

University of Ottawa
Criminology 1300B: Introduction to Criminology
Fall 2020 Semester
Mondays 11:30 am - 12:50 pm
Thursdays 1:00 pm - 2:20 pm
Location: Virtual Campus/Brightspace

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Office Hours: Thursdays, 11:00 am–12:30 pm, or by appointment. Office hours via Zoom for the fall 2020 semester. You can also contact me by email.

Official Course Description

Examines different conceptions of criminology and notions of crime and deviance; social problems and social control; functioning of the criminal justice system; crime statistics and public opinion; criminologist's role.

Course Objectives

By the end of this course, students will be able to explain and identify the significance¹ of major concepts, themes and issues within the field of criminology; describe different ways of conceptualizing and responding to crime and deviance in modern society; and compare and contrast different forms of criminal and social justice. Students will also discover varieties of criminology and criminological research at the University of Ottawa and beyond. The overall goal is to help students develop an understanding of the complex relationships between dominant notions of crime and criminals (how we think about crime) and how society responds (or does not respond) through law and other methods of control. In the process, students will gain valuable critical thinking and writing skills that are necessary for questioning dominant assumptions and beliefs about crime and punishment.

¹ "Significance" is used broadly in this course to indicate that students should be able to identify the relevance and impact of particular concepts, issues or themes within the field of criminology and/or for the criminal justice system, as well as critique various criminological theories and criminal justice policies that they are exposed to in the course.

Throughout this course students will be exposed to a range of criminological ideas, research, practice and policy. Week-by-week topics include: the meanings of criminology; understanding criminal and social justice; exploring conceptualizations of crime (What is crime? Who is a ‘criminal?’); the (ab)use of crime statistics; the nature and distribution of crime and delinquency; theoretical perspectives regarding the causes of crime; drug crime; prostitution; cybercrime; crimes of the powerful/corporate crime; issues of gender, race and ethnicity; wrongful convictions and criminal (in)justice; state and societal responses to crime; and future directions in criminology.

Teaching Method/Lecture Format

This course is normally taught using a blended format, combining required readings, videos posted on Brightspace, and in-class lectures, and exercises/discussions. However, given the circumstances of COVID-19, for the fall 2020 semester this course is almost entirely online, except for weekly optional online discussions/group exercises. Each module (or week) consists of 3 components: **1. Pre-class work:** required readings and videos (posted on Brightspace). Please complete your required readings and online videos (instructor lectures and interviews with Professors from the Department of Criminology) at the beginning of each module; **2. ‘In-class’ work:** each week, by the beginning of our Monday’s scheduled class time (11:30 am EST), the Professor will post PowerPoint slides on Brightspace, with audio, that covers material we would normally discuss in class, if we were meeting face-to-face. In addition, during our regular scheduled Thursday class time (1:00 – 2:20 pm EST) (with some exceptions noted below in your course schedule or with advanced notice via email), the Professor will host an online discussion via Zoom. These classes are **optional** (i.e. there is no requirement to attend) and will provide an opportunity for students to ask questions and take part in group discussions intended to help you further understand the course material. Please note that these online sessions will **not** be recorded. As well, to accommodate your online work (pre- and post-class) we will not be meeting for the entire time allotted for each week. Instead, the duration of our Thursday online meetings will vary depending on the volume of material in each module; **3. Post-class assessment:** a series of quizzes on Brightspace will provide further learning opportunities and allow students to self-gauge their comprehension of the course materials. These post-class assessments are part of your course requirements and are worth 10% of your overall grade. Further details regarding these activities can be found below in the section on “course requirements/evaluation.”

Required Texts/Readings

All course readings are available through the University library and on your Brightspace course page. For further details please consult the schedule and required readings below.

Teaching Assistants

Jasmine Kainth: jkain027@uottawa.ca.

Course Requirements/Evaluation

Online Assessments: 10%

Written Assignment: 20%

Mid-Term: 30%

Final Exam: 40%

1. **Online assessments (Modules 2-6 & 9-13): 10%**

Students must complete a series of online assessments (**10 in total**) that will help gauge your comprehension of the course readings and related course materials. These assessments consist of quizzes that are worth 1-point each (for a total of 10-points, or 10% of your final grade). You must complete each assessment by **11:59 pm EST of the Friday of the applicable module** (week) to receive a grade for this evaluation. You can re-take the assessment as many times as you like, until the due date for the specific module. Detailed instructions for each assessment, including due dates, are available on Brightspace under the relevant modules (modules 2-6 & 9-13).

