

An Introduction to Criminology
Sociology 2266A, Section 530
Fall 2017

Department of Sociology
Brescia University College

Lectures: Wednesdays: 11:30 am to 2:30 pm in BR-303

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Prerequisite: 1.0 from Sociology courses at the 1000 level.

COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course will introduce you to the discipline of criminology. It provides an overview of the processes that influence the meaning of crime. The course will introduce the idea that crime is best understood as a criminal event that involves precursors, transactions, and the aftermath. Methods used to collect crime data will be discussed and the strengths and limitations of each method will be examined. Various theoretical perspectives on crime will be presented including theories that suggest criminal motivation is influenced by factors that are external to the individual, theories that examine the role of social control and rational choice as they relate to offending, and theories that examine crime in terms of victims, opportunities, and routine. Types of crimes that occur in the domains of the household, leisure, and work will be examined using the model of crimes as criminal events. The course concludes by evaluating the nature and types of various responses used in crime control.

LEARNING OUTCOMES

By the end of this course you will be able to:

1. Participate knowledgeably in constructive discussion about the study of crime;
2. Recall significant individuals and ideas that impacted the development of criminology;
3. Differentiate between the major theoretical perspectives used to understand crime;
4. Examine crime as a criminal event including precursors, transactions, and an aftermath;
5. Interpret crime trends and patterns;
6. Identify the strengths and weakness of prominent research methods used in criminology;
7. Apply concepts pertinent to the study of crime;
8. Recognize the impact of crime on individuals and society;
9. Analyze the social contexts of crime and the types of crimes that occur therein; and,
10. Compare public policy and crime prevention measures used to respond to crime.

A key objective of this course is for you to develop a new, critical perspective about criminal behaviour that challenges your assumptions about the nature of crime.

BRESCIA COMPETENCIES

You will develop the Brescia competencies at introductory and intermediate levels in this course. The Brescia competencies include:

Communication

The ability to exchange information and meaning effectively across cultures, space and time through appropriate modes of communication. Includes oral, written, and interpersonal or group communicate, as well as the ability to use current or innovative media.

Critical Thinking

The ability to engage in thinking characterized by the rational, informed, independent, and open-minded exploration of issues, ideas, and events before accepting or formulating a conclusion.

Inquiry and Analysis

The ability to reach informed decisions by breaking down complex issues, exploring evidence, demonstrating information literacy, and describing relationships among persons, things, or events.

Problem Solving

The ability to create and execute a strategy to answer a question or achieve a goal. Includes being able to anticipate the consequence of a potential solution, select a strategy among several alternatives, and decide when an acceptable outcome has been reached.

Self Awareness and Development

The ability to draw meaning, knowledge and value from honest and fair reflection and self-evaluation. Students are able to recognize their values and their impact on others, and make a commitment to personal growth.

Social Awareness and Engagement

The ability to respect and be open to diversity (e.g. cultural, religious, political). Students take personal responsibility to actively engage in and contribute to creating positive change in local, regional, national, or global communities and societies.

Valuing

The ability to make decisions or choose actions based on the consistent application of moral principles and ethical codes. Students must also be able to understand the ideas informing one's beliefs and be accountable for their actions.

REQUIRED TEXT

(SK) Sacco, Vincent F., and Leslie W. Kennedy. 2011. *The Criminal Event: Fifth Edition*. Toronto, ON: Thomson Nelson.

(N) Newburn, Tim (ed.). 2009. *Key Readings in Criminology*. Cullompton, UK: Willan Publishing. **Note:** It is not essential to buy this text. It represents an extensive compilation of major criminological works and you will only be required to read a small number of these. Copies of this anthology and the Sacco and Kennedy text are on reserve in the Brescia library.

E-MAIL

I will not be answering questions regarding course material (e.g., definitions of concepts, differences between theories, etc.) via e-mail. I find that these types of questions are best answered by meeting in person. I suggest that you use e-mail for addressing administrative issues about the course and arranging to meet with me. I will do my best to respond to e-mail messages within 24 hours. Please use "Sociology 2266A" as part of the subject line. I also encourage people to setup and use their UWO e-mail account for school business.

OFFICE HOURS

Do not hesitate to come to see me during my office hours. I am here to help with any questions you might have. This time not only serves as a great way to clarify understandings of the course material, but I also enjoy talking with people about sociology in general, educational pursuits, and career aspirations. If you are unable to make it to my office hours I will usually be around after class, or you can make an appointment to meet with me.

