

CARLETON UNIVERSITY  
INSTITUTE OF CRIMINOLOGY & CRIMINAL JUSTICE

CRCJ1000 - Introduction to Criminology & Criminal Justice  
Syllabus - Fall 2012

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## I. Content

What is criminology? Definitions are plural and contested. One way to organize the variety of criminologies is through the foundational questions to which they try to provide satisfactory answers. How should we understand or explain: a) *the creation and modification of penal norms?*; b) *the transgression of penal norms?*; c) *the ways in which penal norms are used?*

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Among the reasons that can help explain why there is no consensus about the definition of criminology is the fact that there is also no consensus about what crime is. Reasons that can be invoked to treat something as a crime are multiple, and sometimes conflicting. In the context of contemporary liberal democracies, the right to use criminal law is subjected to various limits. When criminal law is used to assert that this or that is a crime, it works through the utterance of a threat: if you do this or that, you shall be punished like this or like that. Why do we punish? How do we punish?

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What do we know about crime? Crime data is today more refined, yet statistics gathered from different methodological strategies have various limitations. What do the official, police reported, criminal statistics suggest? What do surveys on victimization suggest? What do self-report surveys suggest?

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How should we explain crime? Is it the result of a more or less rational choice? Are criminals biologically different? Are they stupid? Can we talk of a criminal personality? Should we go beyond individualizing factors to explain why certain individuals are criminals? Are criminals the products of social forces? Should we simply abandon the quest to find the causes of crime, and instead focus on understanding how certain individuals are said to be criminals and treated as such, while others are not? Are criminalization and punishment tools of powerful groups used to maintain various forms of privileges and inequalities?

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Why do we think that the legitimate infliction of pain - punishment - is the proper way to do justice to criminalized acts? Should criminology promote a move beyond criminal justice?

## II. Objectives

After successfully completing this course, students:

- a) are able to understand and use basic criminological concepts;
- b) have a general understanding of the ways in which the right to criminalize and to punish is legitimized;
- c) have a general understanding of contemporary tendencies in the use of criminalization;
- d) have a general understanding of penological rationales and penal measures;
- e) are able to understand the basic elements of the main criminological traditions and perspectives;
- f) have begun to think critically about knowledge and practices related to criminology and criminal justice.

## III. Material

Most of the mandatory readings are taken from:

Newburn, T. (2007). *Criminology*, Cullompton: Willan Publishing, ISBN: 978-1-84392-284-1.

The book can be purchased at *Octopus Books* (Third Avenue, just off Bank St., Ottawa).

All other mandatory readings are electronically available without costs (see section V. below for details).

## IV. Evaluation

### A- Mid-Term Examination (40%)

During the lecture hours of week 6.

Based on the content of all lectures and mandatory readings from week 1 to 5.

Closed-book format (only pencils and erasers allowed - and I do not provide them!).

Includes: multiple choice questions, questions of definition and explanation, short-answers questions.

Must be completed in 2 hours.

### B- Final Examination (60%)

During the final exam period.

Based on the content of all lectures and mandatory readings.

Closed-book format (only pencils and erasers allowed - and I do not provide them!).

Includes: multiple choice questions, questions of definition and explanation, short-answers questions.

Must be completed in 3 hours.

## V. Detailed Schedule

### WEEK I: INTRODUCTION *Crime, Criminals, Criminalization*

## WEEK 2: CRIME AS AN OBJECT OF STUDY

*Malum in se/Malum Prohibitum; Crime as Deviance; Crime as Law's Product; Liberty Limiting Principles*

Mandatory Readings:

- Newburn, T. (2007). Chapter One. Understanding Crime and Criminology, in Newburn, T., *Criminology*, Cullompton: Willan Publishing; excerpt: I-15.
- Brodeur, J.-P. and I. Ouellet (2004). What Is a Crime? A Secular Answer, in Law Commission of Canada, *What Is a Crime? Defining Criminal Conduct in Contemporary Society*, Vancouver: UBC Press; excerpts: I-17; 27-33 [online: <http://www.ubcpress.ca/books/pdf/chapters/whatisacrime/whatcrime.pdf>]

## WEEK 3: SOVEREIGN POWER

*Historical Perspectives; The Right to Criminalize; Limitations of Criminal Law; Sovereign Exceptionality*

Mandatory Readings:

- Newburn, T. (2007). Chapter 2. Crime and Punishment in History, in Newburn, T., *Criminology*, Cullompton: Willan Publishing, 22-47.
- Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedom [[http://laws-lois.justice.gc.ca/eng/charter/CHART\\_E.PDF](http://laws-lois.justice.gc.ca/eng/charter/CHART_E.PDF)]