2. **Written Assignment on wrongful convictions, racism, and the criminal justice system, due in class on Monday, November 16 (module 11): 20%**

Students must complete a written assignment on the topic of wrongful convictions (**maximum 1500 words**, approximately 5-6 pages, double-spaced, 12-point font) that involves reading articles, watching an online interview, viewing a film/documentary, and responding to a series of questions. The assignment is available on Brightspace and is due on November 16 (module 11). All assignments must be submitted via Brightspace on or before the due date. **There is a 1-point per day penalty for late assignments.**

3. **Mid-Term Exam, during lecture on Thursday, October 22 (module 7): 30%**

A 75-minute mid-term exam will be held online (via Brightspace) during lecture hours on October 23 (module 7). It will be based on all lectures and assigned readings from weeks 1 through 6. The exam will be a closed-book format and will include multiple choice questions, definitions/explanations and short-answer questions. **Please note:** this exam will be administered via Respondus LockDown Browser. Details regarding the use of this application, including downloading instructions, can be found here: <https://web.respondus.com/wp-content/uploads/2019/08/RLDB-Quick-Start-Guide-D2L-Student.pdf>. You must download the application before taking the exam.

4. **Final Exam, during the final exam period: 40%**

A 2.5 hour final exam will be held online (via Brightspace) during the final exam period and will consist of multiple choice questions, definitions/explanations and short-answer questions. It will cover lectures and assigned readings from the **entire semester** (including all films/documentaries), with a slight emphasis (60-70% of the exam) on

modules 9-14 (November 2 through December 9). The final exam will be a closed-book format. No external aids are permitted. **Please note:** this exam will be administered via Respondus LockDown Browser. Details regarding the use of this application, including downloading instructions, can be found here: <https://web.respondus.com/wp-content/uploads/2019/08/RLDB-Quick-Start-Guide-D2L-Student.pdf>. You must download the application before taking the exam.

A message about Respondus

Your mid-term and final exam will be administered through Respondus (please read the [FAQ](#), as well as the notice below, at the end of this course outline). The University of Ottawa has granted students the possibility of refusing to use this system. If you do not wish to write your exam using Respondus, you must either write your exam in person on campus (if you live within 100km from campus) or be supervised in another location. If you do not wish to write your exam through Respondus, you must advise your professor before the end of the third week of classes to allow for alternate arrangements. **NOTE:** For this course, we will **NOT** be using the Respondus Monitor during your mid-term or final exams. We will only use the Lockdown browser option.

Rules of the Course:

1. It is important that you complete all required readings **before** class.
2. **Please arrive on time (online, of course) and refrain from unnecessary or inappropriate use of the comments function in Zoom.**
3. To receive a mark in this course you must complete **all** of the course requirements. You cannot replace any exam or the assignment with alternative or additional work.
4. Please ensure that you adhere to the University's regulations concerning academic integrity when completing all assignments. Further information can be found at the end of this course outline and on the University's Academic Integrity website: <https://www.uottawa.ca/vice-president-academic/academic-integrity>

Exceptions: To be fair to everyone, **exceptions to these rules are permitted only on medical or compassionate grounds, with documentation** – an absence slip signed by a physician in the case of illness, or other verifiable documentation in other extreme circumstances. The request for deferral form is available online: <https://socialsciences.uottawa.ca/students/undergraduate-forms>

The University of Ottawa does not tolerate any form of sexual violence. Sexual violence refers to any act of sexual nature committed without consent, such as rape, sexual harassment or online harassment. The University, as well as student and employee associations, offers a full range of resources and services allowing members of our community to receive information and confidential assistance and providing for a procedure to report an incident or make a complaint. For more information, visit <https://www.uottawa.ca/sexual-violence-support-and-prevention/>

SCHEDULE AND REQUIRED WORK

Part I: Definitely NOT your average CSI course

MODULE 1:

Thursday, September 10

Introducing the field of criminology: What do you mean it's not about CSI?

- 1. Pre-class work:**
 - a. Pre-class reading:**
 - i. Christie, Nils (2004). Crime does not exist (pp. 1-12). In *A Suitable Amount of Crime*. London: Routledge.
 - b. Pre-class videos:**
 - i. Our modern obsession with crime
 - ii. Reasons for studying crime
 - iii. Crimes as a social construct
- 2. In-class work:**
 - a. PowerPoint Slides**
 - i. Yes (Posted by 11:30 am on Monday, September 7)
 - b. Optional online meeting**
 - i. Yes (Thursday during scheduled class time).
- 3. Post-class assessment:** None.

