Sociology 525 A1 Seminar in Criminal Justice

Fall 2016

Class: F 9:00-11:50 T 6-4
Instructor: Jana Grekul
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email: jgrekul@ualberta.ca

Office hours: By appointment

Course Description: This course examines a number of selected topics related to recent developments in criminal justice. We explore the ways in which global developments and changes to state structure have impacted the ways in which criminal justice is defined in theory and practice. In particular, we explore the ways these changes have impacted marginalized populations. We also explore alternatives to current criminal justice practices and institutions.

Prerequisite: There is no prerequisite for the course, but it is assumed that students will have some background knowledge of criminology. If this is not the case, please come see me.

Classroom Format, Atmosphere, and Expectations

- It is essential that students attend classes consistently and come to class prepared. This means having completed the assigned readings for the class, preparing discussion points based on the readings, and engaging with the class material and other students regularly.

- In this course we cover topics, readings, and issues that may introduce ideas and perspectives that are new to you. The course is meant to provide a form for dialogue and debate. There will likely be times where students express different viewpoints. It is imperative that we maintain an atmosphere of healthy dialogue and debate, one within which all students feel safe to express their viewpoints. Maintaining this type of atmosphere is a responsibility shared by all of us. If at any point you feel this is not being done, or if you feel that your ability to contribute to class discussions is being compromised, please see me outside of the classroom. The nature of the course material is such that students will have personal experiences, stories, anecdotes etc. that illustrate the points, theories, topics discussed. Students are encouraged to share these everyday experiences in class where appropriate.

- The classroom experience is more positive for all involved if disruptive behaviours are kept to a minimum or do not exist at all. Please refrain from disruptive behaviours such as using your cell phone, talking out of turn, sleeping, or otherwise engaging in distracting and disruptive behaviours.

Course Requirements and Evaluation

Evaluation

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Participation and attendance</th>
<th>20%</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Presentation</td>
<td>20%</td>
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Term Paper 20%
Final Paper 40%

**Participation (20%)**

Students are expected to attend class and to participate fully in all aspects of the course and will be evaluated on this throughout the term. It is expected that students will have readings completed prior to class, will have one discussion question based on the readings prepared, be prepared to share their question with the class, and will thoughtfully contribute to class discussions. If you are unable to attend a class, please let me know prior to class commencement.

**Presentation (20%)**

Each student is to prepare and deliver a presentation for one section of the course. The presentation should:

- Provide a brief summary/overview of the readings (you should assume your colleagues have read the articles).
- Identify key themes for each reading and illustrate the linkages between the readings.
- Provide a critical assessment of one of the readings.
- Expand upon any issue in the readings that is of interest to you by providing additional independent research, current events, films, etc.
- Develop a plan/discussion questions for engaging your colleagues in a class discussion on the topic/themes.
- Devise an activity/game/exercise that illustrates some aspect of the issue you are presenting on and that could potentially be used in an undergraduate classroom to help illustrate the issue. (Your classmates will ‘execute’ the activity to see how it works.)
- Provide me with a copy of your presentation for marking. Your mark on the presentation will be based on the written and oral components.

**Term Paper (20%) Due October 28th**

Students are expected to write a 5-8 page reaction paper based on one of the class themes. The paper should identify the main points being made in one or more of the readings for the theme. It should point out any flaws in the arguments, and can provide alternate views on the topic. Students should provide evidence of independent research on the topic as well. This paper cannot be on the same theme/topic as your presentation.

**Final Paper (40%)**

Each student will write a 15-20 page term paper on a topic of their choice that relates to the course content. It is a good idea to talk with me about your proposed topic early in the course.

**Grading**

Final grades are not curved or scaled. They will be assigned according to the following guideline:
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Percentage</th>
<th>Grade</th>
<th>Value</th>
<th>Descriptor</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>90-100</td>
<td>A+</td>
<td>4.0</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>86-89</td>
<td>A</td>
<td>4.0</td>
<td>Excellent</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>82-85</td>
<td>A-</td>
<td>3.7</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>78-81</td>
<td>B+</td>
<td>3.3</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>74-77</td>
<td>B</td>
<td>3.0</td>
<td>Good</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>70-73</td>
<td>B-</td>
<td>2.7</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>66-69</td>
<td>C+</td>
<td>2.3</td>
<td>Satisfactory</td>
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<tr>
<td>62-65</td>
<td>C</td>
<td>2.0</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>58-61</td>
<td>C-</td>
<td>1.7</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>54-57</td>
<td>D+</td>
<td>1.3</td>
<td>Failure</td>
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<tr>
<td>50-53</td>
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<td>0-49</td>
<td>F</td>
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**Required Notes:** “Policy about course outlines can be found in Course Requirements, Evaluation Procedures and Grading of the University Calendar.”

