

DEPARTMENT Humanities and Social Sciences

COURSE OUTLINE – Fall 2024

SO2250(A2 & VC): Criminology – 3 (3-0-0) 45 Hours for 15 Weeks

Northwestern Polytechnic acknowledges that our campuses are located on Treaty 8 territory, the ancestral and present-day home to many diverse First Nations, Metis, and Inuit people. We are grateful to work, live and learn on the traditional territory of Duncan's First Nation, Horse Lake First Nation and Sturgeon Lake Cree Nation, who are the original caretakers of this land.

We acknowledge the history of this land and we are thankful for the opportunity to walk together in friendship, where we will encourage and promote positive change for present and future generations.

INSTRUCTOR:	Dr. Rashid Begg	PHONE:	780-539-2021
OFFICE:	C203	E-MAIL:	MBegg@nwpolytech.ca
OFFICE HOURS:	By appointment	CLASS TIMES:	Mon & Wed 10:00 – 11:20 Room: A211

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 behaviour? What are we doing to stop or at least reduce crime in our society?

PREREQUISITE(S)/COREQUISITE: Complete 1 of the following

Completed the following:

SO1000 - Introductory Sociology (3)

Equivalent course

REQUIRED TEXT/RESOURCE MATERIALS:

William, O'Grady. 2022. *Crime in Canadian Context: Debates and Controversies* (5th Ed). Oxford University Press.

DELIVERY MODE(S): On-Campus & Synchronous

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 offences. More importantly, students will be able to design and formulate crime prevention strategies based on their understanding of crime causation theories.

TRANSFERABILITY:

Please consult the Alberta Transfer Guide for more information. You may check to ensure the transferability of this course at the Alberta Transfer Guide main page <http://www.transferalberta.ca>.

** Grade of D or D+ may not be acceptable for transfer to other post-secondary institutions. **Students are cautioned that it is their responsibility to contact the receiving institutions to ensure transferability**

EVALUATIONS:

ASSESSMENT	TOTAL POINT VALUE	WEIGHT
2 Unit Reflections	10 EACH = 20	20%
Question Presentation	5	5%
Research Project	20	20%
Midterm Test	30	25%
Final Test	30	30%

UNIT REFLECTIONS

At the end of each part/unit, you will write a 1 (ONE) page reflection about what you learned, and your general impression of the unit (enjoyed, criticisms). Unit reflections are based on the material but are a free space to share your thoughts. 2 Unit reflections to be submitted.

QUESTION PRESENTATION

Each student will choose a research question [select one question from the ‘Critical Thinking Questions’ section at the back of each chapter] and present it to the class. The research question will also be submitted – online - before the presentation takes place. The research question will serve as the foundation for the construction of a thesis statement [lecture on thesis statement writing will be given in class].

RESEARCH PROJECT

You have to write a research project on a topic related to criminology and sociology. The topic is up to you but options will be given upon request. The project will be broken down into the following steps: First, you will come up with a research topic (of your choice). Second, you have to write an outline for a

research project, showing how you would conduct research in this topic: write a research problem statement, and a working thesis or argument.

MIDTERM TEST AND FINAL TEST

The Midterm term (25%) and Final Examination (30%) will consist of multiple-choice, true/false, and open questions. There will be a brief review before each of these evaluations. Tests and final exam will be based on all course material.

GRADING CRITERIA

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

Grading Chart for courses with Alpha Grading:

Alpha Grade	4-point Equivalent	Percentage Guidelines	Alpha Grade	4-point Equivalent	Percentage Guidelines
A+	4.0	95-100	C+	2.3	67-69
A	4.0	85-94	C	2.0	63-66
A-	3.7	80-84	C-	1.7	60-62
B+	3.3	77-79	D+	1.3	55-59
B	3.0	73-76	D	1.0	50-54
B-	2.7	70-72	F	0.0	00-49

COURSE SCHEDULE/TENTATIVE TIMELINE:

Unit and Date	Chapters	Topics	Deadlines
Week 1 Sept 4	Outline, Meet and Greet, Chapter 1 Introduction	Crime, Fear, and Risk	
Week 2 Sept 9, 11	Measuring Crime Chapter 2	Official Statistics and Surveys	
Week 3 Sept 16, 18	Non-Sociological Explanations of Crime Chapter 3	Demonic Era, Classical School, Psychology of Crime	Research Topic due Sept 22
Week 4 Sept 23, 25	Classical Sociological Explanations of Crime Chapter 4	Durkheim, Strain/Anomie, Labelling, The Chicago School	Unit 1 Reflection due Sept 29

Week 5 Sep 30 & Oct 2	Recent Sociological approaches to Crime Chapter 5	Rational Choice Theory, General Strain Theory, Routine Activity	Thesis Statement Due Oct 6 at 11:59 pm
Week 6 Oct 7, 9	Review and Midterm Test		Oct 9 Midterm Test In-Class
Week 7 Oct 14 (Thanksgiving – no classes) Oct 16	Crime and Social Exclusion Chapter 6	Homeless Youth, Youth Gangs, Indigenous People in Canada, Hate Crime	
Week 8 Oct 21, 23	Crime in the Context of Organizations and Institutions Chapter 7	White-Collar, Corporate Crime, Workers as Victims, Political Crime, Police Misconduct	Outline of Research Project due Oct 27 at 11:59 pm
Week 9 Oct 28, 30	Responding to Crime Chapter 8	Crime, Law, and Order Policing, Courts and Sentencing	
Week 10 Nov 4, 6	Responding to Crime Chapter 8 Cont.	Capital Punishment, Prisons, Youth Justice in Canada, Alternatives to Incarceration, Restorative Justice	Unit 2 Reflection due Nov 10
Week 11 Fall Break Nov 11 – Nov 15			
Week 12 Nov 18, 20	Future Directions in Criminology Chapter 9		
Week 13 Nov 25, 27	How Should Crime be Responded to in Canada? Chapter 9		Research Project due Dec 1 at 11:59 pm
Week 14 Dec 2, 4	Course Wrap-up and Review for Final Exam		
Week 15 Dec 9	Course Wrap-up and Review for Final Exam		

OTHER IMPORTANT DATES:

Sep 3 – Classes Start

Sep 30 – TRC Day

Oct 14 – Thanksgiving Day

Nov 11, Remembrance Day

Nov 27 – Last Day to Withdraw

Dec 10, Last day of classes

Dec 12 – 19 Final Exam Period

STUDENT RESPONSIBILITIES:

Ultimately, you are responsible for your learning and performance in this course.

Your grades are posted to myClass, so please be sure you are tracking them there. If you believe there is an error, please let your instructor know.

Submission & Late Policies:

- Equally important to learn and apply professional communication skills, such as writing proper e-mail messages, it is very important to learn to meet deadlines. Complete your assignments on time!
- Late assignments received will be deducted 5% for every late day (including weekends!).
- Incomplete assignments will receive a grade of 0 unless you have a valid reason supported with appropriate documentation (i.e., a medical note from an M.D.) and you discuss it with me well in advance of any due date.
- Note: extensions will be given only when students notify the instructor prior to the deadline and present valid evidence excusing lateness.

STATEMENT ON ACADEMIC MISCONDUCT:

Academic Misconduct will not be tolerated. For a more precise definition of academic misconduct and its consequences, refer to the Student Rights and Responsibilities policy available at <https://www.nwpolytech.ca/about/administration/policies/index.html>.

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