LECTURE ETIQUETTE

Please respect your classmates and your instructor during lecture. To help everyone stay focused, avoid whispering with your neighbours and the use of computers for non-class related activities. Cell phones should be turned off and put away. If there is a problem with classroom conduct you may be asked to leave for the duration of the lecture.

LEARNING RESOURCES

In my mind, taking a vested interest in learning is the key to academic success. Some of the specific things that you can do to help with learning in this course (and others), include: (1) Regularly attending class; (2) Staying on top of your readings; (3) Keeping good lecture and reading notes; (4) Participating in the applied learning exercises; (5) Meeting with your professor during office hours when you need extra help or would like to discuss the course material on a more sustained basis; (6) Using the study aids on the text website (<http://www.criminalevent-5e.nelson.com/student/>) to help review course material; and, (7) Staying organized and on top of your assignment(s), and developing and executing good study habits (e.g., reviewing your material on a regular basis).

ASSESSMENT OF LEARNING

Applied Learning Exercises

- **Course Learning Outcomes:** All.
- **Brescia Competencies:** All.
- Working both individually and in groups you will carry-out exercises designed to extend your knowledge of course material through direct application of criminological ideas
- **Missed exercises:** Given that you might miss a class for unforeseen reasons, you are permitted 1 missed exercise without penalty. It is not necessary to approach me about the missed class. If additional accommodation is necessary, you should seek accommodation through your Academic Advisor, not your professor.
- Counts for **10%** of your final mark

Test #1

- **Course Learning Outcomes:** 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, and 8.
- **Brescia Competencies:** Critical Thinking, Problem Solving, Social Awareness
- Multiple choice questions
- Written during the first hour of class **Wednesday, October 18th**
- Covers the material up to and including October 4th
- Counts for **25%** of your final mark

Test #2

- **Course Learning Outcomes:** 2, 3, 4, 5, 7, and 8.
- **Brescia Competencies:** Critical Thinking, Problem Solving, Social Awareness
- Multiple choice questions
- Written during the first hour of class **Wednesday, November 15th**
- Covers the material from October 18th up to and including November 8th
- Counts for **25%** of your final mark

Final Exam

- **Course Learning Outcomes:** 2, 3, 4, 5, 7, 8, 9, and 10.
- **Brescia Competencies:** Communication, Critical Thinking, Problem Solving, Social Awareness
- Multiple choice and short essay questions
- Written during the final exam period
- Multiple choice questions cover material from Nov. 15th up to and including Dec. 6th
- Short essay questions cover the criminological theories addressed throughout the course
- Counts for **40%** of your final mark

CLASS SCHEDULE

Date	Topic	Reading
Sept. 13	Course Introduction Examining the Public's Fascination with Crime	SK: 1: 1-20, N: 4.1
Sept. 20	Defining Crime vs. Deviance A Brief History of Criminology	SK: 1: 20-43, N: 1.2 SK: 4: 128-132, N: 2.4
Sept. 27	The Criminal Event	SK: 2, N: 25.1
Oct. 4	Crime Data and Research Methods Psychological and Biological Theories	SK: 3, N: 3.1 & 35.3 SK: 4: 126-145
Oct. 11	<i>Fall Reading Week</i>	
Oct. 18	<u>TEST #1 (25%)</u> (<i>Written in first hour of class</i>) Strain, Learning, & Subcultural Theories (<i>lecture after test</i>)	SK: 4: 145-167, N: 8.3
Oct. 25	Social Control, Labelling, Deterrence, & Rational Choice Theories	SK: 5, N: 10.3
Nov. 1	Opportunity Theories of Crime and Victimization Interactionist Theories of Crime	SK: 6: 200-216, N: 14.4 SK: 6: 216-227
Nov. 8	Consequences of Criminal Events	SK: 7, N: 32.4
Nov. 15	<u>TEST #2 (25%)</u> (<i>Written in first hour of class</i>) Crime and Leisure (<i>lecture after test</i>)	SK: 9, N: 13.4 & 20.2
Nov. 22	Crime and the Family and Household	SK: 8, N: 17.4
Nov. 29	Crime and Work	SK: 10, N: 18.1
Dec. 6	Public Policy and Responses to Crime	SK: 11, N: 24.2 & 30.2
<p>FINAL EXAM (40%) – Written during the final exam period – Date & location set by the Registrar's Office</p>		

