

L A K E H E A D U N I V E R S I T Y

DEPARTMENT OF SOCIOLOGY

Sociology 2221 YA
Criminology

Dr. J. B. Minore

Monday: 7:00 – 10:00
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Textbooks:

Siegel, Larry J. and McCormick, Chris. *Criminology in Canada: Theories, Patterns, and Typologies*. 4th edition. Nelson Education Ltd., 2010.

Remington, Robert and Zickefoose, Sherri. *Runaway Devil*. McClelland and Stewart, 2009.

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 murder of her parents and bother by a 12-year old Alberta girl and her 23 year-old boyfriend – will be used as a foundation for considering issues related to decision-making in the justice system, particularly in cases involving young offenders.

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
Integrated Theories

Text, Ch. 5.
Text, Ch. 6
Text, Ch. 7
Text, Ch. 8
Text, Ch. 9
Text, Ch. 10

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)

Runaway Devil
Text, Ch. 11

Text, Ch. 12

Text, Ch. 13

In the community
 Probation and parole (lectures)
 Public Order Crimes

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 28, 2011**.

- (i) In 2006, a 12 year-old girl (J. R.) and her 23-year old boyfriend (Jeremy Steinke) murdered her parents and brother in Medicine Hat, Alberta. As this unusual case unfolded, public reaction shifted from horror at the beginning to confusion and even outrage at the end, as the girl was sentenced for her part in the crime. Explain what her sentence was and why it was given taking into account the legal, social, and biological factors outlined in the book *Runaway Devil* by Remington and Zickefoose. **(10 marks)**
- (ii) Explain how the idea of “information processing” that is integral to Cognitive Theory (text p. 202) explains – in different ways – the actions of both J. R. and Jeremy Steinke. **(10 marks)**
- (iii) Some key evidence was ruled inadmissible by the trial judge because, in collecting it, two police investigators “engaged in a calculated process of strategic manipulation and blatant disregard for the young person’s rights . . . that was utterly deplorable” (*Runaway Devil*, p. 199). Explain why these experienced officers would act in a way that they knew, or ought to have known, was improper when pursuing their investigation. **(10 marks)**

PLEASE NOTE:

Plagiarism will not be tolerated and will be dealt with according to the University regulations. For more information: <http://mycoursecalendar.lakeheadu.ca/pg39.html>