

## MAKING & BREAKING RULES (SOCPSY 2D03) Summer 2023

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**Lecture:** Online  
**Office Hours:** By Appointment

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## **Course Description**

This course will introduce students to the study of crime and criminal behaviour. It is divided into three major sections. The first section will define the concept of crime, discuss the process of law creation, and review the various methodologies used by criminologists in their research. The second section is devoted to various theories of crime causation. The final section will explore special topics that have received considerable attention from criminologists, sociologists, and social psychologists.

## **Course Objectives**

By the end of the course students should be able to:

- Understand the major theories used to explain crime and criminal behaviour
- Understand how crime is defined and quantified by various actors and institutions within and beyond the criminal justice system
- Understand the research methods used in studying crime and criminal justice institutions
- Think critically about academic research and news media depictions of crime, criminals, and victims

## **Required Materials and Texts**

1) Siegel, Larry and Chris McCormick. 2019. *Criminology in Canada: Theories, Patterns, and Typologies – 7<sup>th</sup> Edition*. Toronto: Nelson.

- NOTE: A more affordable e-text version of this book is available at the Campus Store website via the following link: <https://campusstore.mcmaster.ca/cgi-mcm/ws/txsub.pl?wsTERMG1=211&wsDEPTG1=SOCPSY&wsCOURSEG1=2D03&wsSECTIONG1=DAY%20C01&crit cnt=1>

2) Additional course readings will be posted on Avenue to Learn

*N.B. Students should be aware that, when accessing electronic components of this course, private information such as first and last names, user names for the McMaster e-mail accounts, and program affiliation may become apparent to all other students in the same course. The available information is dependent on the technology used. Continuation in this course will be deemed consent to this disclosure. If you have any questions or concerns about such disclosure please discuss this with the course instructor*

## **Class Format**

This class will be delivered through a mix of asynchronous and synchronous components. I will post weekly, pre-recorded lectures on Avenue to Learn. You can view these lectures at your leisure. I will be holding virtual “office hours” by appointment via Zoom. To schedule a meeting, please email me and I will send you a personalized Zoom link for a

date and time that works for both of us. I will also host a few “pop-in Zoom sessions” throughout the term, which will be optional but a great way for you to connect with your instructor and other students in the course—more details on this to follow.

### **Course Evaluation – Overview**

1. Test 1 (35%): Friday, July 7<sup>th</sup>
2. Test 2 (35%): Friday, July 21<sup>st</sup>
3. Test 3 (30%): Friday, Aug 4<sup>th</sup>

### **Course Evaluation – Details**

#### **Test 1 (35%): Friday, July 7<sup>th</sup>**

This test will consist of multiple-choice questions. It will assess your knowledge of the lecture material and assigned readings for WEEKS 1 and 2 of the course. It will be held on Avenue to Learn from 9:30am-11:00am on Friday, July 7<sup>th</sup>. More detailed information about the structure of the test will be communicated via email.

#### **Test 2 (35%): Friday, July 21<sup>st</sup>**

This test will consist of multiple-choice questions. It will assess your knowledge of the lecture material and assigned readings for WEEKS 4 and 5 of the course. It will be held on Avenue to Learn from 9:30am-11:00am on Friday, July 21<sup>st</sup>. More detailed information about the structure of the test will be communicated via email.

#### **Test 3 (30%): Friday, August 4<sup>th</sup>**

This examination will consist of multiple-choice questions. It will assess your knowledge of the lecture material and assigned readings for WEEKS 6 to 7 of the course. It will be held on Avenue to Learn from 9:30am-11:00am on Friday, August 4<sup>th</sup>. More detailed information about the structure of the test will be communicated via email.

#### **NOTE:**

- The tests and exams in this course are NON-CUMULATIVE.
- All test grades will be returned to you via Avenue to Learn in a timely fashion.

## **Weekly Course Schedule and Required Readings**

### **MODULE I**

#### **Week 1: June 19 – June 23**

**Introduction: What is Criminology? What is the Criminal Law?**

Readings: Siegel and McCormick Textbook: Chapters 1 and 2

**Defining & Measuring Crime**

Readings: Siegel and McCormick Textbook: Chapter 3

#### **Week 2: June 26 – June 30**

**Choice Theories: Classical Criminology & Rational Choice**

Readings: Siegel and McCormick Textbook: Chapter 5

**Trait Theories: Biology & Psychology**

Readings: Siegel and McCormick Textbook: Chapter 6

#### **Week 3: July 3 – July 7**

**\*\*\*TEST 1 (35%): July 7<sup>th</sup>**

### **MODULE II**

#### **Week 4: July 10 – July 14**

**Social Structure Theories: Economics & Social Strain**

Readings: Siegel and McCormick Textbook: Chapter 7

**Social Process Theories (I): Social Learning**

Readings:

Siegel and McCormick Textbook: Chapter 8 (pp. 246-259)

Baerveldt, Volker & Van Rossem (2008) "Revisiting selection and influence: An inquiry into the friendship networks of high school students and their associations with delinquency." *Canadian Journal of Criminology & Criminal Justice* 50: 559-588.