## WEEK 4: COUNTING CRIME

*Police Reported Crimes; The Crime Severity Index; National Trends; Victimization & Self-Report Surveys*

Mandatory Readings:

- Statistics Canada - Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics (2009). *Measuring Crime in Canada. Introducing the Crime Severity Index and Improvements to the Uniform Crime Report Survey*, Ottawa: Minister of Industry [online: <http://www.statcan.gc.ca/pub/85-004-x/85-004-x2009001-eng.pdf>]
- Statistics Canada (2010). Police-Reported Crime Statistics in Canada, 2011, *Juristat*, catalogue 85-002-x [online: <http://www.statcan.gc.ca/pub/85-002-x/2012001/article/11692-eng.pdf>]
- Newburn, T. (2007). Chapter 3. Crime Data and Crime Trends, in Newburn, T., *Criminology*, Cullompton: Willan Publishing, excerpts: 50-61; 67; 76-79.

## WEEK 5: PUNISHMENT

*Historical Perspectives; Finalities of Pain Infliction; Penal Measures; Conditional Releases*

Mandatory Readings:

- Newburn, T. (2007). Chapter 22. Penology and Punishment, in Newburn, T., *Criminology*, Cullompton: Willan Publishing, 516-538.
- Barnett, L., Dupuis, T., Kirkby, C., MacKay, R., Nicol, J., and J. Bécharde (2012). *Legislative Summary. Bill C-10: An Act to Enact the Justice for Victims of Terrorism Act and to Amend the State Immunity Act, the Criminal Code, the Controlled Drugs and Substance Act, the Corrections and Conditional Release Act, the Youth Criminal Justice Act, the Immigration and Refugee Protection Act and Other Acts*, Ottawa: Library of Parliament; excerpts: 26-27; 43-50; 59-63; 67-71; 73-79 [online: <http://www.parl.gc.ca/Content/LOP/LegislativeSummaries/41/1/c10-e.pdf>]

## WEEK 6: MID-TERM EXAMINATION

### WEEK 7: CLASSICAL & NEO-CLASSICAL CRIMINOLOGY, CRIME SCIENCE, RIGHT REALISM

*Utilitarianism; Bounded Rationality & Criminal Opportunities; Situational Crime Prevention*

#### Mandatory Readings:

- Newburn, T. (2007). Chapter 5. Classicism and Positivism, in Newburn, T., *Criminology*, Cullompton: Willan Publishing, excerpts: 114-120.
- Newburn, T. (2007). Chapter 13. Realist Criminology, in Newburn, T., *Criminology*, Cullompton: Willan Publishing, excerpts: 270-276.
- Newburn, T. (2007). Chapter 14. Contemporary Classicism, in Newburn, T., *Criminology*, Cullompton: Willan Publishing, 280-297.

### WEEK 8: ETIOLOGICAL CRIMINOLOGY: BODY & PSYCHE

*Past and Current Biocriminology; Psychodynamic, Stupidity, Learning & Cognitive Theories; Criminal Personality*

#### Mandatory Readings:

- Newburn, T. (2007). Chapter 5. Classicism and Positivism, in Newburn, T., *Criminology*, Cullompton: Willan Publishing, excerpts: 120-129.
- Newburn, T. (2007). Chapter 6. Biological Positivism, in Newburn, T., *Criminology*, Cullompton: Willan Publishing, 132-144.
- Newburn, T. (2007). Chapter 7. Psychological Positivism, in Newburn, T., *Criminology*, Cullompton: Willan Publishing, 148-166.

### WEEK 9: ETIOLOGICAL CRIMINOLOGY: ANOMIE, STRAIN, SUBCULTURES

*Durkheim; Merton; General Strain Theory; Social Disorganization; Differential Association; Subcultural Theories*

#### Mandatory Readings:

- Newburn, T. (2007). Chapter 8. Durkheim, Anomie and Strain, in Newburn, T., *Criminology*, Cullompton: Willan Publishing, 170-185.
- Newburn, T. (2007). Chapter 9. The Chicago School, Culture and Subcultures, in Newburn, T., *Criminology*, Cullompton: Willan Publishing, 188-207.

### WEEK 10: ETIOLOGICAL CRIMINOLOGY: LABELING, CONTROL

*Symbolic Interactionism; Secondary Deviance; Deviancy Amplification; Social Bond; Gottfredson & Hirschi*

#### Mandatory Readings:

- Newburn, T. (2007). Chapter 10. Interactionism and Labelling Theory, in Newburn, T., *Criminology*, Cullompton: Willan Publishing, 210-224.
- Newburn, T. (2007). Chapter 11. Control Theories, in Newburn, T., *Criminology*, Cullompton: Willan Publishing, 228-242.

