

DEPARTMENT Humanities and Social Sciences

COURSE OUTLINE – Fall 2023

SO2250(A2 & VC): Criminology – 3 (3-0-0) 45 Hours for 15 Weeks

Northwestern Polytechnic acknowledges that our campuses are located on Treaty 8 territory, the ancestral and present-day home to many diverse First Nations, Metis, and Inuit people. We are grateful to work, live and learn on the traditional territory of Duncan's First Nation, Horse Lake First Nation and Sturgeon Lake Cree Nation, who are the original caretakers of this land.

We acknowledge the history of this land and we are thankful for the opportunity to walk together in friendship, where we will encourage and promote positive change for present and future generations.

INSTRUCTOR:	Dr. Rashid Begg	PHONE:	780-539-2021
OFFICE:	C203	E-MAIL:	MBegg@nwpolytech.ca
OFFICE HOURS:	By appointment	CLASS TIMES:	Mon 13:00 – 14:20 Fri 11:30 – 12:50

CALENDAR DESCRIPTION: This is an introduction to the study and analysis of crime from a sociological perspective. The course attempts to answer a number of questions. How much crime is there in Canada? Who are the criminals and what are they like? Why do people engage in criminal behaviour? What are we doing to stop or at least reduce crime in our society?

PREREQUISITE(S)/COREQUISITE: Complete 1 of the following

Completed the following:

SO1000 - Introductory Sociology (3)

Equivalent course

REQUIRED TEXT/RESOURCE MATERIALS:

William, O'Grady. 2022. *Crime in Canadian Context: Debates and Controversies* (5th Ed). Oxford University Press.

DELIVERY MODE(S): On-Campus & Synchronous

LEARNING OUTCOMES:

Students will be able to apply their knowledge to be able to navigate the content and structure of the Criminal Code of Canada, follow the process by which criminal laws are enacted, and apply personal and situational defenses to alleged offences. More importantly, students will be able to design and formulate crime prevention strategies based on their understanding of crime causation theories.

TRANSFERABILITY:

Please consult the Alberta Transfer Guide for more information. You may check to ensure the transferability of this course at the Alberta Transfer Guide main page <http://www.transferalberta.ca>.

** Grade of D or D+ may not be acceptable for transfer to other post-secondary institutions. **Students are cautioned that it is their responsibility to contact the receiving institutions to ensure transferability**

EVALUATIONS:

ASSESSMENT	TOTAL POINT VALUE	WEIGHT
2 Unit Reflections	10 EACH = 20	20%
Question Presentation	5	5%
Research Project	15	15%
Midterm Test	30	30%
Final Test	30	30%

UNIT REFLECTIONS

At the end of each part/unit, you will write a 1 (ONE) page reflection about what you learned, and your general impression of the unit (enjoyed, criticisms). Unit reflections are based on the material but are a free space to share your thoughts. 2 Unit reflections to be submitted.

QUESTION PRESENTATION

For the daily Chapter Discussion Question presentations, a group of 2 students will select one question from the 'Critical Thinking Questions' section at the back of each chapter, and present their responses at the beginning of each class (approx. 10 minutes). Stay with the chapter we are currently on – there are lots of questions to choose from. For your presentation, you can use slides, or any other effective way to communicate. You must then submit the slides and/or a written response (1-2 pages) to the question you answered on the day of your presentation, and must include a title page with your names and date. We will divide the pairs and dates in our first class. If you miss, please send me an email.

RESEARCH PROJECT

You have to write a research project on a topic related to criminology and sociology. The topic is up to you but options will be given upon request. The project will be broken down into the following steps:

First, you will come up with a research topic (of your choice). Second, you have to write an outline for a research project, showing how you would conduct research in this topic: write a research problem statement, and a working thesis or argument.

MIDTERM TEST AND FINAL TEST

The Midterm term (30%) and Final Examination (30%) will consist of multiple-choice, true/false, and open questions. There will be a brief review before each of these evaluations. Tests and final exam will be based on all course material.

GRADING CRITERIA

Please note that most universities will not accept your course for transfer credit **IF** your grade is **less than C-**.

Grading Chart for courses with Alpha Grading:

Alpha Grade	4-point Equivalent	Percentage Guidelines	Alpha Grade	4-point Equivalent	Percentage Guidelines
A+	4.0	90-100	C+	2.3	67-69
A	4.0	85-89	C	2.0	63-66
A-	3.7	80-84	C-	1.7	60-62
B+	3.3	77-79	D+	1.3	55-59
B	3.0	73-76	D	1.0	50-54
B-	2.7	70-72	F	0.0	00-49

COURSE SCHEDULE/TENTATIVE TIMELINE:

Unit and Date	Chapters	Topics	Deadlines
Week 1 Sept 8	Outline, Meet and Greet, Chapter 1 Introduction	Crime, Fear, and Risk	
Week 2 Sept 11, 15	Measuring Crime Chapter 2	Official Statistics and Surveys	
Week 3 Sept 18, 22	Non-Sociological Explanations of Crime Chapter 3	Demonic Era, Classical School, Psychology of Crime	Research Topic due Sept 18
Week 4 Sept 25, 29	Classical Sociological Explanations of Crime Chapter 4	Durkheim, Strain/Anomie,	Unit 1 Reflection due Sept 26