#### **Week 5: July 17 – July 21**

**Social Process Theories (II): Social Control & Labelling**

Readings:

Siegel and McCormick Textbook: Chapter 8 (pp. 259-280)

Bernburg, Gunner and Krohn. (2003). "Labelling, life chances and adult crime." *Criminology* 41: 1287-1318.

**\*\*\*TEST 2 (35%): July 21<sup>st</sup>**

### **MODULE III**

#### **Week 6: July 24 – July 28**

##### **Social Conflict Theories: Critical Criminology and Crimes of Power**

Readings:

Siegel and McCormick Textbook: Chapter 9

Siegel and McCormick Textbook: Chapter 12 (pp. 383-405)

##### **Gender & Racial Bias in the Criminal Justice System**

Readings:

Kruttschnitt, Candace, Rosemary Gartner and Jeannette Hussemann. 2008. "Female Violent Offenders: Moral Panics or More Serious Offenders." *The Australian and New Zealand Journal of Criminology* 41 (1): 9-35.

Wortley, Scot and Akwasi Owusu-Bempah. 2012. "Race, Ethnicity, Crime and Criminal Justice in Canada." Pp. 11-40 in Anita Kalunta-Crumpton (Ed.). *Race, Ethnicity, Crime and Criminal Justice in the Americas*. New York: Palgrave Macmillan.

#### **Week 7: July 31 – Aug 4**

##### **Gangs & Public Order Crimes**

Readings: Siegel and McCormick Textbook: Chapter 13

**\*\*\*TEST 3 (30%): Aug 4<sup>th</sup>**

## **Course Policies**

### **Avenue to Learn**

In this course we will be using Avenue to Learn. Students should be aware that, when they access the electronic components of this course, private information such as first and last names, user names for the McMaster e-mail accounts, and program affiliation may become apparent to all other students in the same course. The available information is dependent on the technology used. Continuation in this course will be deemed consent to this disclosure. If you have any questions or concerns about such disclosure please discuss this with the course instructor.

## **University Policies**

### **ACADEMIC INTEGRITY**

You are expected to exhibit honesty and use ethical behaviour in all aspects of the learning process. Academic credentials you earn are rooted in principles of honesty and academic integrity. It is your responsibility to understand what constitutes academic dishonesty.

Academic dishonesty is to knowingly act or fail to act in a way that results or could result in unearned academic credit or advantage. This behaviour can result in serious consequences, e.g. the grade of zero on an assignment, loss of credit with a notation on the transcript (notation reads: "Grade of F assigned for academic dishonesty"), and/or suspension or expulsion from the university. For information on the various types of academic dishonesty please refer to the [Academic Integrity Policy](https://secretariat.mcmaster.ca/university-policies-procedures-guidelines/), located at <https://secretariat.mcmaster.ca/university-policies-procedures-guidelines/>

The following illustrates only three forms of academic dishonesty:

- plagiarism, e.g. the submission of work that is not one's own or for which other credit has been obtained.
- improper collaboration in group work.
- copying or using unauthorized aids in tests and examinations.

### **AUTHENTICITY / PLAGIARISM DETECTION**

Some courses may use a web-based service (Turnitin.com) to reveal authenticity and ownership of student submitted work. For courses using such software, students will be expected to submit their work electronically either directly to Turnitin.com or via an online learning platform (e.g. Avenue to Learn, etc.) using plagiarism detection (a service supported by Turnitin.com) so it can be checked for academic dishonesty.

Students who do not wish their work to be submitted through the plagiarism detection software must inform the Instructor before the assignment is due. No penalty will be assigned to a student who does not submit work to the plagiarism detection software. All submitted work is subject to normal verification that standards of academic integrity

have been upheld (e.g., on-line search, other software, etc.). For more details about McMaster's use of Turnitin.com please go to [www.mcmaster.ca/academicintegrity](http://www.mcmaster.ca/academicintegrity).

