

MAKING & BREAKING RULES (SOCPSY 2D03) Term 2, Winter 2024

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Location: BSB B156

Lectures: Fridays: 8:30am – 11:20pm

TA: TBD

Email: TBD

Office Hours: TBD

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Course Description

This course will introduce students to the study of crime and criminal behaviour. It is divided into four major sections. The *first section* will define the concept of crime and discuss the process of law creation. We will discuss why some behaviours are identified as “crimes” by the State while other behaviours avoid this label. The *second section* will review the various methodologies used by criminologists in their research and discuss how these methodologies inform the development of criminological theory. The *third 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 – 7th 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=221&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

The classroom will be our learning community. Students are expected to complete all readings before class each week, come prepared to engage with the material, and be ready to participate – as we will have in-class discussions and small group activities based on the course material. Tests and exams are based on required readings and weekly lectures. As such, attending class is necessary for success in this course.

In order to learn with and from each other, it is important that we all come to class with an open mind, ready to share ideas and opinions – and, potentially, have those ideas and opinions challenged by others in the classroom. The rule is that we do this respectfully.

Course Evaluation – Overview

1. Test 1 (35%): Friday, February 9th
2. Test 2 (35%): Friday, March 15th
3. Final Examination (30%): TBD by Registrar (*This is final test for the course)

Course Evaluation – Details

Test 1 (35%), Friday, February 9th

This test will consist of multiple-choice questions. It will assess your knowledge of the lecture material and assigned readings for WEEKS 1 to 4 of the course. It will be held on Avenue to Learn from 8:30am-10:00am on Friday, February 9th. More detailed information about the structure of the test will be communicated in class and via email.

Test 2 (35%), Friday, March 15th

This test will consist of multiple-choice questions. It will assess your knowledge of the lecture material and assigned readings for WEEKS 6 to 9 of the course. It will be held on Avenue to Learn from 8:30am-10:00am on Friday, March 15th. More detailed information about the structure of the test will be communicated in class and via email.

Final Examination (30%), TBD by Registrar

This test will consist of multiple-choice questions. It will assess your knowledge of the lecture material and assigned readings for WEEKS 11 to 13 of the course. It will be held on Avenue to Learn and will be scheduled by the Registrar's Office. More detailed information will be communicated in class and 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

Week 1 (Friday, January 12)

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

Readings:

Siegel and McCormick Textbook: Chapters 1 and 2

Week 2 (Friday, January 19)

Defining & Measuring Crime

Readings:

Siegel and McCormick Textbook: Chapter 3

Week 3 (Friday, January 26)

Choice Theories: Classical Criminology & Rational Choice

Readings:

Siegel and McCormick Textbook: Chapter 5

Week 4 (Friday, February 2)

Trait Theories: Biology & Psychology

Readings:

Siegel and McCormick Textbook: Chapter 6

Week 5 (Friday, February 9): * TEST 1 (35%) *****

Test will be held **ONLINE** on Avenue to Learn from 8:30am to 10:00am

Week 6: (Friday, February 16)

Social Structure Theories: Economics & Social Strain

Readings:

Siegel and McCormick Textbook: Chapter 7

NO CLASSES: Week 7: (Friday, February 23)

Mid-Term Recess – No Class

Week 8 (Friday, March 1)

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 9 (Friday, March 8)

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.

Week 10 (Friday, March 15): * TEST 2 (35%) *****

Test will be held ONLINE on Avenue to Learn from 8:30am to 10:00am

Week 11 (Friday, March 22)

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)

Week 12 (Friday, March 29)

Good Friday – No Class

Week 13 (Friday, April 5)

Gender & Racial + Gangs & Public Order Crimes

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.

Siegel and McCormick Textbook: Chapter 13

Course Policies

Submission of Assignments

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

Late Assignments

N/A

Absences, Missed Work, Illness

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”.

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 Statement

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.

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.

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](#).

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.

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.

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 requiring a [RISO](#) accommodation 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.

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.

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.

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.

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.

Grades

Grades will be based on the McMaster University grading scale:

MARK	GRADE
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