



**Department of Sociology  
Sociology 2256B Section 530  
Sociology of Corrections  
Winter 2018**

**Instructor:** Jennie Reynolds

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**Office Hours:** Tuesday 530-630

**Class times:** Tuesday 630-930pm

**Class location:** BR 204

**Course Description**

This course is an examination of the evolution of corrections and punishment, focusing primarily on Canada and, to a lesser extent, the United States. It will include the historical development, organization, and administration of correctional institutions, as well as the development of various models of punishment (deterrence, rehabilitation, and incapacitation). The course will also include continuous discussion and debate regarding the past, current, and future directions and implications of correctional policy.

**Course Objectives**

By the end of this course, students should:

- be familiar with the sub-discipline of the sociology of corrections; (Core Competencies: Inquiry and Analysis)
- have an understanding of the correctional system in Canada; (Core Competencies: Inquiry and Analysis; Valuing; Social Awareness and Engagement)
- understand Canadian corrections and be aware of the influence of race, ethnicity, gender, immigration status, and social class on justice outcomes; (Core Competencies: Inquiry and Analysis; Valuing; Social Awareness and Engagement; Problem Solving)
- investigate the prison industrial complex and theories surrounding corrections to analyze contemporary issues with the justice system; (Core Competencies: Inquiry and Analysis; Valuing; Social Awareness and Engagement)
- critically reflect on media reports concerning justice issues. (Core Competencies: Inquiry and Analysis; Self-Awareness and Development; Social Awareness and Engagement)

**Prerequisite(s):**

1.0 from Sociology courses at the 1000 level.

**Required Texts**

Griffiths, Curt & Murdoch, D. (2014). *Canadian Corrections (4<sup>th</sup> Edition)*. Scarborough: Thomson Nelson Limited.

**Other Required Readings:**

Christie, Nils. (2000). *Crime Control as Industry (3<sup>rd</sup> Edition)*. Boston: Routledge.

**Evaluation**

Your grade for this course will be based on your performance on each of the following evaluation components of the course:

**1) Test #1 (25%), Test #2 (25%) and Final Exam (30%)**

There will be 2 tests and a final exam in this course. Please note that the tests and final exam are NOT cumulative. The tests/examinations will cover a variety of course material (lectures, assigned readings, films, etc.) that is presented in class. Students are responsible for material covered in class regardless of whether they are present for each class. It is important to note that you are responsible for taking lecture notes/accessing notes from fellow students. It might be helpful to make contact with a colleague early in the course in case it becomes necessary for you to miss a class. It will also be your responsibility to access/view any films that may be shown during a class in which you miss. The format will include true/false, multiple choice, definitions, and 1-2 short answer questions.

**2) Case Study/ Analysis (20%)**

a) You are required to obtain an online newspaper article dated after January 2015 that describes or comments on a specific aspect of the Canadian Correctional System that has been discussed in the course. You must use an article from a mainstream newspaper, such as The Toronto Star, The Globe and Mail, The National Post, London Free Press etc. Do not use newspapers such as the Western Gazette or an obscure newspaper.

b) You will briefly summarize the article in two pages. Then you will attempt to apply what you have learned in the course about corrections and punishment in Canada to an analysis of the issue or case addressed in the article. Note that you are NOT to use lecture notes as a source. References may come from the course text, and preferably additional academic sources such as journal articles. Wikipedia is not a valid source and should not be cited as a reference.

## **Conduct and Expectations**

### **Lectures in this Course**

By 4:00 PM on the day before each weekly class, the PowerPoint slides for that class will be posted on the OWL course site. You should print out a copy and bring it to class.

Lectures assume that students have done the readings listed for each week in advance of class. Accordingly, lectures will be paced assuming that everyone has hardcopies of the slides in front of them, and are capable of making additional notes as the lecture proceeds. The format also leaves ample time and opportunity for questions and discussion.

### **Policy on Laptops in Class**

If you own a laptop, it can be a very effective tool for taking notes in class.

Unfortunately, past experience suggests that some students who bring laptops to class use them to access the Internet. This can prove very distracting to the students around them.

Accordingly, using your Laptop to access the Internet will be considered disruptive behavior and a violation under the Student Code of Conduct. Students caught violating this policy may be expelled from class lecture.

### **Policy on Cell Phones**

Kindly turn off your cell phones and other electronic devices during lecture. You will have more than sufficient time during the break to check your messages. Students who are warned about their cell phones and persist in using them during lecture may be expelled from class.

