

REGIMES OF SOCIAL CONTROL (SOCPSY 3C03) FALL 2023

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Lecture: Mondays: 2:30pm - 5:20pm

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Contents

Course Description.....	3
Course Objectives.....	3
Required Materials and Texts	3
Class Format.....	4
Course Evaluation – Overview	4
Course Evaluation – Details	4
Midterm Test (35%) – AVENUE TO LEARN – Monday, October 16 th	4
Written Assignment (30%), Monday, November 4 th	4
Prison Conference Assignment (5%), Monday, December 4 th	4
Final Exam (30%) – TBD by Registrar.....	5
Weekly Course Schedule and Required Readings	5
Week 1 (Mon, Sept 11).....	5
Week 2 (Mon, Sept 18).....	5
Week 3 (Mon, Sept 25).....	6
Week 4 (Mon, Oct 2).....	6
Week 5 (Mon, Oct 9): ***Fall Break*** NO CLASS ***	6
Week 6 (Mon, Oct 16).....	6
Week 7 (Mon, Oct 23).....	6
Week 8 (Mon, Oct 30).....	7
Week 9 (Mon, Nov 6).....	7
Week 10 (Mon, Nov 13): *** NO CLASS ***	7
Week 11 (Mon, Nov 20).....	7
Week 12 (Mon, Nov 27).....	8
Week 13 (Mon, Dec 4).....	8
Course Policies	9
Submission of Assignments.....	9

Grades.....	9
Late Assignments	9
Avenue to Learn	9
Turnitin.com.....	10
University Policies	10
Academic Integrity Statement.....	10
Conduct Expectations.....	10
Academic Accommodation of Students with Disabilities.....	11
Requests for Relief for Missed Academic Term Work	11
Academic Accommodation for Religious, Indigenous or Spiritual Observances (RISO)	11
Copyright and Recording	11
Extreme Circumstances.....	12

Course Description

This course examines the function of social control and its impact on individuals and groups in society. We will learn about the theoretical foundations of social control and its intimate relationship to crime and deviance. We will also discuss the various ways that social control permeates the lives of some of society's most vulnerable populations—e.g., people experiencing homelessness, people who use drugs, drug dealers, gang members, and incarcerated people. Each week, students will be exposed to the unique challenges faced by members of these groups, with class materials and discussions focusing on how state and non-state actors and institutions (including police, courts, prisons, and welfare agencies) contribute to the stigmatization and marginalization of group members. This course will engage students through interactive lectures and group activities.

Course Objectives

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

- Understand the theoretical underpinnings of the concept of social control.
- Gain a critical understanding of how social control functions in society.
- Understand how various forms of social control operate and how various actors, institutions, and agencies (including the police, courts, prisons, and social welfare agencies) enforce order and maintain social control over vulnerable populations.
- Gain a deeper understanding of the lived experiences of marginalized groups, including people experiencing homelessness, people who use drugs, drug dealers, gang members, and incarcerated people.
- Develop the capacity for groupwork through collaborative assignments.
- Hone their writing and critical reading skills through coursework.

Required Materials and Texts

Readings will consist primarily of journal articles and book chapters, which will be available on Avenue to Learn. If you are unable to access the course shell, please contact your instructor to enroll you. Please check the website frequently for class announcements and other important information.

In addition, students are to secure a copy of **one** of the following books, which will serve as the basis of a book critique:

- Bourgois, Philippe. 1995. *In Search of Respect: Selling Crack in El Barrio*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.
- Bourgois, Philippe, and Jeffrey Schonberg. 2009. *Righteous Dopefiend: Homelessness, Addiction, and Poverty in Urban America*. Berkeley: University of California Press.
- Bucerius, Sandra M. 2014. *Unwanted: Muslim Immigrants, Dignity, and Drug Dealing*. New York: Oxford University Press.
- Stuart, Forrest. 2016. *Down, Out, and Under Arrest: Policing and Everyday Life in Skid Row*. Chicago: University of Chicago Press.

- Venkatesh, Sudhir A. 2006. *Off the Books: The Underground Economy of the Urban Poor*. Cambridge: Harvard University Press.

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 in person. The classroom will become our learning community. I expect each of you to complete the readings prior to class, and come prepared to discuss the material, ask questions, and participate in class discussions. To learn with and from each other, it is important that keep an open mind – ready to share ideas and experiences. The rule is that we always do this in a respectful manner.

Course Evaluation – Overview

1. Midterm Test (35%): Monday, October 16
2. Group-based Book Critique (35%): Monday, November 6th
3. Prison Conference Reflection (5%): Monday, December 4th
4. Final Exam (30%): TBD by University

Course Evaluation – Details

Midterm Test (35%) – AVENUE TO LEARN – Monday, October 16th

This test will consist of multiple-choice, true/false, and/or short answer/essay questions. It will assess your knowledge of lecture material and assigned readings, and will cover Weeks 1, 2, 3, and 4 of the course.

