



DEPARTMENT Humanities and Social Sciences

COURSE OUTLINE - Fall 2025

SO2250(B2 & VC2): 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

OFFICE: C203

OFFICE HOURS: By email appointment

LECTURE TIMES: Tue & Thurs 13:00 – 14:20

VENUE: Room E303

PHONE: 780-539-2021

E-MAIL: mbegg@nwpolytech.ca

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):

Complete 1 of the following

Completed the following:

SO1000 - Introductory Sociology (3)

Equivalent course

COREQUISITE(S):

None

REQUIRED MATERIALS:

Hassan, Shereen and Dan Lett. *Introduction to Criminology*. Vancouver: Kwantlen Polytechnic University, 2023. Open Source.

<https://kpu.pressbooks.pub/introcrim/>

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. Finally, students will be able to construct a research proposal that satisfies the hybridity of criminological research.

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://ww.transferalberta.alberta.ca>

** For courses with alpha (letter) grading, a 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	5 EACH = 10	10%
Thesis Statement & Annotated Bibliography	15	15%
Research Proposal	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.

THESIS STATEMENT AND ANNOTATED BIBLIOGRAPHY

Each student will choose a research question and then create a thesis statement (lectures in class on thesis statement development and the research needed to find appropriate bibliographic material). The research statement and annotated bibliography will be submitted – online – before the research proposal. The thesis statement and work directly related to the annotated bibliography will form part of the research proposal.

RESEARCH PROPOSAL

You must write a research proposal based on the research statement and annotated bibliography. 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 must write an outline for a research proposal, showing how you would conduct research in this topic: write a research problem statement, and a working thesis or argument. (Lectures will be given in class to guide the project to fruition, including basic research methodologies to be employed).

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 institutions will not accept your course for transfer credit IF your grade is less than C-.

Grading Chart

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	Understanding Crime	
Week 2 Sept 9, 11	Chapter 2	Conceptualizing Crime	
Week 3 Sept 16, 18	Chapter 3	Crime, Media, and the Public	
Week 4 Sept 23, 25	Chapter 4	Race and Racism in Crime	Unit 1 Reflection due Sept 29
Week 5 Oct 2	Chapter 5	Crime and Research	Thesis Statement Due Oct 6
Week 6 Oct 7, 9	Chapter 6	Biology and Crime	Oct 9 Midterm Test In-Class
Week 7 Oct 14, 16	Chapter 7	Psychology and Crime	
Week 8 Oct 21, 23	Chapter 8	Sociological Perspectives on Crime	Annotated bibliography due Oct 27

Week 9 Oct 28, 30	Chapter 9	Criminology and Colonialism	
Week 10 Nov 4, 6	Chapter 10	Critical Criminology	Unit 2 Reflection due Nov 10
Week 11 Fall Break Nov 10 – Nov 14			
Week 12 Nov 18, 20	Chapter 11	Feminist Criminology	
Week 13 Nov 25, 27	Chapter 12	Cultural Criminology	Research Project due Dec 1 at 11:59 pm
Week 14 Dec 2, 4	Chapter 13	Green Criminology	
Week 15 Dec 9, 11	Chapter 14	Crimes of the Powerful	

OTHER IMPORTANT DATES:

September 3 - First day of Classes
 September 30 - NDTR - No Classes
 October 13 - Thanksgiving
 November 10 - 14 - Fall Break
 November 28 - Last Day to Withdraw
 December 11 - Last Day of Classes

STUDENT RESPONSIBILITIES:

VC Student Requirements

Technology	A stable internet connection sufficient to meet the class requirements. Webcam, microphone, speakers.
Class Participation	Camera on and showing your face during class. An appropriate screen name.
Test/Exam Supervision These are requirements essential to maintaining the academic integrity of	Dual camera setup. During the exams you must have a webcam showing your face and a camera behind you showing your work surface with your computer.



the course. The dual camera option is available to VC students only

If you are unable to meet the dual camera setup requirement VC students can pay to write the exams at an independent proctor location approved by me. Note: the proctor cannot be a friend/family member, etc.

If neither of the above two options work for you, another option is to come to the NWP campus in person and write the exams with the other students during the scheduled time.

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/polytechnic-leadership/policies-directory>.

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