

## LAKEHEAD UNIVERSITY

## DEPARTMENT OF SOCIOLOGY

**Sociology 2221 YA  
Criminology**

Dr. J. B. Minore

Monday: 7:00 – 10:00  
ATAC 2001Office: #1003, Balmoral Centre  
Centre for Rural and Northern Health Research

Phone: 766-7264

e-mail: [Bruce.Minore@lakeheadu.ca](mailto:Bruce.Minore@lakeheadu.ca)Textbooks:

Siegel, Larry J. and McCormick, Chris. *Criminology in Canada: Theories, Patterns, and Typologies*. 5th edition. Toronto: Nelson Education Ltd., 2012.

Lillebuen, Steve. *The Devil's Cinema: The Untold Story behind Mark Twitchell's Kill Room*. Toronto: McClelland & Stewart, 2012.

Course Requirements:

First-term exam worth 35% of final grade  
Essay worth 30% of final grade (details attached)  
Second-term exam worth 35% of final grade

Course Outline:

Criminology studies the processes of making laws, of breaking laws and of reacting toward the breaking of laws. This course will cover each of these in turn under the rubrics of criminal law, criminal aetiology and penology. Throughout the course the role of Canadians in shaping their system of criminal justice will be emphasized.

One case – the Internet luring and murder of an Edmonton man by Mark Twitchell – will be used as a foundation for considering issues related to the influence of media and on-line social networking on criminal events.

## Topics

### Criminal Law

Criminology - the "criminality of behaviour" not the "behaviour of criminals"  
Facts and figures (or how wrong we can be)

### Readings

Text, Ch. 1  
Text, Ch. 3

### Balancing the Scales of Justice

The social reality of crime  
Giving voice to the victims of crime  
Justice or compromise

Text, Ch. 2  
Text, Ch. 4

### Criminal Aetiology

Choice Theory: Because they want to  
Trait Theory: It's in Their Blood  
Social Structure Theories  
Social Process Theories  
Social Conflict Theory

Text, Ch. 5.  
Text, Ch. 6  
Text, Ch. 7  
Text, Ch. 8  
Text, Ch. 9

### Penology (the treatment of the criminal in Canadian society)

Decision makers - the police (lectures)  
    Violent Crime (reading)  
Decision makers - the courts (lectures)  
    Property Crimes (reading)  
Detention - lectures & reading  
    Crimes of Power (reading)

The Devil's Cinema  
Text, Ch. 10  
  
Text, Ch. 11  
  
Text, Ch. 12

In the community  
    Probation and parole (lectures)  
    Public Order Crimes  
    Crimes in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century

Text, Ch. 13  
Text Ch. 14

### The system in perspective

Continuity and change (lectures)

### Essay (worth 30 marks)

All students will submit a brief essay (not to exceed nine printed pages, double spaced, 12 point font) on the following three-part question. Each part of the question should be answered separately, but all parts must be answered. Papers are due no later than **Monday, February 25, 2013.**

1. Although undiagnosed, Mark Twitchell shows symptoms characteristic of a type of Antisocial Personality Disorder often referred to as sociopathy. Briefly identify the symptoms and illustrate their application in Mr. Twitchell's case, including one that does not appear relevant. Antisocial Personality Disorders are forms of mental illness, yet there does not appear to have been any attempt by his lawyers to use mental illness as a defense in his case. Explain why not with specific reference to the legal test applied in Canadian criminal courts. **(10 marks)**
2. *"Although laboratory observations suggest a media-violence link, there is less evidence that such an association occurs in the real world."* – Siegel & McCormick, *Criminology in Canada*, p. 204.

Mr. Twitchell is sometimes referred to as the "Dexter Killer." In what ways did his obsession with the television show, *Dexter*, affect the murder of Johnny Altinger? Is this evidence of the type that Siegel & McCormick say is missing? Support your argument with reference to the observations made in *The Devil's Cinema* (e.g. by the book's author, the person who created the Dexter character, and by Mr. Twitchell himself). **(10 Marks)**

3. The use and abuse of on-line social networks was a prominent feature in this murder case. But was it a cybercrime? Or was the internet dimension incidental to the crime? You may argue either way, but support your argument with reference to the text, Siegel & McCormick, *Criminology in Canada*, and other relevant sources. **(10 marks)**