

SOC*1500: CRIME AND CRIMINAL JUSTICE
University of Guelph
Department of Sociology and Anthropology

Fall 2024

Section 01: Tuesday/Thursday 2:30-4:00pm, WMEM-103 (War Memorial Hall)

Instructor: Dr. Andrew D. Nevin | anevin@uoguelph.ca

SOC*1500 offers an introduction to criminology as the scientific study of crime and deviance. The overall goal of this course is to encourage students to adopt a critical lens toward the everyday and media-driven narratives of law making and law breaking in Canadian society. Students will first learn about the historical foundations of the field and how criminologists have gone about defining, measuring, and explaining a wide range of criminal behaviours. We will highlight the diverse schools of thought in criminology, while discussing the strengths, limitations, and policy implications stemming from different theoretical perspectives about the causes of crime. The second part of the course will address important issues in the administration of criminal justice, including paradigms of prevention, punishment, and rehabilitation, as well as topics such as policing, courts and the legal system, corrections, and other institutional responses to offending and victimization. By applying a critical sociological perspective, we will also consider how the criminal justice system intersects with (and impacts people along lines of) age, gender, socioeconomic status, and race/ethnicity. Throughout the semester, we will predominantly situate our learning of crime and criminal justice within the contexts of Canada and the United States.

This course has several learning outcomes. By the end of the semester, students will be able to:

- Demonstrate knowledge of core concepts and debates in the field of criminology related to the definition, causes, correlates, and consequences of crime
- Apply course material beyond the classroom to observations in the real world, and use empirical evidence to critically evaluate common narratives of crime and criminal justice
- Compare and contrast important classical and contemporary criminological theories according to their main assumptions and mechanisms
- Draw connections between various explanations for crime and the ways that crime has been addressed in policy and practice
- Develop a broader and deeper understanding of the key processes and players within the Canadian criminal justice system
- Critically reflect on the social structure and social relations underlying criminal justice approaches, as well as their impacts on individuals and communities
- Cultivate skills for effective written communication, respectful discussion, studying, and time management

This course involves in-person lectures and there will be participation opportunities during lectures and on CourseLink discussion boards throughout the semester. Students' grades will be determined based on a combination of 2-3 in-class tests (multiple-choice and short answer questions; non-cumulative) and 2-3 written assignments that will be submitted online by the listed due dates. Course readings are TBD.

Please note that this draft outline is for informational purposes only and a complete course syllabus will be provided via CourseLink on the first day of classes. As such, the room location and assessment structure are subject to change prior to finalizing the syllabus in September.