



**School of Arts & Science  
CRIMINAL JUSTICE DEPARTMENT**

**CRIM 166-03  
Introduction to Criminology  
FALL 2007**

**COURSE OUTLINE**

**Course Description:** This course examines criminology as a social science. It involves an 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 behaviour and its causation, crime victims and consequences.

**1. Instructor Information**

(a)	Instructor:	Karin Kaercher		
(b)	Office Hours:	Tues/Thurs 10:30-11:30; Wed/Fri 12:30-2:00		
(c)	Location:	Young 210A		
(d)	Phone:	370-3333		
(e)	Email:	Kaercher@camosun.bc.ca		

**2. Intended Learning Outcomes**

Upon completion of this course the student will be able to:

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

**3. Required Materials**

**(a) Texts**

Siegel, L.J., Brown, G.P. & Hoffman, R. (2006) *Criminology: The Core*. Toronto: Nelson.

**(b) Other**

Kaercher, K. (2006) *Writing Reference Manual for the Criminal Justice Program*.

**4. Course Format**

The primary objective of this course is to engage students in a critical examination of the criminology as a discipline. In order to do this, the text, ***Criminology: The Core***, will play a significant role in helping you to master the subject matter of this course. It is important the each chapter be read prior to the scheduled class. This will be the assumption under which I will be working. Furthermore, there are many classes in which you will be required to bring the text for use in group work, so please consider making it a habit to bring your text.

To maximize your learning, I recommend that you pay careful attention to the key terms and the review questions listed at the end of each chapter. You should be able to answer each of these. The text also has an number of student resources at their website [www.crimthecore.nelson.com](http://www.crimthecore.nelson.com) and I urge you to make use of these resources for study purposes. Questions about the text readings should be raised in class or during office hours. Class time will be used to review, clarify and apply the concepts discussed in the readings and will consist of group work and class discussion. Your readiness to engage in these opportunities will significantly improve your understanding of the corrections enterprise.

## 5. Course Content and Schedule - Semester Outline- Topics and Reading list

Week 1 (Sept. 4/6) – Course Introduction, class format, class norms



Read Ch. 1 for next week

Week 2 (Sept. 11/13) - Crime and Criminology



Read Ch. 2 for next week

Week 3 – (Sept 18/ 20) - The Nature and Extent of Crime in Canada

- Sources of Data
- Crime Patterns



Read Ch. 3 for next week

Week 4 – (Sept. 25/27) – Victims and Victimization

- nature and effects of victimization
- theories of victimization

QUIZ #1 – Oct. 2

Oct 4. Library Orientation for CJ students (in the Library classroom)



Read Ch. 4 for next class

Week 6 – Oct. 9/11 – Choice Theory  
-Rational Choice theory  
-The notion of deterrence



Read Ch. 5 for next class

Week 7 – Oct. 16/18 – Trait Theory  
-Biological origins of criminal behaviour  
-Psychological explanations



Read Ch. 6 for next class

Week 8 – Oct. 23/25 – Social Structure Theories  
-Social Disorganization theory  
-Strain theory  
- Culture deviance

Oct. 30. - Library Workshop on Evaluating Web Resources (in the Library classroom)

Nov. 1 – Quiz #2



Read Ch. 7 for next class

Week 10/11 – Nov. 6/8/13 – Social Process Theories  
-Social learning approaches  
-Social Control theory  
-Labelling theory



Read Ch. 8 for next class

Week 11/12 – Nov. 15/20 Social Conflict Theory



Read Ch. 9 for next class

Week 13 – Nov. 27/29 – Integrated Theories  
-General Theory of Crime  
- Recent approaches



Read Ch. 10 for next class

Week 14 – (Dec. 4/6) - Putting it together by examining Violent Crime

## 6. Basis of Student Assessment (Weighting)

Quizzes – 3 X 20 %	60 %
Assignments 2 X 15%	30%
Library Skills Exercises 2X 2.5%	5%
Participation	5%

### Quizzes

There are three quizzes within this course: each quiz is worth 20 % of your final grade and may consist of True/False statements, Multiple Choice, Short Answer questions, or Fill in the Blanks.

- Quiz 1 – Oct. 2, 2007 in class
- Quiz 2 – Nov. 1, 2007 in class
- Quiz 3 – TBA – during final exam week

### Assignments

1. Evaluation of Criminological Study – 15%

This assignment requires you to evaluate and summarize an original criminological research study. Separate guidelines for this assignment will be distributed in class.

Due Date- Oct. 11, 2007

2. Internet Resource Booklet - 15%

This assignment requires you to identify and evaluate two criminological web resources. Separate guidelines for this assignment will be distributed in class.

### Library Skills Exercises

1. General Library Orientation Exercise – 2.5%

This assignment is conducted by the College Librarian and will consist of a set of questions and activities designed to familiarize you with the Camosun College Library/Media Centre. **Attendance and completion of this assignment is mandatory.**

Due date: To be determined

2. Evaluating Web Resources – 2.5%

This exercise will be conducted by the College Librarian and will consist of exercises and activities designed to help you analyze and evaluate web resources. **Attendance and completion of this assignment is mandatory.**

Due date: to be determined

### **Participation**

The framework and evaluation of participation in this course will be determined in class by agreement of the instructor and students. Students can earn up to 5% of their final grade by participating regularly.

