

# **COURSE OUTLINE**

# **CRIM 104**

# SOCIOLOGICAL EXPLANATIONS OF CRIME AND DEVIANCE

# **45 HOURS**

# **3 CREDITS**

PREPARED BY: Leah White, BA, BSW, MSW, Instructor DATE: January 2, 2019

APPROVED BY: Name, Title DATE: Click or tap to

enter a date

APPROVED BY ACADEMIC COUNCIL: Click or tap to enter a date RENEWED BY ACADEMIC COUNCIL: Click or tap to enter a date





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The Course Outline Template is approved by the Academic Council on June 20, 2018

# SOCIOLOGICAL EXPLANATIONS OF CRIME AND DEVIANCE

**INSTRUCTOR:** Leah White BA, BSW, MSW **OFFICE HOURS:** by appointment

OFFICE LOCATION: CLASSROOM: A 2605

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TELEPHONE: (867) 334-4243 DATES: Thursdays

## **COURSE DESCRIPTION**

This course examines and provides a critical evaluation of the major sociological explanations of crime and deviant behaviour. Theories include the demonic, classical, social disorganization, functionalist, anomie, learning, social control, societal reaction, radical Marxist and feminist perspectives. These sociological perspectives are applied to explain specific forms of criminal and deviant behaviour such as prostitution, pornography, homosexuality, drug use, mental illness, youth deviance, street crime, spousal assault, commercial crime, and political deviance.

## **PREREQUISITES**

SOCI 100 and CRIM 101 recommended.

## **EQUIVALENCY OR TRANSFERABILITY**

ALEX SOCI 210 (3)	AU SOCI 305 (3)	CAMO CRIM 100lev (3)
KPU CRIM 2331 (3)	SFU CRIM 104 (3) - B-Soc	TRU SOCI 2500 (3)
TRU-OL CRIM 1049 (3)	TWU HUMA 100 lev (3)	UBC SOCI 250 (3)
UFV CRIM 104 (3)	UNBC SOSC 1XX (3)	UVIC SOCI 100 lev (1.5)
VIU CRIM 204 (3)		

## LEARNING OUTCOMES

Upon successful completion of the course, students will have demonstrated the ability to:

- explain the contribution of consensus and conflict based sociological theories to an understanding of crime and deviance
- explain the contribution of the interpretive/social constructionist perspectives to an understanding of crime and deviance
- explain the contribution of the structural conflict perspective to an understanding of crime and deviance
- explain the contribution of the structural conflict perspective to an understanding of media representations of crime
- critically analyse sociological perspectives of criminal and deviant behaviour.

## **COURSE FORMAT**

Course content is canvassed through a lecture/seminar format. Students are responsible for discussion of the required readings and individual/group exercises assigned by the instructor. The course also may include guest speakers and audio-visual presentations. The required texts for this course will be supplemented with additional readings that are placed on the course website and/or handouts distributed in class.

#### ASSESSMENTS:

# **Attendance and Participation**

Regular attendance at, and active participation in, class are strongly recommended. Participation marks are assessed on the basis of active listening skills and orally demonstrated comprehension of the required readings in the lecture/seminar portions of the class. All students will be expected to participate in class discussions and raise questions and current events that relate to the course content. Examinations will reflect readings, class lectures and discussion.

#### **Book Review**

Each student is required to complete a book review of the course text: Reiman, J. (2012). The rich get richer and the poor get prison. The student is required to submit a 6-7 page double spaced <u>critical</u> review of the book. Students must provide a review of the strengths and shortcomings of the author's approach, alternative theoretical

perspective, alternative view of the justice system, methodological issues, and research that supports or contradicts the text.

# **Term Paper**

Each student is required to research and write a 10- to 12-page, double-spaced, word-processed term paper that explores and applies TWO (2) theoretical perspectives (of which ONE IS CONSENSUS and one CONFLICT (Marxist/Feminist)) presented in the course to a specific type of criminal/deviant behaviour. Students may choose a designated topic (suicide, prostitution, homosexuality, drug/alcohol use, spousal assault, child/elder abuse, environmental crime/deviance, white collar crime, commercial crime, political deviance, racial intolerance/discrimination, mental illness, street crime, street people/homelessness, juvenile gangs, satanic cults, religious cults) or a topic of their own choice.

Individual topic selection must be discussed with and approved by the course instructor and the paper must follow the paper outline format distributed in class. The term paper should include a minimum of 10 research sources with at least 5 scholarly journal articles and follow all APA requirements for formal papers.

Review the SFU web-link for term paper style requirements at:

http://learningcommons.sfu.ca/tools/handouts-tips/writing

Students should also read APA referencing guidelines at:

http://www.yukoncollege.yk.ca/library/pages/cite your sources

http://www.lib.sfu.ca/sites/default/files/10166/apa 1.pdf

**Legal Citations** 

http://library.queensu.ca/law/lederman/legalcitation

## **Written Assignment Requirements**

Written assignments for this course must be word-processed and fulfil the basic requirements for APA referencing and formal academic papers. You also should note that LATE ASSIGNMENTS WILL BE PENALIZED BY 10% PER DAY (including weekends) unless an extension is legitimately warranted and approved by the course instructor in advance of the assignment due date. Assignments submitted later than 7 days without prior instructor approval will not be marked.