		Labelling, The Chicago School	
Week 5 Oct 2, 6	Recent Sociological approaches to Crime Chapter 5	Rational Choice Theory, General Strain Theory, Routine Activity	Research Statement Due Oct 2 at 11:59 pm
Week 6 Oct 9, 13	Review and Midterm Test		Oct 13 Midterm Test In-Class
Week 7 Oct 16, 20	Crime and Social Exclusion Chapter 6	Homeless Youth, Youth Gangs, Indigenous People in Canada, Hate Crime	
Week 8 Oct 23, 27	Crime in the Context of Organizations and Institutions Chapter 7	White-Collar, Corporate Crime, Workers as Victims, Political Crime, Police Misconduct	Outline of Research Project due Oct 23 at 11:59 pm
Week 9 Oct 30 & Nov 3	Responding to Crime Chapter 8	Crime, Law, and Order Policing, Courts and Sentencing	
Week 10 Nov 6, 10	Responding to Crime Chapter 8 Cont.	Capital Punishment, Prisons, Youth Justice in Canada, Alternatives to Incarceration, Restorative Justice	Unit 2 Reflection due Nov 7
Week 11 Fall Break Nov 13 – Nov 17			
Week 12 Nov 20, 24	Future Directions in Criminology Chapter 9		
Week 13 Nov 27 & Dec 1	How Should Crime be Responded to in Canada Chapter 9		Research Project due Nov 27 at 11:59 pm
Week 14 Dec 4, 8	Course Wrap-up and Review for Final Exam		
Week 15 Dec 11	Course Wrap-up and Review for Final Exam		

OTHER IMPORTANT DATES:

Sept 5 – Classes Start

Sept 14 – Last Day to Add/Drop classes

Oct 9 – Thanksgiving Day

Nov 13 – In-lieu of Remembrance Day

Nov 14 – Nov 17 - Reading Week, No classes

Nov 28 – last Day to Withdraw

Dec 12 – Last day of classes

Dec 14 – Dec 21 Final Exams

STUDENT RESPONSIBILITIES:

Ultimately, you are responsible for your learning and performance in this course.

PLEASE NOTE: To be fair to everyone in this course, I will not alter the evaluation, so any missed testing or assignments will not be accommodated. If at any point in the semester you feel you are struggling with the course material or with your course work, please do not hesitate to ask me for assistance. Please contact me by e-mail for an appointment. Students must submit original work in this course. Work that was submitted previously in other courses will not be accepted and will receive a 0%. All work must be submitted electronically on MyClass by the due dates listed below.

Please note:

It is simply unfair to alter the course evaluation for any individual. Therefore, under any conditions, there will be no alternative tests or assignments if you miss or do poorly on a requirement. • Furthermore, it is your responsibility to track your own grades: Please do not contact the professor for such information.

Submission & Late Policies:

- Equally important to learn and apply professional communication skills, such as writing proper e-mail messages, it is very important to learn to meet deadlines. Complete your assignments on time!
- Late assignments received will be deducted 5% for every late day (including weekends!).
- Incomplete assignments will receive a grade of 0 unless you have a valid reason supported with appropriate documentation (i.e., a medical note from an M.D.) and you discuss it with me well in advance of any due date.
- Note: extensions will be given only when students notify the instructor prior to the deadline and present valid evidence excusing lateness.

STATEMENT ON ACADEMIC MISCONDUCT:

Academic Misconduct will not be tolerated. For a more precise definition of academic misconduct and its consequences, refer to the Student Rights and Responsibilities policy available at <https://www.nwpolytech.ca/about/administration/policies/index.html>.

**Note: all Academic and Administrative policies are available on the same page.

Additional Information:

MYCLASS:

This course will make extensive use of our website on MYCLASS to support your learning. You are expected to keep current with the content of the site, and I advise you to log on often.

Professional Conduct:

Please be aware that I respect that everyone's time is valuable, please afford me the same courtesy.

Please note: If at any point in the semester you feel you are struggling with the course material or with your course work, please do not hesitate to ask me for assistance. Come and see me during my office hours, and I will assist you or point you towards other suitable sources of support. If you are scheduled to attend lectures or have other commitments during my office hours, please contact me by e-mail for an appointment.

- Instead of preoccupying your mind with questions such as, "how do I get an 'A'?" Instead, ask yourself, "how can I work to expand my knowledge, perspective, and outlook on the real world?"
- Please only use your **NWP e-mail account** to avoid having your message blocked by SPAM filters.
- Always include "SO 2250" in the subject line (or I may never even receive your message).
- Finally, in our academic environment, please practice writing e-mails formally, as you will need to do regularly upon graduation. For example, use a simple greeting, do not use slang or abbreviations, and always sign off with your name