**Course Outline (\*subject to change):**

<b>Date</b>	<b>Topic</b>	<b>Required Readings</b>
<i>Jan. 9</i>	Introduction to the Sociology of Corrections: An Overview of the Canadian Criminal Justice System	Griffiths Chapter 3, 4
<i>Jan. 16</i>	History of Punishment and Corrections Theories of Corrections	Griffiths Chapter 1, 2
<i>Jan. 23</i>	Prisons and Correctional Institutions	Griffiths Chapters 7 & 10
<i>Jan. 30</i>	The Prison Industrial Complex	Christie (*entire book*)
<i>Feb. 6</i>	<b>Test #1</b>	
<i>Feb. 13</i>	Inside the Prison: Prisoners & Prison Subcultures	Griffiths Chapters 8, 9
<i>Feb. 20</i>	<b>Spring Break</b>	
<i>Feb. 27</i>	Special Populations: Sex Offenders, Dangerous Offenders, Long-Term Offenders	*Additional readings available on OWL*
<i>Mar. 6</i>	Special Populations: Female Offenders	Griffiths Chapter 13
<i>Mar. 13</i>	<b>Test #2</b>	
<i>Mar. 20</i>	Release From Prison & Life After Prison	Griffiths Chapter 11, 12
<i>Mar. 27</i>	Alternatives to Confinement & Restorative Justice	Griffiths Chapter 5, 6
<i>Apr. 3</i>	Course Conclusions: Current Issues, Future Trends and Challenges for Corrections	Griffiths Chapter 16
<b>TBA</b>	<b>Test #3</b>	

## 2017-18 BRESCIA UNIVERSITY COLLEGE ACADEMIC POLICIES AND REGULATIONS

### 1. POLICY REGARDING MAKEUP EXAMS AND EXTENSIONS OF DEADLINES

When a student requests academic accommodation (e.g., extension of a deadline, a makeup exam) for work representing 10% or more of the student's overall grade in the course, it is the responsibility of the student to provide acceptable documentation to support a medical or compassionate claim. All such requests for academic accommodation **must** be made through an Academic Advisor and include supporting documentation. Academic accommodation for illness will be granted only if the documentation indicates that the onset, duration and severity of the illness are such that the student could not reasonably be expected to complete her academic responsibilities. Minor ailments typically treated by over-the-counter medications will not normally be accommodated. Documentation shall be submitted as soon as possible to the student's Academic Advisor indicating the period of illness and when the student should be able to resume academic responsibilities. Students must submit their documentation along with a request for relief specifying the nature of the accommodation being requested no later than two business days after the date specified for resuming responsibilities. Appropriate academic accommodation will be determined by the Dean's Office in consultation with the student's instructor(s). Please note that personal commitments (e.g., vacation flight bookings, work schedule) which conflict with a scheduled test, exam or course requirement are **not** grounds for academic accommodation.

A UWO Student Medical Certificate (SMC) is **required** if a student is seeking academic accommodation on medical grounds. This documentation should be obtained at the time of the initial consultation with the physician/nurse practitioner or walk-in clinic. A SMC can be downloaded from: [http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic\\_policies/appeals/medicalform.pdf](http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/medicalform.pdf). The student must request documentation sufficient to demonstrate that her ability to meet academic responsibilities was seriously affected. Please note that under University Senate regulations documentation stating simply that the student "was seen for a medical reason" or "was ill" is **not** adequate to support a request for academic accommodation.

Whenever possible, requests for academic accommodation should be initiated in advance of due dates, examination dates, etc. Students must follow up with their professors and Academic Advisor in a timely manner.

The full policy on requesting accommodation due to illness can be viewed at: <http://westerncalendar.uwo.ca/2017/pg117.html>

### 2. ACADEMIC CONCERNS

If you feel that you have a medical or personal problem that is interfering with your work, contact your instructor and Academic Advisor as soon as possible. Problems may then be documented and possible arrangements to assist you can be discussed at the time of occurrence rather than on a retroactive basis. Retroactive requests for academic accommodation on medical or compassionate grounds may not be considered.

If you think that you are too far behind to catch up or that your work load is not manageable, you should consult an Academic Advisor. If you consider reducing your workload by dropping one or more courses, this must be done by the appropriate deadlines (refer to the Registrar's website, <http://brescia.uwo.ca/academics/registrar-services/> or the list of official dates <http://westerncalendar.uwo.ca/2017/pg7.html> ). You should consult with the course instructor and the Academic Advisor who can help you consider alternatives to dropping one or more courses. *Note that dropping a course may affect OSAP eligibility and/or Entrance Scholarship eligibility.*

The Dean may refuse permission to write the final examination in a course if the student has failed to maintain satisfactory academic standing throughout the year or for too frequent absence from the class or laboratory (<http://westerncalendar.uwo.ca/2017/pg130.html> )

### 3. ABSENCES

**Short Absences:** If you miss a class due to a minor illness or other problems, check your course outline for information regarding attendance requirements and make sure you are not missing a test or assignment. Cover any readings and arrange to borrow notes from a classmate. Contact the course instructor if you have any questions.

**Extended Absences:** If you have an extended absence, you should contact the course instructor and an Academic Advisor. Your course instructor and Academic Advisor can discuss ways for you to catch up on missed work and arrange academic accommodations, if appropriate.

### 4. POLICY ON CHEATING & ACADEMIC MISCONDUCT

Scholastic offences are taken seriously and students are directed to read the appropriate policy, specifically, the definition of what constitutes a Scholastic Offence, at the following Web site: [http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic\\_policies/appeals/scholastic\\_discipline\\_undergrad.pdf](http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/scholastic_discipline_undergrad.pdf).