## **7. Grading System**

### **Standard Grading System (GPA)**

<b>Percentage</b>	<b>Grade</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Grade Point Equivalency</b>
90-100	A+		9
85-89	A		8
80-84	A-		7
77-79	B+		6
73-76	B		5
70-72	B-		4
65-69	C+		3
60-64	C		2
50-59	D	Minimum level of achievement for which credit is granted; a course with a "D" grade cannot be used as a prerequisite.	1
0-49	F	Minimum level has not been achieved.	0

***A standing of INC will only be awarded upon prior arrangement between teacher and student, subject to supporting documentation.***

***This course is considered a Criminal Justice core course and therefore a student must achieve a C grade or better to receive transfer credit.***

### **What do the grades mean?**

- A: Designating a "superior level of achievement", a letter grade of A is awarded to the student who surpasses course expectations by doing additional reading and research, and by providing well thought-out and clearly expressed ideas on exams and assignments. The student demonstrates outstanding organizational, analytical and critical thinking skills, as well as added resourcefulness in meeting course requirements.
- B: Designating a "high level of achievement", a letter grade of B is awarded to the student who exhibits substantial comprehension of course reading and lecture materials and is able to reflect this knowledge orally and in writing. The student demonstrates analytical thinking skills and clearly performs above average in meeting course requirements.

- C: Designating a satisfactory or “sufficient level of achievement”, a letter grade of C is awarded to the student who completes all course requirements and has a competent understanding of the course materials. Further improvement is attainable with effort and refined reading, writing, analytical, and organizational skills.
- D: Designating a “minimum level of achievement”, a letter grade of D is awarded to the student who generally performs below average, does not show signs of having read the assigned readings or is unable to present ideas in writing in sufficient clarity or detail. The student may need remedial assistance to improve reading/writing skills.
- F: Designating “below minimum level of achievement”, a letter grade of F is awarded to the student who fails to meet all or most course requirements. This may be due to poor attendance, hastily prepared assignments, not having done the readings or some other correctable problem.

## 8. Instructional Policies

### a. Attendance and Participation

Regular attendance and participation in class are required. It is expected that students will arrive to class on time and that, during class, students will be attentive, non-disruptive, open-minded, constructive, and respectful of others. Students are encouraged to identify current events that directly relate to course content.

### b. Quiz Date Changes

No provision will be made to write a test earlier or later than originally scheduled. The quizzes must be written at the times and on the dates assigned. A student will only be allowed to write a missed test by providing a valid medical certificate attesting to the fact that s/he was ill (or suffered an accident) at the time of the assigned test. In addition, the student who misses a test due to illness must inform the instructor **on or before the date** of the test of the reason for her/his absence.

**Note:** Students arriving thirty minutes or more after a course quiz has commenced will not be permitted to write it

### c. Late Penalty

Students having a legitimate concern about meeting the due dates should consult with the instructor well in advance. All assignments must be completed and submitted by the date assigned. All late written assignments will be penalized by 20% of the total mark per day. Students may negotiate the late submission of **one assignment** in the semester; please come see me if you think you need to make use of this permission.

### d. Written Assignment Requirements

Written Assignments for this course must be typewritten, double-spaced and meet the basic requirements for formal academic papers as outlined in the guidelines and the CJ Writing Reference Manual. Written assignments must be submitted to the instructor at the beginning of class. Assignments received at the end of class or not given directly to the instructor as noted, will be penalized as per #4 above.

All assignments submitted for evaluation must be original and produced for the purposes of this course only. The submission of assignments completed for other courses may be construed as academic dishonesty.

**e. Course Completion Requirements**

Students must complete all evaluative requirements (Quizzes, Criminological Study Evaluation, Internet Resources Evaluation, Library Skills Sessions and related assignments) to receive a passing grade for the course. Students failing to complete all the requirements will receive an F grade. The paper you complete for this course must be original and may not have been submitted for another course.

**f. Plagiarism**

If you are concerned about your ability to properly credit and cite references, please come see me asap. I am here to help you!!!

**What is Plagiarism???** Plagiarism is the failure to fully, and accurately acknowledge the sources of all information used in your assignments, thereby giving the impression the work is your own. Plagiarism includes the use of quotes, or another author's words, without using quotation marks or giving a proper reference citation to the original author. Plagiarism also includes failing to document the source(s) of paraphrased information/ideas.

Plagiarism is considered a serious academic offense. If plagiarism is documented by your instructor, the penalty will be an automatic "0" for that assignment.

**g. Cheating/Academic Dishonesty/Student Conduct**

The Criminal Justice Department has a clearly articulated policy on cheating and student conduct, as does the College. Cheating may result in suspension and the potential loss of a career in the criminal justice field. Please refer to a current College Calendar and the Criminal Justice Orientation Manual.

**h. Course Withdrawal**

The last day to withdraw from this and other Fall 2007 term courses without receiving a failing grade is November 6, 2007.

**i. Mark/Grade Challenges and Appeals**

A student who is seeking to question a mark and/or informally resolve a grade appeal with the course instructor must clearly articulate in writing the specific element of the test or assignment being questioned and provide written reasons/arguments supporting why the mark/grade should be changed. The College appeals process is outlined on pages 34 of the 2007/2008 Camosun College Calendar.

**j. Student Responsibility**

It is each student's responsibility to familiarize her/himself with course/program and college policies. Students experiencing difficulties throughout the semester are encouraged to talk to the course instructor at the earliest opportunity.

**9. Recommended Materials or Services to Assist Students to Succeed Throughout the Course**

**LEARNING SUPPORT AND SERVICES FOR STUDENTS**

There are a variety of services available for students to assist them throughout their learning. This information is available in the College calendar, at Student Services or the College web site at [camosun.ca](http://camosun.ca).

## STUDENT CONDUCT POLICY

There is a Student Conduct Policy **which includes plagiarism**. It is the student's responsibility to become familiar with the content of this policy. The policy is available in each School Administration Office, at Student Services and on the College web site in the Policy Section.