Calendar.

6. PREREQUISITES AND ANTIREQUISITES

Unless you have either the prerequisites for a course or written special permission from your Dean to enroll in it, you will be removed from the course and it will be deleted from your record. This decision may not be appealed. You will receive no adjustment to your fees in the event that you are dropped from a course for failing to have the necessary prerequisites.

Similarly, you will also be deleted from a class list if you have previously taken an antirequisite course unless this has the approval of the Dean. These decisions may not be appealed. You will receive no adjustment to your fees in the event that you are dropped from a course because you have taken an antirequisite course.

7. SUPPORT SERVICES

The Brescia University College Registrar's website, with a link to Academic Advisors, is at http://www.brescia.uwo.ca/academics/registrar_services/index.html.

The University of Western Ontario Registrar's website is at <http://www.registrar.uwo.ca/index.cfm>

Portions of this document were taken from the Academic Calendar, the Handbook of Academic and Scholarship Policy and the Academic Handbook of Senate Regulations. This document is a summary of relevant regulations and does not supersede the academic policies and regulations of the Senate of the University of Western Ontario.