MODULE 2:

Monday, September 14 & Thursday, September 17

What is crime? Who is a criminal? We all know the answer already, right?

- 1. Pre-class work:**
 - a. Pre-class reading:**
 - i. Hulsman, Louk (1986). "Critical Criminology and the Concept of Crime." *Contemporary Crises* 10: 63-80.
 - b. Pre-class videos:**
 - i. The field of criminology
 - ii. Consensus versus conflict perspectives
 - iii. The world of criminology
 - iv. Interview with Professor Jon Frauley on the criminological imagination
- 2. In-class work:**
 - a. PowerPoint Slides**
 - i. Yes (Posted by 11:30 am on Monday, September 14)
 - b. Optional online meeting**

- i. Yes (Thursday during scheduled class time).

3. **Post-class assessment:** Available on Brightspace.

MODULE 3: Monday, September 21 & Thursday, September 24

If it's not about CSI then what do criminologists do?

1. Pre-class work:

a. Pre-class reading:

- i. Garland, David (2011). Criminology's Place in the Academic Field (pp. 298-317). In M. Bosworth & C. Hoyle (eds.) *What is Criminology?* Oxford Online.

b. Pre-class videos:

- i. What is the meaning of justice?
- ii. Crime, law, and criminal justice
- iii. Interview with Professor Justin Piché on the problems with punishment

2. In-class work:

a. PowerPoint Slides

- i. Yes (Posted by 11:30 am on Monday, September 21)

b. Optional online meeting

- i. Yes (Thursday during scheduled class time).

3. **Post-class assessment:** Available on Brightspace.

MODULE 4: Monday, September 28 & Thursday, October 1

Lies, damned lies & statistics: The nature & distribution of crime in Canada

1. Pre-class work:

a. Pre-class reading:

- i. Kitsuse, John I. and Cicourel, Aaron V. (1963). "A Note on the uses of Official Statistics," *Social Problems*, Vol. 11, No. 2 (Autumn, 1963), pp. 131-139.

b. Pre-class videos:

- i. Understanding official crime statistics
- ii. Alternatives to official statistics
- iii. Interview with Megan Mitchell, PhD candidate, on interpreting crime statistics

2. **In-class work:**
 - a. **PowerPoint Slides**
 - i. Yes (Posted by 11:30 am on Monday, September 28)
 - b. **Optional online meeting**
 - i. Yes (Thursday during scheduled class time).
3. **Post-class assessment:** Available on Brightspace.

Part II: The making of the “zoology of the social subspecies”

MODULE 5: Monday, October 5 & Thursday, October 8

Criminological research I: Peering inside the individual (the mad, bad, and sick)

1. **Pre-class work:**
 - a. **Pre-class readings:**
 - i. Rocque, Michael, Brandon Welsh and Adrian Raine (2012). “Biosocial Criminology and Modern Crime Prevention.” *Journal of Criminal Justice*, 40: 306-312.
 - ii. Lombroso, Cesare (1876). *Criminal Man*, chapter 3 on Tattoos (7 pages).
 - b. **Pre-class video:**
 - i. Understanding Classical and Positivist Schools of Criminology
2. **In-class work:**
 - a. **PowerPoint Slides**
 - i. Yes (Posted by 11:30 am on Monday, October 5)
 - b. **Optional online meeting**
 - i. Yes (Thursday during scheduled class time).
3. **Post-class assessment:** Available on Brightspace.

Monday, October 12 – Thanksgiving

MODULE 6:

Thursday, October 15

Criminological research II: Group, social and structural explanations of crime and deviance

1. **Pre-class work:**
 - a. **Pre-class readings:**
 - i. Becker, Howard (1963). “Outsiders: Defining Deviance” from *The Outsiders: Studies in the Sociology of Deviance*, 1963, pp. 1–18. The Free Press.
 - ii. Liazos, Alexander (1972). “The Poverty of the Sociology of Deviance: Nuts, Sluts and Preverts” *Social Problems*, 20(1): 103-120.
 - b. **Pre-class videos:**
 - i. Conflict Perspectives
 - ii. Labelling Theory
 - iii. Interview with Professor David Moffette on labelling theory
2. **In-class work:**
 - a. **PowerPoint Slides**
 - i. Yes (Posted by 11:30 am on Tuesday, October 12 [Monday is a holiday])
 - b. **Optional online meeting**
 - i. Yes (Thursday during scheduled class time).
3. **Post-class assessment:** Available on Brightspace.

