

CRCJI000A - Introduction to Criminology & Criminal Justice
Syllabus - fall 2015

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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 today is 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. (2013). *Criminology. Second Edition*, New York: Routledge.

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).

Student or professor materials created for this course (including presentations and posted notes, labs, case studies, assignments and exams) remain the intellectual property of the author(s). They are intended for personal use and may not be reproduced or redistributed without prior written consent of the author(s).

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).

Includes: true/false questions, multiple choice questions, short-answers questions.

Must be completed in 3 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).

Includes: true/false questions, multiple choice questions, short-answers questions.

Must be completed in 3 hours.

V. Detailed Schedule

WEEK I: INTRODUCTION

2015/9/3

Crime, Criminals, Criminalization

WEEK 2: CRIME AS AN OBJECT OF STUDY

2015/9/10

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

Mandatory Readings:

Newburn, T. (2013). Chapter One. Understanding Crime and Criminology, in Newburn, T., *Criminology. Second Edition*, New York: Routledge; excerpt: 4-15.

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

2015/9/17

The Formation of the Idea of Criminal Justice; The Formation of Modern Policing; The Right to Punish; The Limits of Criminal Law; Sovereign Exceptionality

Mandatory Readings:

Newburn, T. (2013). Chapter 2. Crime and Punishment in History, in Newburn, T., *Criminology. Second Edition*, New York: Routledge, 22-46.

Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedom [online: http://laws-lois.justice.gc.ca/PDF/CONST_E.pdf#page=69]

WEEK 4: COUNTING CRIME

2015/9/24

Victimization Surveys; The Construction of Official Statistics; Police-Reported Crimes; Clearance Rates; Court Statistics; 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 (2015). Police-Reported Crime Statistics in Canada, 2014, *Juristat*, catalogue 85-002-x [online: <http://www.statcan.gc.ca/pub/85-002-x/2015001/article/14211-eng.pdf>]
- Newburn, T. (2013). Chapter 3. Crime Data and Crime Trends, in Newburn, T., *Criminology. Second Edition*, New York: Routledge, excerpts: 50-61; 68; 76-79.

WEEK 5: PUNISHMENT

2015/10/1

Historical Perspectives; Penological Rationales; Penal Measures; Conditional Release

Mandatory Readings:

- Newburn, T. (2013). Chapter 22. Penology and Punishment, in Newburn, T., *Criminology. Second Edition*, New York: Routledge, 528-549.
- 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

2015/10/8

WEEK 7: CLASSICAL & NEO-CLASSICAL CRIMINOLOGY

2015/10/15

Beccaria; Bentham; Right Realism; Contemporary Rational Choice Theory; Routine Activity Theory; Situational Crime Prevention & 'Crime Science'

Mandatory Readings:

- Newburn, T. (2013). Chapter 5. Classicism and Positivism, in Newburn, T., *Criminology. Second Edition*, New York: Routledge, excerpts: 114-120.
- Newburn, T. (2013). Chapter 13. Realist Criminology, in Newburn, T., *Criminology. Second Edition*, New York: Routledge, excerpts: 276-281.
- Newburn, T. (2013). Chapter 14. Contemporary Classicism, in Newburn, T., *Criminology. Second Edition*, New York: Routledge, 286-303.

WEEK 8: ETIOLOGICAL CRIMINOLOGY: BODY & PSYCHE

2015/10/22

Physiognomy; Phrenology; Criminal Anthropology; Constitutional Theories; Eugenics and Stupidity Theories; Contemporary Biocriminology; Psychodynamic Theories; Learning and Cognitive Theories; Psychometrics and Psychopathy; The 'What Works' Movement; Developmental Criminology; Evolutionary Psychology

Mandatory Readings:

- Newburn, T. (2013). Chapter 5. Classicism and Positivism, in Newburn, T., *Criminology. Second Edition*, New York: Routledge, excerpts: 120-129.
- Newburn, T. (2013). Chapter 6. Biological Positivism, in Newburn, T., *Criminology. Second Edition*, New York: Routledge, 132-144.
- Newburn, T. (2013). Chapter 7. Psychological Positivism, in Newburn, T., *Criminology. Second Edition*, New York: Routledge, 148-166.

WEEK 9: ETIOLOGICAL CRIMINOLOGY: ANOMIE, STRAIN, SUBCULTURES

2015/11/5

Durkheim; Merton and Other Strain Theories; The Chicago School; Subcultural Theories; Cultural Criminology

Mandatory Readings:

- Newburn, T. (2013). Chapter 8. Durkheim, Anomie and Strain, in Newburn, T., *Criminology. Second Edition*, New York: Routledge, 170-184.
- Newburn, T. (2013). Chapter 9. The Chicago School, Culture and Subcultures, in Newburn, T., *Criminology. Second Edition*, New York: Routledge, 188-211.

WEEK 10: ETIOLOGICAL CRIMINOLOGY: CONTROL, LABELING

2015/11/12

Control Theories; Symbolic Interactionism; Labeling and Stigmatization; Social Control; Social Problems; Moral Panics

Mandatory Readings:

- Newburn, T. (2013). Chapter 10. Interactionism and Labelling Theory, in Newburn, T., *Criminology. Second Edition*, New York: Routledge, 216-230.
- Newburn, T. (2013). Chapter 11. Control Theories, in Newburn, T., *Criminology. Second Edition*, New York: Routledge, 234-248.

WEEK 11: CRITICAL CRIMINOLOGIES

2015/11/19

The Conflict Perspective, Marxist Criminologies; Left Realism; Feminist Perspectives in Criminology; Anarchist Criminologies

Mandatory Readings:

- Newburn, T. (2013). Chapter 12. Radical and Critical Criminology, in Newburn, T., *Criminology. Second Edition*, New York: Routledge, 252-266.
- Newburn, T. (2013). Chapter 13. Realist Criminology, in Newburn, T., *Criminology. Second Edition*, New York: Routledge, excerpts: 270-276.
- Newburn, T. (2013). Chapter 15. Feminist Criminology, in Newburn, T., *Criminology. Second Edition*, New York: Routledge, 308-324.

WEEK 12: BEYOND CRIMINAL JUSTICE?

2015/11/26

Restorative Justice; Transformative Justice; Penal Minimalism; Carceral and Penal Abolitionism

Mandatory Readings:

Newburn, T. (2013). Chapter 30. Restorative Justice, in Newburn, T., *Criminology. Second Edition*, New York: Routledge, 768-791.

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' * * *

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 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

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.
