

MAKING & BREAKING RULES (SOCPSY 2D03) Spring 2021

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Office Hours: By Appointment

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Lecture: Tuesdays and Fridays:
9:30am-12:30pm

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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 – 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=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, May 21st, 2021
2. Test 2 (35%): Friday, June 4th, 2021
3. Test 3 (30%): Friday, June 18th, 2021

Course Evaluation – Details

Test 1 (35%), Friday, May 21st, 2021

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, May 21st, 2021. More detailed information about the structure of the test will be communicated via email.

Test 2 (35%), Friday, June 4th, 2021

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, June 4th, 2021. More detailed information about the structure of the test will be communicated via email.

Test 3 (30%), Friday, June 18th, 2021

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, June 18th, 2021. 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: May 3 – May 7

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: May 10 – May 14

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: May 17 – May 21

*****TEST 1 (35%): May 21st**

MODULE II

Week 4: May 24 – May 28

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: May 31 – June 4

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%): June 4th**

MODULE III

Week 6: June 7 – June 11

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: June 14 – June 18

Gangs & Public Order Crimes

Readings: Siegel and McCormick Textbook: Chapter 13

*****TEST 3 (30%): June 18th**

Course Policies

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

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.