## **COURSES WITH AN ON-LINE ELEMENT**

Some courses may use on-line elements (e.g. e-mail, Avenue to Learn, LearnLink, web pages, capa, Moodle, ThinkingCap, etc.). Students should be aware that, when they access the electronic components of a course using these elements, private information such as first and last names, user names for the McMaster e-mail accounts, and program affiliation may become apparent to all other students in the same course. The available information is dependent on the technology used. Continuation in a course that uses on-line elements will be deemed consent to this disclosure. If you have any questions or concerns about such disclosure please discuss this with the course instructor.

## **ONLINE PROCTORING**

Some courses may use online proctoring software for tests and exams. This software may require students to turn on their video camera, present identification, monitor and record their computer activities, and/or lock/restrict their browser or other applications/software during tests or exams. This software may be required to be installed before the test/exam begins.

## **CONDUCT EXPECTATIONS**

As a McMaster student, you have the right to experience, and the responsibility to demonstrate, respectful and dignified interactions within all of our living, learning and working communities. These expectations are described in the Code of Student Rights & Responsibilities (the "Code"). All students share the responsibility of maintaining a positive environment for the academic and personal growth of all McMaster community members, whether in person or online.

It is essential that students be mindful of their interactions online, as the Code remains in effect in virtual learning environments. The Code applies to any interactions that adversely affect, disrupt, or interfere with reasonable participation in University activities. Student disruptions or behaviours that interfere with university functions on online platforms (e.g. use of Avenue 2 Learn, WebEx or Zoom for delivery), will be taken very seriously and will be investigated. Outcomes may include restriction or removal of the involved students' access to these platforms.

## **ACADEMIC ACCOMMODATION OF STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES**

Students with disabilities who require academic accommodation must contact [Student Accessibility Services](mailto:sas@mcmaster.ca) (SAS) at 905-525-9140 ext. 28652 or [sas@mcmaster.ca](mailto:sas@mcmaster.ca) to make



arrangements with a Program Coordinator. For further information, consult McMaster University's [Academic Accommodation of Students with Disabilities](#) policy.

## **REQUESTS FOR RELIEF FOR MISSED ACADEMIC TERM WORK**

In the event of an absence for medical or other reasons, students should review and follow the Policy on Requests for Relief for Missed Academic Term Work.3

## **ACADEMIC ACCOMMODATION FOR RELIGIOUS, INDIGENOUS OR SPIRITUAL OBSERVANCES (RISO)**

Students requiring academic accommodation based on religious, indigenous or spiritual observances should follow the procedures set out in the RISO policy. Students should submit their request to their Faculty Office normally within 10 working days of the beginning of term in which they anticipate a need for accommodation or to the Registrar's Office prior to their examinations. Students should also contact their instructors as soon as possible to make alternative arrangements for classes, assignments, and tests.

## **COPYRIGHT AND RECORDING**

Students are advised that lectures, demonstrations, performances, and any other course material provided by an instructor include copyright protected works. The Copyright Act and copyright law protect every original literary, dramatic, musical and artistic work, including lectures by University instructors

The recording of lectures, tutorials, or other methods of instruction may occur during a course. Recording may be done by either the instructor for the purpose of authorized distribution, or by a student for the purpose of personal study. Students should be aware that their voice and/or image may be recorded by others during the class. Please speak with the instructor if this is a concern for you.

## **EXTREME CIRCUMSTANCES**

The University reserves the right to change the dates and deadlines for any or all courses in extreme circumstances (e.g., severe weather, labour disruptions, etc.). Changes will be communicated through regular McMaster communication channels, such as McMaster Daily News, Avenue to Learn and/or McMaster email.

## **Faculty of Social Sciences E-mail Communication Policy**

Effective September 1, 2010, it is the policy of the Faculty of Social Sciences that all e-mail communication sent from students to instructors (including TAs), and from students to staff, must originate from the student's own McMaster University e-mail account. This policy protects confidentiality and confirms the identity of the student. It is the student's

responsibility to ensure that communication is sent to the university from a McMaster account. If an instructor becomes aware that a communication has come from an alternate address, the instructor may not reply at his or her discretion.

### **Course Modification**

The instructor and university reserve the right to modify elements of the course during the term. The university may change the dates and deadlines for any or all courses in extreme circumstances. If either type of modification becomes necessary, reasonable notice and communication with the students will be given with explanation and the opportunity to comment on changes. It is the responsibility of the student to check his/her McMaster email and course websites weekly during the term and to note any changes.

### **Grades**

Grades will be based on the McMaster University grading scale:

<b>MARK</b>	<b>GRADE</b>
90-100	A+
85-89	A
80-84	A-
77-79	B+
73-76	B
70-72	B-
67-69	C+
63-66	C
60-62	C-
57-59	D+
53-56	D
50-52	D-
0-49	F