MODULE 7

Monday, October 19 & Thursday, October 22

Mid-term Examination

There are no pre-class readings, in-class work or assessments for this week

Midterm Examination: Thursday, October 22

The midterm examination will take place online (On Brightspace) during the lecture hours on Thursday, October 22, 2022. **It will be worth 30% of your overall grade.** It will be based on lectures and readings from weeks one through eight (September 5 through October 21). This exam will follow a closed-book format, meaning no outside aids will be permitted, and will be administered via Respondus Lockdown Browser. You must download the application before taking the exam.

MODULE 8:**Monday, October 26 & Thursday, October 29****NO CLASSES – STUDY WEEK****MODULE 9:****Monday, November 2 & Thursday, November 5****Criminological research III:****Critiquing the status quo (conflict, Marxist and feminist perspectives)**

1. **Pre-class work:**
 - a. **Pre-class readings:**
 - i. Spitzer, Steven (1975). Toward a Marxian Theory of Deviance, *Social Problems*, 22(5): 638-651.
 - ii. Smart, Carol (1977). “Criminological Theory: Its Ideology and Implications concerning Women” *The British Journal of Sociology*, 28(1): 89-100.
 - b. **Pre-class videos:**
 - i. Critical/Radical Theories
 - ii. Interview with Professor Jennifer Kilty on feminism and criminology
2. **In-class work:**
 - a. **PowerPoint Slides**
 - i. Yes (Posted by 11:30 am on Monday, November 2)
 - b. **Optional online meeting**
 - i. Yes (Thursday during scheduled class time).
3. **Post-class assessment:** Available on Brightspace.

Part III: What are those professors up to anyway? **Criminology at University of Ottawa and beyond**

MODULE 10: Monday, November 9 & Thursday, November 12

Experiences of crime I: Inequality, drug crime and the criminalization of sex

- 1. Pre-class work:**
 - a. Pre-class reading:**
 - i. Alexandre, Michelle (2009). "Sex, Drugs, Rock & Roll and Moral Dirigisme: Toward a Reformation of Drug and Prostitution Regulations." *UMKC Law Review*, 78(1): 101-137.
 - b. Pre-class video:**
 - i. Interview with Professor Christine Bruckert on sex work and the law
- 2. In-class work:**
 - a. PowerPoint Slides**
 - i. Yes (Posted by 11:30 am on Monday, November 9)
 - b. Optional online meeting**
 - i. Yes (Thursday during scheduled class time).
- 3. Post-class assessment:** Available on Brightspace.

MODULE 11: Monday, November 16 & Thursday, November 19

Experiences of crime II: Exploring cybercrime

- 1. Pre-class work:**
 - a. Pre-class reading:**
 - i. Holt, Thomas J. and Adam M. Bossler (2014). "An Assessment of the Current State of Cybercrime Scholarship." *Deviant Behaviour*, 35: 20-40.
 - b. Pre-class videos:**
 - i. Interview with Professor Valerie Steeves on cybercrime
- 2. In-class work:**
 - a. PowerPoint Slides**
 - i. Yes (Posted by 11:30 am on Monday, November 16)
 - b. Optional online meeting**
 - i. Yes (Thursday during scheduled class time).

3. **Post-class assessment:** Available on Brightspace.

ASSIGNMENT DUE: Your written assignment is due on **Monday, November 16**, at the latest. You must **submit your assignment via Brightspace**.
One-point per day deduction for late submissions.

MODULE 12: Monday, November 23 & Thursday, November 26

**Experiences of crime III:
Crimes of the Powerful (white-collar, corporate, and political crimes)**

1. **Pre-class work:**
 - a. **Pre-class reading:**
 - i. Rothe, Dawn and David Kauzralich (2016). “An Introduction to Crimes of the Powerful” (pp. 3-17) from *Crimes of the Powerful: An Introduction*. New York and London: Routledge.
 - b. Pre-class videos:
 - i. To be announced
2. **In-class work:**
 - a. **PowerPoint Slides**
 - i. Yes (Posted by 11:30 am on Monday, November 23)
 - b. **Optional online meeting**
 - i. Yes (Thursday during scheduled class time).
3. **Post-class assessment:** Available on Brightspace.

