

## LAKEHEAD UNIVERSITY

## DEPARTMENT OF SOCIOLOGY

**Sociology 2221 YA  
Criminology**

Dr. J. B. Minore

Monday: 7:00 – 10:00  
ATAC 2001Office: #1003, Balmoral Centre  
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e-mail: [Bruce.Minore@lakeheadu.ca](mailto:Bruce.Minore@lakeheadu.ca)Webpage: <http://sociology.lakeheadu.ca/>Textbooks:

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

Cameron, Stevie. *On the Farm: Robert William Pickton and the Tragic Story of Vancouver's Missing Women*. Alfred A. Knopf Canada, 2010 (2011).

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 serial killing of dozens of women in Vancouver by Willie Pickton – will be used as a foundation for considering issues related to decision-making in the justice system, particularly by the police.

Plagiarism:

Plagiarism is unacceptable and subject to various sanctions. Please see the university regulations section on academic dishonesty in the Lakehead University Calendar

TopicsCriminal LawReadings

Criminology - the "criminality of behaviour" not the "behaviour of criminals"  
Facts and figures (or how wrong we can be)      Text, Ch. 1  
Text, Ch. 3

Balancing the Scales of Justice

The social reality of crime  
Giving voice to the victims of crime      Text, Ch. 2  
Justice or compromise      Text, Ch. 4

Criminal Aetiology

Choice Theory: Because they want to      Text, Ch. 5.  
Trait Theory: It's in Their Blood      Text, Ch. 6  
Social Structure Theories      Text, Ch. 7  
Social Process Theories      Text, Ch. 8  
Social Conflict Theory      Text, Ch. 9  
Integrated Theories      Text, Ch. 10

Penology (the treatment of the criminal in Canadian society)

Decision makers - the police (lectures)      On the Farm  
    Violent Crime (reading)      Text, Ch. 11  
Decision makers - the courts (lectures)  
    Property Crimes (reading)      Text, Ch. 12  
Detention - lectures & reading  
    Crimes of Power (reading)      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 two-part question. Each part of the question should be answered separately, but both parts must be answered. Papers are due no later than **Monday, February 27, 2012.**

- (i) Insufficient action by the Vancouver police has been blamed for prolonging the period during which women disappeared from the streets of the city's Downtown Eastside. Explain **in detail** how each of the following contributed to the delay: the investigative procedures followed; internal rivalries in the police force; and attitudes about the victims, mostly drug addicted sex workers, many of Aboriginal heritages. **(15 marks)**
  
- (ii) Apply Sampson and Laub's Age-Graded Theory (Siegel & McCormick, Figure 10.9, p. 344) to explain Willie Pickton's crimes, using specific examples to illustrate your points. **(15 marks)**