



**DEPARTMENT OF ARTS AND EDUCATION**

**COURSE OUTLINE – FALL 2017**

**SO2250 (A2): Criminology - 3 (3-0-0) 45 Hours for 15 Weeks**

**INSTRUCTOR:** René R. Gadacz-Gould, Ph.D   **PHONE:** 780.539.2831  
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**OFFICE HOURS:** Daily; by appointment; drop-ins especially welcome

**CALENDAR DESCRIPTION:** This is an introduction to the study and analysis of crime from a sociological perspective. The course attempts to answer a number of questions. How much crime is there in Canada? Who are the criminals and what are they like? Why do people engage in criminal behavior? What are we doing to stop or at least reduce crime in our society?

**PREREQUISITE(S)/COREQUISITE(S):** SO1000 or equivalent

**REQUIRED TEXT(S)/RESOURCE MATERIALS:** Brown, Hoffman, and Siegel 2017 (3<sup>rd</sup> Canadian edition), CRIM. Nelson Education: Toronto; M. Arntfield, M. Danesi, 2017, Murder in Plain English: From Manifestos to Memes – Looking at Murder Through the Words of Killers. Prometheus Books: New York.

**DELIVERY MODE(S):** lectures, class discussion, group work, class presentations, written tests, written projects

**COURSE OBJECTIVES:** To understand the framework for studying criminology (e.g. history of criminology, research methods, nature and patterns of crime), to learn the major theories of causation (biological, psychological, social processes), and to learn about the major forms and typologies of criminal behavior (e.g. violent crimes, property crimes, organized crime, public order crimes).

**LEARNING OUTCOMES:** Students will be able to apply their knowledge to be able to navigate the content and structure of the Criminal Code of Canada, follow the process by which criminal laws are enacted, and apply personal and situational defenses to alleged offenses. More importantly, students will be able to design and formulate crime prevention strategies based on their understanding of crime causation theories.

**TRANSFERABILITY:** U of A, UC, AU, UL, AF, CU, CUC, KUC.  
Grade of D or D+ may not be acceptable for transfer to other post-secondary institutions.

**EVALUATIONS:**

Mid-Term Exam (20%)..... October 19  
Final Exam (30%)..... **to be announced**

**Semester Work --**

Daily Chapter Discussion Question (1 x 10%)..... **begins** September 12  
Assignment #1 (20%)..... dates to be announced  
Assignment #2 (20%)..... dates to be announced  
Guest Speaker(s) summary & feedback (bonus 5%)... **to be determined**

**GRADING CRITERIA:**

Please note that most universities will not accept your course for transfer credit **IF** your grade is **less than C-**.

GRANDE PRAIRIE REGIONAL COLLEGE			
GRADING CONVERSION CHART			
Alpha Grade	4-point Equivalent	Percentage Guidelines	Designation
A <sup>+</sup>	4.0	91 – 100	EXCELLENT
A	4.0	86 – 90	
A <sup>-</sup>	3.7	81 – 85	FIRST CLASS STANDING
B <sup>+</sup>	3.3	76 – 80	
B	3.0	73 – 75	GOOD
B <sup>-</sup>	2.7	70 – 72	
C <sup>+</sup>	2.3	67 – 69	SATISFACTORY
C	2.0	63 – 66	
C <sup>-</sup>	1.7	60 – 62	
D <sup>+</sup>	1.3	55 – 59	MINIMAL PASS
D	1.0	50 – 54	
F	0.0	0 – 49	FAIL
WF	0.0	0	FAIL, withdrawal after the deadline

**COURSE SCHEDULE/TENTATIVE TIMELINE**

***Please Note:*** Refer to the table of contents of the **CRIM** textbook for detailed content. Lectures will not always follow the book sequence or timeline below because: (a) material will be presented in class which does not appear in the textbook, especially early on in the course; (b) various guest speakers will take class time, meaning that a chapter or some content will be moved to the next day or beyond. The chapters and weeks will likely overlap, giving you the chance to get

'caught up' or to read ahead, as the case may be. **When, and what, to read in Murder in Plain English will be assigned as the course gets under way.**

**Week of (Fall 2017):**

**NOTE: Other important materials relating to criminology, such as our legal Charter rights, criminal defenses, details on the rule of law and due process in criminal proceedings will be introduced early in the course, perhaps contributing to changes in the following weeks' time-line. Guest speakers will have the same impact.**

August 31 -- Brief meeting; course requirements, etc.; begin reading Chapter 1 in our text (abbreviated here as **CRIM**), and familiarize with **Murder in Plain English**.

September 5, 7 -- **CRIM**, Chapter 1 – crime and criminology; overview

September 12, 14 -- **CRIM**, Chapter 2 – nature/extent of crime; measuring crime  
**Daily chapter question presentations begin on September 12<sup>th</sup>**

September 19, 21 -- **CRIM**, Chapter 3 – victims, victimization, victimology

September 26, 28 -- **CRIM**, Chapter 4 – rational choice theory and utilitarianism

October 3, 5 -- **CRIM**, Chapter 5 – trait theory – biology, genetics, psychology

October 10, 12 -- **CRIM**, Chapter 6 – social structure theories

October 17, 19 -- **CRIM**, Chapter 7 – socialization theories **Mid-Term Exam on October 19<sup>th</sup>**

October 24, 26 -- **CRIM**, Chapter 8 – social conflict theories;

October 31, November 2 -- **CRIM**, Chapter 9 – integrating the theories – new

approaches?