MODULE 13: Monday, November 30 & Thursday, December 3

The futures of crime and criminology

1. **Pre-class work:**
 - a. **Pre-class reading:**
 - i. Hillyard, Paddy and Steve Tombs. (2004). “Beyond Criminology?” (pp. 10-29) In P. Hillyard, C. Pantazis, and S. Tombs (eds.) *Beyond Criminology: Taking Harm Seriously*. Fernwood Publishing.
 - b. **Pre-class video:**
 - i. None
2. **In-class work:**
 - a. **PowerPoint Slides**
 - i. Yes (Posted by 11:30 am on Monday, November 30)

- b. **Optional online meeting**
 - i. Yes (Thursday during scheduled class time).
- 3. **Post-class assessment:** Available on Brightspace.

MODULE 14: Monday, December 7 & Wednesday, December 9

Review

There are no pre-class readings, videos or assessments for this week. I will host an online review (question and answer period) on Monday, December 7. There will be no online class held on December 9.

FINAL EXAMINATION:

The final examination will be worth 40% of your overall course grade. It will last 2.5 hours & be held online (via Brightspace) during the final exam period. The exam will be based on lectures & readings from the entire semester, with a slight emphasis (60-70%) on weeks 9-14 (November 2 through December 9).

THE EXAM WILL FOLLOW A CLOSED-BOOK FORMAT. THIS MEANS NO EXTERNAL AIDS ARE PERMITTED. IT WILL BE ADMINISTERED VIA RESPONDUS LOCKDOWN BROWSER. YOU MUST DOWNLOAD THE APPLICATION BEFORE TAKING THE EXAM.

Notice of Collection of Personal Information - Respondus

In accordance with the Ontario [Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act](#) (“FIPPA”) and with the University of Ottawa (the “University”) [Policy 90](#), your personal information is collected under the authority of the *University of Ottawa Act*, 1965.

The University will use your personal information collected for remote proctoring for purposes that are consistent with the fulfillment of course learning activities, the administration of online exams and the maintenance of the academic integrity of the exam process. After each evaluation, your instructor (or their designate) will review the personal information collected during your remote proctoring session for the purposes stated above. The personal information collected may be used when academic fraud is alleged as described in [Academic regulation I-14 - Academic fraud](#).

Remote proctoring is supported by Respondus, an online proctoring tool integrated into and accessible via Brightspace. LockDown Browser is a customized browser that locks the testing environment and Respondus Monitor is a companion service for LockDown Browser that uses webcam technology to maintain the integrity of online evaluations. Consult the Respondus [Privacy Policy](#) and [Terms of Use - LockDown Browser](#) or [Terms of Use - Respondus Monitor](#) and or for information on how Respondus collects, uses and discloses information and its security measures for safeguarding the information it stores. Personal information may be stored outside Canada and is subject to the laws of the jurisdiction where it is stored. Information collected in accordance with this notice will be retained for one year, starting from the end of the semester.

If you have questions about the collection, use and disclosure of your personal information in this notice, please contact your instructor. Please address questions of a general nature regarding the collection, use and disclosure of information to the Chief Privacy Officer by email at aipo@uottawa.ca.

Be aware of academic fraud!

1. Academic fraud is an act by a student that may result in a false academic evaluation of the student's work (tests, assignments, exams, etc.). The University does not tolerate academic fraud. Severe sanctions may be imposed on anyone found guilty of committing academic fraud.

Examples of academic fraud include presenting falsified research data; submitting an assignment that is not your own work; handing in, without prior written approval of the professor(s) concerned, the same work in more than one course.

The Internet has made it very easy to detect cases of plagiarism since, with just a few words entered in a search engine, professors can quickly located original sources of plagiarized work.

For more information on academic fraud and how to avoid it, please check the academic integrity section of the [Faculty's website for tips and advice on writing university papers](#).

Anyone who commits or attempts to commit academic fraud, or who is a party to such fraud, will be penalized. Here are some examples of sanctions for academic fraud:

- A grade of F for the assignment or course in question
- A requirement to complete an additional credits (3 to 30 credits) in order to graduate
- Suspension or expulsion from the Faculty

For full details, please consult [academic regulation 14 on academic fraud](#).