

INTRODUCTION TO CRIMINOLOGY

CRIM 166

Instructor: Kelli Moorhouse,
M.S.W., B.Soc.Sc. (honours Criminology), V.I.C.

Office: Y205
Office Hours: Posted; Tuesday 5:30 to 6:30 pm; Thursday 3:00 to 6:00 pm;

Class: Thursday 6:30 to 9:20 pm
Room Y201

COURSE DESCRIPTION

An examination of Criminology as a social science; analysis of its theories, categories, and relevant research and its necessity and relation to the social science discipline. This includes the study of crime, criminal behavior and its causation, crime victims and consequences.

COURSE OBJECTIVES

After successfully completing this course you, the learner should be able to:

- Communicate understanding of the origins, development and evolution of past, current, and future criminological thought and discourse;
- Describe, classify, evaluate and analyze the problem of crime, criminological theory and its contemporary application ;
- Use conceptual frameworks and paradigms to make independent interpretations and applications using criminal case studies;
- Consider, interpret and evaluate the perspectives of other students with sensitivity to the values underpinning those perspectives.

TEXTBOOKS

Schamalleger, F. and R Volk (2001). *Canadian Criminology Today*. Toronto: Prentice Hall.

Kaercher, K. (1998). *Criminal Justice Writing Reference Manual*. Victoria: Camosun College.

CLASS FORMAT

Lecture and discussion will be the basic format for this class. Ideally, the classroom is set up in an interactive fashion to allow everyone to interact and share their thoughts and interpretations. At times, you will be working in small groups.

METHODS OF EVALUATION

1. Examinations (worth 65% of your final grade)

There will be a mid term evaluation (30% of the 65%) of all material presented in class and contained in the required readings up to and including October 17th.

The format will be short answer, multiple choice, true/false, and fill in the blank.

The date for the mid term evaluation is October 24th.

The final examination (35% of the 65%) will be cumulative, will follow the same format, and will also include a case study that you are to apply criminological theory and other knowledge from the course to. The final will take place during the scheduled examination week in December.

2. Library Assignment (worth 5% of your final grade)

To be scheduled: September, 2002

The library assignment will be conducted by the college librarian during the first month of classes and will consist of exercises designed to familiarize the students with the Camosun College Library/Media Centre.

3. Participation (worth 10% of your final grade)

Your participation in this class will be evaluated. The class will decide on the criteria for evaluating participation.

As this is a discussion class and your input is valuable not only for your own intellectual development but for everyone you share your thoughts with, I expect you will come to every class, be on time, and not leave early. I realize you are adult learners and can make your own choice on this matter. Each missed class will result in 1% off the 10%, regardless of excuse (every excuse is valid), and .5% will be taken off for late arrivals (class starts at 6:35 pm) and early exits (class ends at 9:20 pm).

4. Assignments (worth 20% of your final grade)

You are required to provide two separate critiques of two theories presented in class.

Each critique must address the methodology of the study, its limitations and its contribution to criminological thought (present under three different headings in your critique).

Format: typed, double spaced, APA style of referencing, cover page, 1 to 2 pages, use of 2 other relevant references besides the course textbook; Your spelling, grammar, organisation, and clarity of thought will be evaluated.

The first critique is due by October 31th and must cover one of theories discussed in class up to and including those presented on October 17th.

The second critique is due by November 28th and must cover one of theories discussed in class from October 31st onward.

COURSE SCHEDULE

PART I – THE SUBJECT MATTER OF CRIMINOLOGY

Read before class:

September 5 th	Syllabus/Course introduction What is Criminology?	Ch. 1
September 12 th	What is Crime? How much crime is there?	Ch. 2

PART II – RESEARCH METHODS

September 19 th	Criminology as Science Interplay of theory and research	Ch. 3
----------------------------	--	-------

PART III – THEORIES OF CRIME

September 26 th	What is Criminological Theory? The Evolution of Criminological thought: A Brief Introduction: Classical School	Ch. 4
October 3 rd	Biological Explanations	Ch. 5
October 10 th	Psychological Explanations	Ch. 6
October 17 th	Crime and Social Structure	Ch. 7
October 24 th	Mid term Evaluation	
October 31 st	Crime and Social Structure continued	Ch. 7
November 7	Crime and Social Process	Ch. 8
November 14	Crime and Social Process continued Crime and Conflict	Ch. 8 Ch. 9
November 21	Crime and Conflict continued	Ch. 9

PART IV – CURRENT ISSUES AND TRENDS

November 28	Patterns of Crime Criminology and Social Policy	Ch. 10 Ch. 11
December 5	Future Directions in Criminology Review	Ch. 12