**NOTE:** The focus of the course is essentially on Chapters 1 to 9; Chapters 10 to 14 are referred to as ‘content’ or ‘substantive’ chapters – facts, numbers, etc., as opposed to explanations and theories. So, while we discuss material in Chapters 1 to 9, we’ll also be drawing information and numbers from Chapters 10-14 to provide examples and illustrations. Thus, Chapters 10-14 *per se* won’t be on the mid-term or final exams, but their contents will be incorporated into the theory Chapters 1 through 9.

November 7, 9 -- **CRIM**, Chapter 10 – Violent crimes

November 14, 16 -- **CRIM**, Chapter 10, continued; Chapter 11 – Crimes against property

November 21, 23 -- **CRIM**, Chapter 11, continued; Chapter 12 – White collar, corporate and organized crime

November 28, 30 -- **CRIM**, Chapter 12, continued; Chapter 13 – public order crimes

December 5, 7 – Chapter 13, continued; Chapter 14 – crime in the 21<sup>st</sup> century

[Classes end Thursday, December 7, 2017; Final Exams December 9-19, 2017]

***Six Ways To Make This Course More Valuable:***

- 1. Participate, to engage your learning**
- 2. Question, to enhance your learning**
- 3. Read, to expand your learning**
- 4. Reflect, to measure your learning**
- 5. Apply, to transfer your learning**
- 6. Innovate, to adapt your learning**

## **STUDENT RESPONSIBILITIES:**

[A] **EXAMS** consist of multiple choice questions, true-and-false, matching and/or glossary terms/concepts to define -- based on all lecture and text materials.

### **[B] SEMESTER WORK comes in several parts:**

(1) For the daily Chapter Discussion Question presentations, each group of **2** students will select **one question** from the 'Chapter in Review' section at *the back of each chapter* (Brown, Hoffman, Siegel 2017, **CRIM**), and present their responses at the beginning of each class (approx. 10 minutes, including general class questions and discussion). *Stay with the chapter we are currently on – there are lots of questions to choose from.* **Hello: Many students in the past have chosen to present the Question using PowerPoint slides, which is very effective.** You must then submit the printed slides and/or a written response (1-2 pages) to the question you answered *on the day of your presentation*, and must include a title page with your name, date, and course I.D. Please work cooperatively with your presentation partner, as you will be sharing the mark.

(2) There will be **2 semester assignments** in this course. These assignments relate directly to the book **Murder in Plain English**. Further details, guidelines, and specific instructions will be provided as the course gets under way! You may work individually or with a partner (and so will share the mark). You may follow *any* standard style format for your written submission (where applicable), e.g. MLA, APA, Chicago -- in regards to layout, punctuation, referencing and source citations, footnotes.

### **PLEASE NOTE:**

**A missed exam unfortunately cannot be accommodated - *unless* the situation is an unexpected personal or family emergency. No make-up exams unless it's an emergency.**

What the course assignments and Chapter Discussion Question presentations entail will be discussed in detail as classes get underway and as the course progresses. Students will work in groups of 2 for the daily Chapter Discussion Question presentations; as well, for the two semester assignments students may work individually or in groups of 2 – your choice!

*You will be provided with additional instructions, details, and relevant information with plenty of lead time. These will also be posted on Moodle.*

Plagiarism detection software may be used in this course, and students may be required, individually or collectively, to submit key assignments/components in electronic form.

It is your responsibility to ensure that all your work is at a level appropriate to your year in college/university studies. Always spell- and grammar-check your work; always keep a hard copy or HD copy of your work as back-up. There is writing help in the library, and if in doubt you are always welcome to ask me, your instructor, for clarification. Poor spelling, grammar and organization always interfere with the clear communication of ideas and you could lose marks if your over-all communication is ineffective.

Attendance at lectures is strongly encouraged; the same applies to your participation in class discussions. ***Be an active participant in your education!***

**Late assignments or no-shows (on any applicable assignment/course component) will result in an automatic loss of 5 marks (of the value of the work) PER DAY, up to and including the day of a late submission (e.g.: if an assignment is worth 20%, one late day makes it worth 15%, etc.), unless immediate or prior arrangements, based on exceptional circumstances, have been made. Documented personal or family emergencies, of course, will be accommodated.**

## STATEMENT ON PLAGIARISM AND CHEATING:

Cheating and plagiarism will not be tolerated and there will be penalties. For a more precise definition of plagiarism and its consequences, refer to the Student Conduct section of the College Calendar at <http://www.gprc.ab.ca/programs/calendar/> or the College Policy on Student Misconduct: Plagiarism and Cheating at <https://www.gprc.ab.ca/about/administration/policies>

Instructors reserve the right to use electronic plagiarism detection services on written assignments. **Instructors also reserve the right to ban the use of any form of electronics (cell phones, Blackberries, iPods, tablets, scanning pens, electronic dictionaries, etc.) during class and during exams.**

\*\*Note: all Academic and Administrative policies are available on the same page.