2017-18 BRESCIA UNIVERSITY COLLEGE ACADEMIC POLICIES AND REGULATIONS

1. POLICY REGARDING MAKEUP EXAMS AND EXTENSIONS OF DEADLINES

When a student requests academic accommodation (e.g., extension of a deadline, a makeup exam) for work representing 10% or more of the student's overall grade in the course, it is the responsibility of the student to provide acceptable documentation to support a medical or compassionate claim. All such requests for academic accommodation **must** be made through an Academic Advisor and include supporting documentation. Academic accommodation for illness will be granted only if the documentation indicates that the onset, duration and severity of the illness are such that the student could not reasonably be expected to complete her academic responsibilities. Minor ailments typically treated by over-the-counter medications will not normally be accommodated. Documentation shall be submitted as soon as possible to the student's Academic Advisor indicating the period of illness and when the student should be able to resume academic responsibilities. Students must submit their documentation along with a request for relief specifying the nature of the accommodation being requested no later than two business days after the date specified for resuming responsibilities. Appropriate academic accommodation will be determined by the Dean's Office in consultation with the student's instructor(s). Please note that personal commitments (e.g., vacation flight bookings, work schedule) which conflict with a scheduled test, exam or course requirement are **not** grounds for academic accommodation.

A UWO Student Medical Certificate (SMC) is **required** if a student is seeking academic accommodation on medical grounds. This documentation should be obtained at the time of the initial consultation with the physician/nurse practitioner or walk-in clinic. A SMC can be downloaded from: http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/medicalform.pdf. The student must request documentation sufficient to demonstrate that her ability to meet academic responsibilities was seriously affected. Please note that under University Senate regulations documentation stating simply that the student "was seen for a medical reason" or "was ill" is **not** adequate to support a request for academic accommodation.

Whenever possible, requests for academic accommodation should be initiated in advance of due dates, examination dates, etc. Students must follow up with their professors and Academic Advisor in a timely manner.

The full policy on requesting accommodation due to illness can be viewed at: <http://westerncalendar.uwo.ca/2017/pg117.html>

2. ACADEMIC CONCERNS

If you feel that you have a medical or personal problem that is interfering with your work, contact your instructor and Academic Advisor as soon as possible. Problems may then be documented and possible arrangements to assist you can be discussed at the time of occurrence rather than on a retroactive basis. Retroactive requests for academic accommodation on medical or compassionate grounds may not be considered.

If you think that you are too far behind to catch up or that your work load is not manageable, you should consult an Academic Advisor. If you consider reducing your workload by dropping one or more courses, this must be done by the appropriate deadlines (refer to the Registrar's website, <http://brescia.uwo.ca/academics/registrar-services/> or the list of official dates <http://westerncalendar.uwo.ca/2017/pg7.html>). You should consult with the course instructor and the Academic Advisor who can help you consider alternatives to dropping one or more courses. *Note that dropping a course may affect OSAP eligibility and/or Entrance Scholarship eligibility.*

The Dean may refuse permission to write the final examination in a course if the student has failed to maintain satisfactory academic standing throughout the year or for too frequent absence from the class or laboratory (<http://westerncalendar.uwo.ca/2017/pg130.html>)

3. ABSENCES

Short Absences: If you miss a class due to a minor illness or other problems, check your course outline for information regarding attendance requirements and make sure you are not missing a test or assignment. Cover any readings and arrange to borrow notes from a classmate. Contact the course instructor if you have any questions.

Extended Absences: If you have an extended absence, you should contact the course instructor and an Academic Advisor. Your course instructor and Academic Advisor can discuss ways for you to catch up on missed work and arrange academic accommodations, if appropriate.

4. POLICY ON CHEATING & ACADEMIC MISCONDUCT

Scholastic offences are taken seriously and students are directed to read the appropriate policy, specifically, the definition of what constitutes a Scholastic Offence, at the following Web site:

http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/scholastic_discipline_undergrad.pdf.

Students are responsible for understanding the nature of and avoiding the occurrence of plagiarism and other academic offences. Students are urged to read the section on Scholastic Offences in the Academic Calendar. Note that such offences include plagiarism, cheating on an examination, submitting false or fraudulent assignments or credentials, impersonating a candidate, or submitting for credit in any course without the knowledge and approval of the instructor to whom it is submitted, any academic work for which credit has previously been obtained or is being sought in another course in the University or elsewhere. Students are advised to consult the section on Academic Misconduct in the Western Academic Calendar.