Written Assignment (30%), Monday, November 4th

This assignment requires you to read one of the books from the list above. In week 2 of the course, you will submit your top three choices of books to our TA, who will pair you with another student reading a different book. Together, you and your partner will write an 8 to 10 page (not including references) comparative book critique. The structure of the critique will be discussed in class. Each group will submit one assignment to the instructor for grading. Formatting should be 12-point font, Times New Roman, double space, one-inch margins. See below for late policies.

Prison Conference Assignment (5%), Monday, December 4th

The Centre for Criminological Research at the University of Alberta held a free virtual conference on “Prisons & Punishment” in November 2020. The conference was recorded and is available on YouTube. The keynote speaker was Dr. David Garland, an expert on

punishment and social control, and others from our syllabus also presented their work. This assignment requires you watch two sessions of your choosing and answer a set of questions that will be posted on A2L closer to the due date of the final assignment. The assignment will be 2 pages, 12-point font, Times New Roman, double space, one-inch margins.

Final Exam (30%) – TBD by Registrar

This test will consist of multiple-choice, true/false, and/or short answer/essay questions. The final exam will not be cumulative – it will only test your knowledge of lecture material and assigned readings from Weeks 7, 8, 9, 11, and 13 of the course.

Weekly Course Schedule and Required Readings

Week 1 (Mon, Sept 11)

Introduction: Social Control, Deviance, and Disorder

Readings:

Janowitz, Morris. 1975. "Sociological Theory and Social Control".
American Journal of Sociology, 81(1), 82-108.

Kelling, George L. and James Q. Wilson. 1982. "Broken Windows: The
Police and Neighborhood Safety." *Atlantic Magazine* March: 29-38.

Sampson, Robert J. and Stephen W. Raudenbush. 2004. "Seeing
Disorder: Neighborhood Stigma and the Social Construction of 'Broken
Windows'". *Social Psychology Quarterly* 67(4):319-342.

Week 2 (Mon, Sept 18)

Regulating the Urban Poor

Readings:

Massey, Douglas and Nancy Denton. 1998. *American Apartheid:
Segregation and the Making of the Underclass*, "Chapter 1: The Missing
Link". Harvard University Press, pp. 1-16.

Wacquant, L. 2010. Urban Desolation and Symbolic Denigration in the
Hyperghetto. *Social Psychology Quarterly*, 73(3): 215-219.

Anderson, Elijah. 1994. "The Code of the Streets." *The Atlantic Monthly*
273(5): 80-94.

Week 3 (Mon, Sept 25)

People Experiencing Homelessness

Readings:

Snow, D. A., Baker, S. G., & Anderson, L. 1989. "Criminality and Homeless Men: An Empirical Assessment". *Social Problems*, 36(5): 532-549.

Stuart, Forrest. 2016. "Becoming "Copwise": Policing, Culture, and the Collateral Consequences of Street-Level Criminalization." *Law & Society Review* 50(2): 279-313.

Week 4 (Mon, Oct 2)

People Who Use Drugs

Readings:

Becker, Howard S. 1963. *Outsiders: Studies in the Sociology of Deviance*. New York: The Free Press of Glencoe, "Marihuana Use and Social Control", pp. 59-72.

Bourgois, Philippe. 1998. "Just Another Night in a Shooting Gallery". *Theory, Culture & Society*, 15 (2): 37-66

Week 5 (Mon, Oct 9): *Fall Break*** NO CLASS *****

Week 6 (Mon, Oct 16)

Midterm Test

Week 7 (Mon, Oct 23)

Gang Members and Informal Social Control

Readings:

Bourgois, Philippe. 1995. "The Political Economy of Resistance and Self-Destruction in the Crack Economy". *Annals of the New York Academy of Sciences*, 749(1): 97-118.

Pattillo, Mary. 1998. "Sweet Mothers and Gangbangers: Managing Crime in a Black Middle-Class Neighborhood." *Social Forces* 76: 747-774.

Sampson, Robert J. Stephen W. Raudenbush, and Felton Earls. 2017. "Collective Efficacy and Crime" in *Criminological Theory: Past to Present*,

Essential Readings, eds. Francis T. Cullen and Robert Agnew. New York: Oxford University Press.

Week 8 (Mon, Oct 30)

Prisons, Punishment, and Social Control

Readings:

Sykes, Gresham. 1958. *The Society of Captives: A Study of a Maximum-Security Prison*. New Jersey: Princeton University Press, "Introduction", pp. xi - xx.