**Academic Integrity**

“The University of Alberta is committed to the highest levels of academic integrity and honesty. Students are expected to be familiar with these standards regarding academic honesty and to uphold the policies of the University in this respect. Students are particularly urged to familiarize themselves with the provision of the Code of Student Behaviour (online at [www.governance.ualberta.ca](http://www.governance.ualberta.ca)) and avoid any behaviour which could potentially result in suspicions of cheating, plagiarism, misrepresentation of facts and/or participation in an offence. Academic dishonesty is a serious offence and can result in suspension or expulsion from the University.” For resources on Academic Integrity students may want to consult the Office of Judicial Affairs website at [http://www.osja.ualberta.ca/en/Students.aspx](http://www.osja.ualberta.ca/en/Students.aspx)

**Academic Honesty**

All students should consult the information provided by Student Conduct and Accountability regarding avoiding cheating and plagiarism in particular and academic dishonesty in general (see the Academic Integrity Undergraduate Handbook and Information for Students). If in doubt about what is permitted in this class, ask the instructor.

An instructor or coordinator who is convinced that a student has handed in work that he or she could not possibly reproduce without outside assistance is obliged, out of consideration of
fairness to other students, to report the case to the Associate Dean of the Faculty. See the Academic Discipline Process.

Learning and Working Environment

The Faculty of Arts is committed to ensuring that all students, faculty and staff are able to work and study in an environment that is safe and free from discrimination and harassment. It does not tolerate behaviour that undermines that environment. The department urges anyone who feels that this policy is being violated to:

- Discuss the matter with the person whose behaviour is causing concern; or
- If that discussion is unsatisfactory, or there is concern that direct discussion is inappropriate or threatening, discuss it with the Chair of the Department.

For additional advice or assistance regarding this policy, you may contact the student ombudservice: http://www.ombudservice.ualberta.ca/. Information about the University of Alberta Discrimination and Harassment Policy and Procedures is described in UAPPOL at https://policiesonline.ualberta.ca/PoliciesProcedures/Pages/DispPol.aspx?PID=110.

Important General Information

- Late assignments will receive a deduction of 10% per day (weekends excluded). Extensions will be granted in cases for which medical or other reasons exist, however appropriate documentation must be provided.

- Re-assessment of grades for course components will be considered in cases where there is good reason for such re-assessment. Students must provide, in writing, a case for the re-assessment, within two weeks of receiving the grade. Assignments will be completely reassessed which may result in a higher or lower overall mark.

- Instructors are forbidden to add student names to official class lists. Students not on official class lists are not deemed to be properly registered and may not submit exams or assignments. It is your responsibility to ensure your name is on this list.

- “Audio or video recording of lectures, labs, seminars or any other teaching environment by students is allowed only with the prior written consent of the instructor or as part of an approved accommodation plan. Recorded material is to be used solely for personal study, and is not to be used or distributed for any other purpose without prior written consent from the instructor.”

Topics/Reading Schedule

Week 1 (September 2)

Introductions, Assignment of Presentations

Week 2 (September 9): Critical Criminology/Neo-liberalism


**Week 3 (September 16): Criminal Justice as Bureaucracy and/or Business**


**Week 4 (September 23): Mass Incarceration/Prison Structures**


**Week 5 (September 30): The “Society of Captives”**


**Week 6 (October 7): Crime, Criminal Justice and Media: Moral panics?**


**Week 7 (October 14): Terrorism/Justice**


**Week 8 (October 21): Race**


**Week 9 (October 28): Aboriginal Peoples**


**Week 10 (November 4): Women**


Kilty, J.M. 2012. “‘It’s like they don’t want you to get better’: Psy control of women in the carceral context.” *Feminism & Psychology*, 22 (2): 162-182.

**(November 11 – Reading Week – no class)**

**Week 11 (November 18): Gangs**


**Week 12 (November 25): Incarceration: Collateral Damage**


**Week 13 (December 2): Restorative Justice**