If you are in doubt about whether what you are doing is inappropriate or not, consult your instructor, the Student Services Centre, or the Registrar. A claim that "you didn't know it was wrong" is not accepted as an excuse.

The penalties for a student guilty of a scholastic offence (including plagiarism) include refusal of a passing grade in the assignment, refusal of a passing grade in the course, suspension from the University, and expulsion from the University.

Plagiarism:

Students must write their essays and assignments in their own words. Whenever students take an idea or a passage from another author, they must acknowledge their debt both by using quotation marks where appropriate and by proper referencing such as footnotes or citations. Plagiarism is a major academic offence (see Scholastic Offence Policy in the Western Academic Calendar).

All required papers may be subject to submission for textual similarity review to the commercial plagiarism detection software under license to the University for the detection of plagiarism. All papers submitted for such checking will be included as source documents in the reference database for the purpose of detecting plagiarism of papers subsequently submitted to the system. Use of the service is subject to the licensing agreement, currently between The University of Western Ontario and Turnitin.com (<http://www.turnitin.com>).

Computer-marked Tests/exams:

Computer-marked multiple-choice tests and/or exams may be subject to submission for similarity review by software that will check for unusual coincidences in answer patterns that may indicate cheating. Software currently in use to score computer-marked multiple-choice tests and exams performs a similarity review as part of standard exam analysis.

5. PROCEDURES FOR APPEALING ACADEMIC EVALUATIONS

All appeals of a grade must be directed first to the course instructor. If the student is not satisfied with the decision of the course instructor, a written appeal signed by the student must be sent to the Department Chair. If the response of the department is considered unsatisfactory to the student, she may then submit a signed, written appeal to the Office of the Dean. Only after receiving a final decision from the Dean may a student appeal to the

Senate Review Board Academic. A Guide to Appeals is available from the Ombudsperson's Office, or you can consult an Academic Advisor. Students are advised to consult the section on Student Academic Appeals under Academic Rights and Responsibilities in the Western Academic Calendar (<http://westerncalendar.uwo.ca/2017/pg112.html>).

Note that final course marks are not official until the Academic Dean has reviewed and signed the final grade report for the course. If course marks deviate from acceptable and appropriate standards, the Academic Dean may require grades to be adjusted to align them with accepted grading practices (http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/exam/evaluation_undergrad.pdf and http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/exam/finalgrades.pdf).

6. PREREQUISITES

Unless you have either the prerequisites for a course or written special permission from your Dean to enroll in it, you will be removed from the course and it will be deleted from your record. This decision may not be appealed. You will receive no adjustment to your fees in the event that you are dropped from a course for failing to have the necessary prerequisite(s).

7. SUPPORT

Support Services

The Brescia University College Registrar's website, with a link to Academic Advisors, is at <http://brescia.uwo.ca/academics/registrar-services/>. The website for the Student Development Centre at Western is <http://www.sdc.uwo.ca/>.

Mental Health and Wellness

Students may experience a range of issues that can cause barriers to your learning, such as increased anxiety, feeling overwhelmed, feeling down or lost, difficulty concentrating and/or lack of motivation. Services are available to assist you with addressing these and other concerns you may be experiencing. You can learn more about mental health and wellness at Brescia at <http://brescia.uwo.ca/life/mental-health-wellness/>. Students who are in emotional/mental distress should refer to Mental_Health@Western <http://www.uwo.ca/uwocom/mentalhealth/> for a complete list of options about how to obtain help.

Sexual Violence

All members of the Brescia University College community have a right to work and study in an environment that is free from any form of sexual violence. Brescia University College recognizes that the prevention of, and response to, Sexual Violence is of particular importance in the university environment. Sexual Violence is strictly prohibited and unacceptable and will not be tolerated. Brescia is committed to preventing Sexual Violence and creating a safe space for anyone in the Brescia community who has experienced Sexual Violence.

If you or someone you know has experienced any form of Sexual Violence, you may access resources at <http://brescia.uwo.ca/life/sexual-violence/>.

Portions of this document were taken from the Academic Calendar, the Handbook of Academic and Scholarship Policy and the Academic Handbook of Senate Regulations. This document is a summary of relevant regulations and does not supersede the academic policies and regulations of the Senate of the University of Western Ontario.