



## COURSE OUTLINE

The course description is online @ <http://camosun.ca/learn/calendar/current/web/crim.html>

**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:	Mon/Wed 11:30-12:30; Mon 1:30-230		
(c)	Location:	Young 210A		
(d)	Phone:	370-3333		
(e)	Email:	Kaercher@camosun.bc.ca		

### 2. Intended Learning Outcomes

*(No changes are to be made to these Intended Learning Outcomes as approved by the Education Council of Camosun College.)*

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. (2009) *Writing Reference Manual for the Criminal Justice Program*.

### 4. Course Content and Schedule

The primary objective of this course is to engage students in a critical examination of 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 that 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 a 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 criminological enterprise.

This course also has a D2L component which I will be using in predominantly three ways. First, you can track your personal progress through this course under the grades function. Secondly, I will be posting some material (case profiles, review sheets, course outline and guideline) for you to download as needed, and finally, one of the library assignments will be completed via the D2L site.

## Topics and Reading list

Week 1 (Jan 6) – Course Introduction, class format, class norms



Read Ch. 1 for next week

Week 2 (Jan 11) - Crime and Criminology



Read Ch. 2 for next week

Week 3 – (Jan 18) - The Nature and Extent of Crime in Canada

- Sources of Data
- Crime Patterns



Read Ch. 3 for next week

Week 4 – (Jan.25) – Victims and Victimization

- nature and effects of victimization
- theories of victimization



Read Ch. 4 for next class

Week 5 – (Feb 1) – Choice Theory

- Rational Choice theory
- The notion of deterrence



Read Ch. 5 for next class

Week 6 – (Feb. 8) – Trait Theory  
-Biological origins of criminal behaviour  
-Psychological explanations



Read Ch. 6 for next class

Week 7 – (Feb. 15) – Social Structure Theories  
-Social Disorganization theory  
-Strain theory  
- Culture deviance

### **Feb. 24. – MIDTERM**



Read Ch. 7 for next class

Week 9/10 – (Mar. 1/8) – Social Process Theories  
-Social learning approaches  
-Social Control theory  
-Labelling theory



Read Ch. 8 for next class

Week 11 – (Mar 15) - Social Conflict Theory



Read Ch. 9 for next class

Week 12 – (Mar 22) – Integrated Theories  
-General Theory of Crime  
- Recent approaches



Read Ch. 10 for next class

Week 13 – (Mar 29) - Putting it together by examining Violent Crime

Week 14 – (Apr 7) - Wrap up – Review

### **5. Basis of Student Assessment (Weighting)**

Exams -Midterm and Final	60%
Summary of Criminological Study	10%
Analysis of a Criminological Problem	20%
Participation	10%

## **Exams**

There are two exams within this course: each is worth 30 % of your final grade and may consist of True/False statements, Multiple Choice, Short Answer or short essay questions, and application of theory to case studies.

Midterm Exam – Feb. 24, 2010 in class

Final Exam – during final exam week

## **Assignments**

### **1. Evaluation of Criminological Study – 10%**

This assignment requires you to evaluate and summarize an original criminological research study. Separate guidelines for this assignment will be distributed via D2L.

Due Date- Feb. 10, 2010

### **2. Analysis of a Criminological Problem - 20%**

This assignment requires you to research and further examine the issue/topic of your first written assignment. Your final report will consist of 5-8 pages reporting on the information found. Only scholarly work may be used for this assignment. Separate guidelines for this assignment will be distributed via D2L.

Due date: Mar. 22, 2010

## **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 in class activities. As part of the participation grade, students will complete:

### **Library Orientation to Criminal Justice Resources Exercise – 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

### **6. Grading System**

*(No changes are to be made to this section unless the Approved Course Description has been forwarded through the Education Council of Camosun College for approval.)*

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

Percentage	Grade	Description	Grade Point Equivalency
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

### Temporary Grades

Temporary grades are assigned for specific circumstances and will convert to a final grade according to the grading scheme being used in the course. See Grading Policy E-1.5 at [camosun.ca](http://camosun.ca) for information on conversion to final grades, and for additional information on student record and transcript notations.

Temporary Grade	Description
I	<i>Incomplete:</i> A temporary grade assigned when the requirements of a course have not yet been completed due to hardship or extenuating circumstances, such as illness or death in the family.
IP	<i>In progress:</i> A temporary grade assigned for courses that, due to design may require a further enrollment in the same course. No more than two IP grades will be assigned for the same course. <i>(For these courses a final grade will be assigned to either the 3<sup>rd</sup> course attempt or at the point of course completion.)</i>
CW	<i>Compulsory Withdrawal:</i> A temporary grade assigned by a Dean when an instructor, after documenting the prescriptive strategies applied and consulting with peers, deems that a student is unsafe to self or others and must be removed from the lab, practicum, worksite, or field placement.

## 7. 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 the College web site in the Policy Section.

### ADDITIONAL COMMENTS AS APPROPRIATE OR AS REQUIRED