Wacquant, Loïc. 2001. "Deadly Symbiosis: When Prison and Ghetto Meet and Mesh." *Punishment & Society* 3:95-133.

Week 9 (Mon, Nov 6)

Correctional Officers

Readings:

Sykes, Gresham. 1958. *The Society of Captives: A Study of a Maximum-Security Prison*. New Jersey: Princeton University Press, "The Regime of the Custodians", pp. 13-39.

Crawley, Elaine M. 2004. "Emotion and Performance: Prison Officers and the Presentation of Self in Prisons." *Punishment & Society*, 6(4): 411-427.

Notes: *Written Assignment Due*

Week 10 (Mon, Nov 13): * NO CLASS *****

Week 11 (Mon, Nov 20)

Incarcerated People and the Prison Code

Readings:

Sykes, Gresham. 1958. *The Society of Captives: A Study of a Maximum Security Prison*, "Argot Roles", New Jersey: Princeton University Press, pp. 88-108.

Walker, Michael L. 2016. "Race Making in a Penal Institution". *American Journal of Sociology*, 121(4): 1051-1078.

Crewe, Ben. 2005. "Codes and Conventions: The Terms and Conditions of Contemporary Inmate Values" in *The Effects of Imprisonment*, eds. Liebling and Maruna, Devon: Willan, pp. 177-208.

Week 12 (Mon, Nov 27)

Prisons & Punishment Conference: Centre for Criminological Research

We will not be meeting in person this week. Instead, you will view a selection of research presentations on prisons and punishment and complete a short assignment. The Centre for Criminological Research at the University of Alberta recently hosted a virtual conference on “Prisons & Punishment.” The keynote speaker was David Garland, an expert on punishment and social control, and others from the syllabus (including Drs. Ben Crewe, Sandra Bucerius, and myself) presented their research. The videos are available on YouTube and a link will be provided later in the term. A short, 2-page assignment will be due on Monday, December 4, 2023.

Week 13 (Mon, Dec 4)

The Collateral Consequences of Mass Incarceration

Readings:

Goffman, Alice. 2009. On the Run: Wanted Men in a Philadelphia Ghetto. *American Sociological Review*, 74(3): 339-357.

Comfort, Megan L. 2003. “In the Tube at San Quentin: The “Secondary Prisonization” of Women Visiting Inmates. *Journal of Contemporary Ethnography*, 32(1): 77-107.

Notes: Prison Conference Assignment Due

Course Policies

Submission of Assignments

All assignments, tests, and exams must be completed in order to pass the course.

Please submit your assignment electronically, on or before the day it is due.

Assignment Formatting: 12-point font, Times New Roman, double space, one-inch margins.

All assignments, tests, and exams will be returned to you via email in a timely fashion.

Grades

Grades will be based on the McMaster University grading scale:

MARK	GRADE
90-100	A+
85-90	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

Late Assignments

Barring exceptional circumstances (i.e., serious illness), there will be a deduction of 10% per day, including weekends (10% for the whole weekend) for all late assignments. Deductions are calculated per day, not per 24-hour period. After 5 days, late assignments will no longer be accepted (unless an extension has been granted). Please submit your late assignments to your TA via email.

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.

Turnitin.com

In this course we will be using a web-based service (Turnitin.com) to reveal plagiarism. Students will be expected to submit their work electronically to Turnitin.com and in hard copy so that it can be checked for academic dishonesty. Students who do not wish to submit their work to Turnitin.com must still submit a copy to the instructor. No penalty will be assigned to a student who does not submit work to Turnitin.com. All submitted work is subject to normal verification that standards of academic integrity have been upheld (e.g., on-line search, etc.). To see the Turnitin.com Policy, please to go www.mcmaster.ca/academicintegrity.

University Policies

Academic Integrity Statement

You are expected to exhibit honesty and use ethical behavior in all aspects of the learning process. Academic credentials you earn are rooted in principles of honesty and academic integrity.

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 behavior 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.

It is your responsibility to understand what constitutes academic dishonesty. For information on the various types of academic dishonesty please refer to the Academic Integrity Policy, located at www.mcmaster.ca/academicintegrity.

The following illustrates only three forms of academic dishonesty:

1. Plagiarism, e.g. the submission of work that is not one's own or for which credit has been obtained.
2. Improper collaboration in group work.
3. Copying or using unauthorized aids in tests and examinations.

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](#) (SAS) at 905-525-9140 ext. 28652 or 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

McMaster Student Absence Form (MSAF): In the event of an absence for medical or other reasons, students should review and follow the Academic Regulation in the Undergraduate Calendar "Requests for Relief for Missed Academic Term Work".

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, A2L and/or McMaster email.