

# INTRODUCTION TO CRIMINOLOGY

## CRIM 166-03

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### CALENDAR 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.

### LEARNER OUTCOMES:

After successful completion of this course, you 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.

### REQUIRED TEST:

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

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

**CLASS SCHEDULE OF TOPICS AND READINGS**  
(*subject to revision*)

**Week #1 January 10<sup>th</sup>**

- Introduction to the course
  - Website for textbook
  - Website for course
  - Class format
  - Class norms

**Read Chapter 1 for next week**

**Week #2 January 17<sup>th</sup>**

- Crime and Criminology

**Read Chapter 2 for next week**

**Week #3 January 24<sup>th</sup>**

- The Nature and Extent of Crime in Canada
- Sources of Data
- Crime Patterns

**Read Chapter 3 for next week**

**Week #4 January 31<sup>st</sup>**

- Victims & Victimization
- Nature & Effects of victimization
- Theories of victimization

**Read Chapter 4 for next class**

**Week #5 February 7<sup>th</sup>**

- Choice Theory
  - Rational Choice Theory
  - The notion of deterrence

**Read Chapter 5 for next class**

**Week #6 February 14<sup>th</sup>**

- Trait Theory
  - Biological origins of criminal behaviour
  - Psychological explanations

**Read Chapter 6 for next class**

**Week #7 February 21<sup>st</sup>**

- Social Structure Theories
  - Social Disorganization Theory
  - Strain Theory
  - Cultural Deviance

**Week #8 February 28<sup>th</sup> – Midterm Examination☺**

**Read Chapter 7 for next class**

**Week #9 March 7<sup>th</sup>**

- Social Process Theories
  - Social learning approaches
  - Social Control Theory

**Week #10 March 14<sup>th</sup>**

- Social Process Theories...continued
  - Labelling Theory

**Read Chapter 8 for next class**

**Week #11 March 21<sup>st</sup>**

- Social Conflict Theory

**Read Chapter 9 for next class**

**Week #12 March 28<sup>th</sup>**

- Integrated Theories
  - General Theory of Crime
  - Recent approaches

**Read Chapter 10 for next class**

**Week #13 April 4<sup>th</sup>**

- Putting it all together ☺

**Week #14 April 11<sup>th</sup>**

- Wrap-up / Review

## METHODS OF EVALUATING YOUR LEARNING

Exams -Midterm and Final	60% (30% each)
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 as well as application of theory to case studies.

Midterm Exam – Feb. 28, 2011 in class  
Final Exam – during final exam week

### Assignments

#### 1. **Summary & 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- February 14, 2011 at beginning of class.

#### 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: April 4, 2011 at beginning of class.

### 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 be expected to 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

## 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.

For example, using headphones, engaging in text messaging, looking at voice messages, surfing the internet or using any means of disengaging with your classmates and the learning process is not accepted in this class. You will be asked to leave the classroom.

**b. Exam Date Changes**

No provision will be made to write an exam earlier or later than originally scheduled. All exams must be written at the times and on the dates assigned. A student will only be allowed to write a missed exam 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 an exam due to illness must inform the instructor, **on or before the date** of the exam, of the reason for her/his absence.

**Note:** Students arriving thirty minutes or more after a course exam 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 10% 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 as this must be agreed to at least **48 hours before** due dates.

**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.

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 (Exams, Criminological Study Summary & Evaluation, Analysis of Criminological Problem, etc.) to receive a passing grade for the course. Students failing to complete all the requirements will receive an F grade.

**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 and/or 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 Winter 2011 term courses without receiving a failing grade is March 7, 2011.

**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 instructor is willing to re-grade assignments and will re-grade the entire assignment if asked to do so. The College appeals process is outlined in the 2010/2011 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.

**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.