

COURSE OUTLINE - Fall 2026

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
OFFICE: C203
VENUE & TIME: D308 Mon & Wed 14:30
OFFICE By Appointment

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:
Complete the following:
SO1000 Introductory Sociology 3
Equivalent course.

COREQUISITE(S):

None

REQUIRED 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.transferralberta.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	2.5 EACH = 5	5%
Research Paper	30	25%
Midterm Test	30	30%
Final Test	35	40%

UNIT REFLECTIONS

At the end of each part/unit, you will write a 2 (TWO) 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 through myClass.

RESEARCH PAPER

You must write a research paper – 7 to 8 pages long – on a topic related to criminology and sociology. The topic is up to you, but options will be given upon

request. A rubric will be posted on myClass, and effective research paper writing will be discussed in class.

MIDTERM TEST AND FINAL TEST

The Midterm term (30%) and Final Examination (40%) 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; however, the Final Exam is non-cumulative.

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 2	Outline, Meet and Greet, Chapter 1 Introduction	Crime, Fear, and Risk	
Week 2 Sept 7 (non-class day), 9	Measuring Crime Chapter 2	Official Statistics and Surveys	

Week 3 Sept 14, 16	Non-Sociological Explanations of Crime Chapter 3	Demonic Era, Classical School, Psychology of Crime	Research Topic due Sept 21
Week 4 Sept 21, 23	Classical Sociological Explanations of Crime Chapter 4	Durkheim, Strain/Anomie, Labelling, The Chicago School	Unit 1 Reflection due Sept 27
Week 5 Sep 28, TRC Day on Sep 30 (non-class day)	Recent Sociological approaches to Crime Chapter 5	Rational Choice Theory, General Strain Theory, Routine Activity	
Week 6 Oct 5, 7	Review and Midterm Test		Oct 7 Midterm Test In-Class
Week 7 Oct 12 (Thanksgiving – non class day) Oct 14	Crime and Social Exclusion Chapter 6	Homeless Youth, Youth Gangs, Indigenous People in Canada, Hate Crime	
Week 8 Oct 19, 21	Crime in the Context of Organizations and Institutions Chapter 7	White-Collar, Corporate Crime, Workers as Victims, Political Crime, Police Misconduct	
Week 9 Oct 26, 28	Responding to Crime Chapter 8	Crime, Law, and Order Policing, Courts and Sentencing	
Week 10 Nov 2, 4	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 09 – Nov 13			
Week 12 Nov 16, 18	Corrections Prisons/Jails		

Week 13 Nov 23, 25	Probation, Parole, Recidivism		Research Project due Nov 29 at 11:59 pm
Week 14 Nov 29, Dec 2	Re-Entry and Juvenile Justice		
Week 15 Dec 7, 9	Response to Crime and Future Directions in Criminology Chapter 9 Course Wrap-up and Review for Final Exam		

Important Dates

September 2 – First day of classes
 September 7 – Labour Day
 September 30 – National Day for Truth & Reconciliation
 October 12 – Thanksgiving
 November 9-13 – Fall Break
 November 27 – Last day to withdraw
 December 9 – 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/administration/policies/index.html>.

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