## WEEK 11: CRITICAL CRIMINOLOGY

*Conflict, Marxist, Anarchist and Feminist Criminologies; Left Realism; Zemiology*

Mandatory Readings:

- Newburn, T. (2007). Chapter 12. Radical and Critical Criminology, in Newburn, T., *Criminology*, Cullompton: Willan Publishing, 246-260.
- Newburn, T. (2007). Chapter 13. Realist Criminology, in Newburn, T., *Criminology*, Cullompton: Willan Publishing, excerpts: 264-270.
- Newburn, T. (2007). Chapter 15. Feminist Criminology, in Newburn, T., *Criminology*, Cullompton: Willan Publishing, 300-317.

## WEEK 12: BEYOND CRIMINAL JUSTICE?

*Restorative Justice; Transformative Justice; Penal Minimalism; Carceral & Penal Abolitionism*

Mandatory Readings:

- Newburn, T. (2007). Chapter 30. Restorative Justice, in Newburn, T., *Criminology*, Cullompton: Willan Publishing, 744-767.
- Saleh-Hanna, V. (2000). Taking Too Much for Granted: Studying the Movement and Re-Assessing the Terms, in West, W.G. and R. Morris (eds.), *The Case for Penal Abolition*, Toronto: Canadian Scholars' Press, 43-67  
[online: <http://site.ebrary.com.proxy.library.carleton.ca/lib/oculcarleton/docDetail.action?docID=10220479>]  
\* \* \* *On ebrary.com, the title of this chapter appears as 'An Introduction to Penal Abolition: Assessing Penology and Social Control' \* \* \**

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### **Academic Accommodation**

You may need special arrangements to meet your academic obligations during the term. For an accommodation request the processes are as follows:

**Pregnancy obligation:** write to me with any requests for academic accommodation during the first two weeks of class, or as soon as possible after the need for accommodation is known to exist. For more details visit the Equity Services website: <http://www2.carleton.ca/equity/>

**Religious obligation:** write to me with any requests for academic accommodation during the first two weeks of class, or as soon as possible after the need for accommodation is known to exist. For more details visit the Equity Services website: <http://www2.carleton.ca/equity/>

**Academic Accommodations for Students with Disabilities:** The **Paul Menton Centre** for Students with Disabilities (PMC) provides services to students with Learning Disabilities (LD), psychiatric/mental health disabilities, Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD), Autism Spectrum Disorders (ASD), chronic medical conditions, and impairments in mobility, hearing, and vision. If you have a disability requiring academic accommodations in this course, please contact PMC at 613-520-6608 or [pmc@carleton.ca](mailto:pmc@carleton.ca) for a formal evaluation. If you are already registered with the PMC, contact your PMC coordinator to send me your **Letter of Accommodation** at the beginning of the term, and no later than two weeks before the first in-class scheduled test or exam requiring accommodation (*if applicable*). After requesting accommodation from PMC, meet with me to ensure accommodation arrangements are made. Please consult the PMC website for the deadline to request accommodations for the formally-scheduled exam (*if applicable*) at <http://www2.carleton.ca/pmc/new-and-current-students/dates-and-deadlines/>

You can visit the Equity Services website to view the policies and to obtain more detailed information on academic accommodation at <http://www2.carleton.ca/equity/>

### **Plagiarism**

Students are reminded of the University regulations concerning plagiarism and other instructional offenses as outlined in the Undergraduate Calendar. The policy can be found at

[http://www.carleton.ca/studentaffairs/academic\\_integrity/docs/Academic\\_Integrity\\_Policy.pdf](http://www.carleton.ca/studentaffairs/academic_integrity/docs/Academic_Integrity_Policy.pdf)

The University Senate defines plagiarism as "presenting, whether intentionally or not, the idea, expression of ideas or work of others as one's own." This can include:

- reproducing or paraphrasing portions of someone else's published or unpublished material, regardless of the source, and presenting these as one's own without proper citation or reference to the original source;
- submitting a take-home examination, essay, laboratory report or other assignment written, in whole or in part, by someone else;
- using ideas or direct, verbatim quotations, or paraphrased material, concepts, or ideas without appropriate acknowledgement in any academic assignment;
- using another's data or research findings;
- failing to acknowledge sources through the use of proper citations when using another's works and/or failing to use quotation marks;
- handing in "substantially the same piece of work for academic credit more than once without prior written permission of the course instructor in which the submission occurs."

Plagiarism is a serious offence which cannot be resolved directly with the course's instructor. The Associate Deans of the Faculty conduct a rigorous investigation, including an interview with the student, when an instructor suspects a piece of work has been plagiarized. Penalties are not trivial. They can include a final grade of "F" for the course.

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