

GRANDE PRAIRIE REGIONAL COLLEGE

DEPARTMENT OF HUMANITIES AND SOCIAL SCIENCES

FALL, 1991

COURSE OUTLINE: SOCIOLOGY 325

COURSE: Sociology 325 A2, MWF 1:00 PM to 1:50 PM

INSTRUCTOR: Sheri Anderson

Phone: TBA

Office Hours: C-402 Tuesday 1:30 - 2:30 PM
Wednesday 2:30 - 3:30 PM
Thursday 9:00 - 10:00 AM

PREREQUISITE: Sociology 200 (or equivalent)

REQUIRED TEXTS:

Linden, Rick, ed. CRIMINOLOGY: A CANADIAN PERSPECTIVE. Holt, Rinehart, and Winston of Canada, Limited., 1987.

Silverman, Robert A., Teevan, Jr., James J., and Vincent F. Sacco, eds. CRIME IN CANADIAN SOCIETY, Fourth edition, Butterworths, 1991.
(available in GPRC bookstore)

NATURE AND PURPOSE OF THE COURSE:

This course is designed to be an introduction to the main concepts, theories, theorists, methodologies and research findings of the field of criminology. Criminology, simplistically defined, is the study and analysis of crime from a sociological perspective.

The course will begin with the need to define crime and deviance and the various historical, social, and legal bases of these definitions. We will then look at the various approaches to measuring crime and the factors that are correlated with the incidence of crime in society. This will be followed by an examination of various theoretical explanations of criminal behavior. The course will conclude with a discussion of different patterns of criminal activity and our responses to them.

OBJECTIVES OF THE COURSE:

1. Students will develop a basic vocabulary that will permit and support further study in criminology.

2. Students will be exposed to the underlying social values that determine what is defined as criminal and deviant in different societies.

3. Students will be able to understand the different

theoretical perspectives that attempt to explain crime and criminality.

4. Students will demonstrate an understanding of the problems, and debates which are involved in researching crime and criminal behavior.

5. Students will attain knowledge of the various factors correlated with the incidence of crime.

6. Students will analyze different patterns of criminality and responses to crime in Canadian society.

7. Students will have an opportunity to strengthen their oral and writing skills through class exercises.

EVALUATION METHODS:

This course will use a variety of evaluation methods including two examinations, a series of written assignments and oral presentations, and class discussions. Each is described below:

1. **Examinations:** Examinations will be a combination of short answer, fill-in the blank, matching, and possibly essay questions and will cover the assigned material from the text, class lectures, discussions, and audio visual materials. The final examination will cover the entire course, but with the emphasis on the final portion of the course.

2. **Assignments:** Students will write take-home assignments that address a question posed by the instructor for an assigned reading from Silverman, Teevan and Sacco. Students will be given a due date for each assignment. A class discussion will be held on the due date during which time students will be asked to present their analyses in a short (10-15 minute), informal presentation. Students can be expected to present several readings during the course.

Students, not presenting are expected to pose questions that address the readings. Students will be assessed in terms of their ability to analyze the assigned reading, to use relevant concepts, to draw on portions of the Linden text, and to demonstrate the ability to think critically about issues of criminology. The written assignments should be no longer than 2 type-written pages.

3. **Class Participation:** Although students are expected to attend class, a portion of their mark will be determined by the extent to which they have attended class and participated in class assignments, completed the other elements of evaluation, and presented their analyses of the readings to the class.

This, in "prison" terminology, is basically credit for good behavior.

GRADING SYSTEM:

<u>GRADE</u>	<u>INTERPRETATION</u>	<u>PERCENTAGEEQUIVALENT</u>
9		90+
8	Excellent	80-89
7		72-79
6	Good	65-71
5		57-64
4	Pass	50-56
3	Fail	45-49
2		26-44
1		0-25

MARKS:

Midterm Examination:	30%
Final Examination:	35%
Assignments:	30%
Class Participation:	5%

OTHER:

Attendance at all classes is expected of students but please let me know if you know in advance that you will not be there.

All assignments must be turned in by the date given. Late assignments will not be accepted.

Students who have an excused absence from the midterm examination will have the percentage weight of that exam transferred to the final examination. Please see the instructor with the appropriate documentation (e.g. note from your physician, etc.). Students are expected to be available until the last day of the examination period in December, as the final is confirmed for this period by the Registrar. No exceptions will be permitted.

Please see me if you are having problems in the course as soon as you can. It may be something we can work out. Also, feel free to come and talk about issues in the course, or about other sociology courses you may be interested in, or careers with a major in sociology. I think society needs more sociology grads.

Note: the calendar states that **November 01, 1991** is the last day for withdrawing with permission from, or changing registration status in courses that terminate in December.