#### **Examinations**

There are two term examinations for this course: a midterm and a final. The midterm

exam is a 1.5-hour, closed-book, in-class examination. The final exam, scheduled during final examination week, is a comprehensive, three-hour, closed-book, in-class examination. Both written examinations, midterm and final, consist of multiple choice, true/false, short answer, and essay questions and are based on the materials presented in class and on the required/assigned readings. You should note that any form of communication, written or otherwise, during the course of either examination will automatically result in a grade assessment of 0 (zero).

## **Scheduled Examination Dates**

Unless legitimately warranted and approved by the course instructor in advance, alternative arrangements will not be made for those students who are unable to write examinations on scheduled examination dates or during scheduled examination periods. Students should be aware that the completion date for this course includes the two-week examination period, which follows the termination of regularly scheduled classes.

## **EVALUATION**

Marks are distributed as follows:

Total	100%
Final Exam	30 %
Term Paper (Due Week 13)	20 %
Midterm Examination (Week 6)	25 %
Book Review (Reiman 2012) (TBA)	15 %
Attendance and Participation	10 %

## REQUIRED TEXTBOOKS AND MATERIALS

Williams, Frank P. and Marilyn McShane. (2004). *Criminological Theory*. 4<sup>th</sup> ed. New Jersey: Prentice-Hall.

Reiman, J. (2013). *The rich get richer and the poor get prison*. New York: Pearson. Course Reader (course website)

## ACADEMIC AND STUDENT CONDUCT

Information on academic standing and student rights and responsibilities can be found in the current Academic Regulations that are posted on the Student Services/Admissions & Registration web page.

## **PLAGIARISM**

Plagiarism is a serious academic offence. Plagiarism occurs when a student submits work for credit that includes the words, ideas, or data of others, without citing the source from which the material is taken. Plagiarism can be the deliberate use of a whole piece of work, but more frequently it occurs when students fail to acknowledge and document sources from which they have taken material according to an accepted manuscript style (e.g., APA, CSE, MLA, etc.). Students may use sources which are public domain or licensed under Creative Commons; however, academic documentation standards must still be followed. Except with explicit permission of the instructor, resubmitting work which has previously received credit is also considered plagiarism. Students who plagiarize material for assignments will receive a mark of zero (F) on the assignment and may fail the course. Plagiarism may also result in dismissal from a program of study or the College.

# YUKON FIRST NATIONS CORE COMPETENCY

Yukon College recognizes that a greater understanding and awareness of Yukon First Nations history, culture and journey towards self-determination will help to build positive relationships among all Yukon citizens. As a result, to graduate from ANY Yukon College program, you will be required to achieve core competency in knowledge of Yukon First Nations. For details, please see www.yukoncollege.yk.ca/yfnccr.

#### ACADEMIC ACCOMMODATION

Reasonable accommodations are available for students requiring an academic accommodation to fully participate in this class. These accommodations are available for students with a documented disability, chronic condition or any other grounds specified in section 8.0 of the Yukon College Academic Regulations (available on the Yukon College website). It is the student's responsibility to seek these accommodations. If a student requires an academic accommodation, he/she should contact the Learning Assistance Centre (LAC): lac@yukoncollege.yk.ca.

# **TOPIC OUTLINE**

# SOCIOLOGICAL EXPLANATIONS OF CRIME AND DEVIANCE Course Syllabus Winter 2019

# Part I - THE CONSENSUS THEORIES OF SOCIOLOGY

Week	Date	Topic	Readings
1	Jan 3	Introduction, expectations and foundations	Chapter 1
2	Jan10	The Chicago School	Chapter 4 W2
3	Jan17	The Functionalist and Anomie Perspectives	Chapter 6/W3
4	Jan24	Social Control Theory and Restorative Justice	Chapter 11/W4
5	Jan 31	Social Learning Perspective	Chapter 12
Part II - THE CONFLICT AND POSTMODERN THEORIES			
6	Feb 7	The Political Economic Perspectives	Chap 9/W6 & 7
7	Feb 14	Midterm	Midterm
8	Week of Feb18 -21	Reading Week No Classes	None

9	Feb 28	The Political Economy & Mass Media	W8 & 9
10	Mar 7	The Political Economy & Mass Media (Note Mar 10 withdraw deadline)	W8 & 9 Book Review Due
11	Mar 14	Corporate crime	W8 & 9

Part III: THE SOCIETAL REACTION AND CONSTRUCTIONIST PERSPECTIVES				
12	Mar 21	The Societal Reaction Perspective	W11 & 12, 13	
13	Mar 28	The Societal Reaction Perspective: Media and Moral Panics	W11 & 12, 13 Term Paper Due	
14	Apr 4	The Societal Reaction Perspective: Media and Moral Panics & final exam review	W11 & 12, 13	
15	April 11	CHAPTER CATCH-UP RECAP AND REVIEW		

<sup>&</sup>quot;The only means of strengthening one's intellect is to make up one's mind about nothing, to let the mind be a thoroughfare for all thoughts." - John Keats