Students are responsible for understanding the nature of and avoiding the occurrence of plagiarism and other academic offences. Students are urged to read the section on Scholastic Offences in the Academic Calendar. Note that such offences include plagiarism, cheating on an examination, submitting false or fraudulent assignments or credentials, impersonating a candidate, or submitting for credit in any course without the knowledge and approval of the instructor to whom it is submitted, any academic work for which credit has previously been obtained or is being sought in another course in the University or elsewhere. Students are advised to consult the section on Academic Misconduct in the Western Academic Calendar.

If you are in doubt about whether what you are doing is inappropriate or not, consult your instructor, the Student Services Centre, or the Registrar. A claim that "you didn't know it was wrong" is not accepted as an excuse.

The penalties for a student guilty of a scholastic offence (including plagiarism) include refusal of a passing grade in the assignment, refusal of a passing grade in the course, suspension from the University, and expulsion from the University.

#### **Plagiarism:**

Students must write their essays and assignments in their own words. Whenever students take an idea or a passage from another author, they must acknowledge their debt both by using quotation marks where appropriate and by proper referencing such as footnotes or citations. Plagiarism is a major academic offence (see Scholastic Offence Policy in the Western Academic Calendar).

All required papers may be subject to submission for textual similarity review to the commercial plagiarism detection software under license to the University for the detection of plagiarism. All papers submitted for such checking will be included as source documents in the reference database for the purpose of detecting plagiarism of papers subsequently submitted to the system. Use of the service is subject to the licensing agreement, currently between The University of Western Ontario and Turnitin.com (<http://www.turnitin.com>).

#### **Computer-marked Tests/exams:**

Computer-marked multiple-choice tests and/or exams may be subject to submission for similarity review by software that will check for unusual coincidences in answer patterns that

may indicate cheating. Software currently in use to score computer-marked multiple-choice tests and exams performs a similarity review as part of standard exam analysis.

## **5. PROCEDURES FOR APPEALING ACADEMIC EVALUATIONS**

All appeals of a grade must be directed first to the course instructor. If the student is not satisfied with the decision of the course instructor, a written appeal signed by the student must be sent to the Department Chair. If the response of the department is considered unsatisfactory to the student, she may then submit a signed, written appeal to the Office of the Dean. Only after receiving a final decision from the Dean may a student appeal to the Senate Review Board Academic. A Guide to Appeals is available from the Ombudsperson's Office, or you can consult an Academic Advisor. Students are advised to consult the section on Student Academic Appeals under Academic Rights and Responsibilities in the Western Academic Calendar (<http://westerncalendar.uwo.ca/2017/pg112.html>).

Note that final course marks are not official until the Academic Dean has reviewed and signed the final grade report for the course. If course marks deviate from acceptable and appropriate standards, the Academic Dean may require grades to be adjusted to align them with accepted grading practices ([http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic\\_policies/exam/evaluation\\_undergrad.pdf](http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/exam/evaluation_undergrad.pdf) and [http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic\\_policies/exam/finalgrades.pdf](http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/exam/finalgrades.pdf)).

## **6. PREREQUISITES**

Unless you have either the prerequisites for a course or written special permission from your Dean to enroll in it, you will be removed from the course and it will be deleted from your record. This decision may not be appealed. You will receive no adjustment to your fees in the event that you are dropped from a course for failing to have the necessary prerequisite(s).

## **7. SUPPORT**

### **Support Services**

The Brescia University College Registrar's website, with a link to Academic Advisors, is at <http://brescia.uwo.ca/academics/registrar-services/>. The website for the Student Development Centre at Western is <http://www.sdc.uwo.ca/>.

### **Mental Health and Wellness**

Students may experience a range of issues that can cause barriers to your learning, such as increased anxiety, feeling overwhelmed, feeling down or lost, difficulty concentrating and/or lack of motivation. Services are available to assist you with addressing these and other concerns you may be experiencing. You can learn more about mental health and wellness at Brescia at <http://brescia.uwo.ca/life/mental-health-wellness/>. Students who are in emotional/mental distress should refer to Mental\_Health@Western <http://www.uwo.ca/uwocom/mentalhealth/> for a complete list of options about how to obtain help.

### **Sexual Violence**

All members of the Brescia University College community have a right to work and study in an environment that is free from any form of sexual violence. Brescia University College recognizes that the prevention of, and response to, Sexual Violence is of particular importance in the university environment. Sexual Violence is strictly prohibited and unacceptable and will not be tolerated. Brescia is committed to preventing Sexual Violence and creating a safe space for anyone in the Brescia community who has experienced Sexual Violence.

If you or someone you know has experienced any form of Sexual Violence, you may access resources at <http://brescia.uwo.ca/life/sexual-violence/>.

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Portions of this document were taken from the Academic Calendar, the Handbook of Academic and Scholarship Policy and the Academic Handbook of Senate Regulations. This document is a summary of relevant regulations and does not supersede the academic policies and regulations of the Senate of the University of Western Ontario.