



**SOCIOLOGY 4438G (570): Advanced Criminal
Justice Policy
Winter 2015 Term**

Course Director: Criminologist Matthew G. Yeager

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Office Hours: Tues. 2-4 p.m.; Wed., 2:00-4:00 pm; Thurs, 10-Noon.

Class times: Tuesdays, 4:30 p.m. – 7:30 p.m.

Class location: W148

Course Synopsis:

This course critically examines contemporary criminal justice policy by taking the student into the “nitty gritty” of legislative debate over criminal policy in Canada. It will focus on current events in the media as well as pending legislation before Parliament, and ask the student to prepare position statements as if he or she was briefing the Minister or the head of a non-governmental agency with an interest in the outcome. Students are expected to apply Classical, positivist, and critical approaches in their analysis of policy.

ASSIGNMENTS AND GRADES:

Weekly News Clippings	30%	
Organized Debates	30%	
Major Paper	40%	Due Apr. 7, 2015

COURSE REQUIREMENTS: General & Grading

***** Prerequisites:** Sociology 2266 and Honors status in Sociology or Criminology, or permission of instructor.

Unless you have either the requisites for this course or written special permission from the Dean to enroll in it, you will be removed from this 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 prerequisites. There are no antirequisites for this course.

Weekly News Clippings: (30 points) Almost every week, you will be handed a copy of a recent news item in the media. Your task for the following week is to write a one-page briefing note “to your Minister” highlighting the relevance of the issue(s) to criminal justice policy, discussing one or more theoretical perspectives, and noting potential criticisms. You may rely upon all the texts from your classes at King’s in preparing this Briefing Note, including the Roberts and Grossman Reader. There will be ten (10) of these assignments.

Debates: (30 points) There will be two debates, in which the class will be divided up into A and B Teams. Each Team will be assigned the task either to defend proposed legislation or to oppose it. Each team will collectively prepare written testimony (maximum 6 pages, single spaced with citations), and then designate at least two members to orally present your testimony and engage in argument. Two further members will be assigned the duties to respond to the opposing side’s arguments. Each team will receive a collective grade up to 15 points, and those points will individually apply to each Team member.

Major Policy Paper: (40 points) Shortly after the beginning of class, you will be asked to submit a one- page abstract of a paper you would like to write on contemporary criminal justice policy. The paper is limited to 10 pages (citation page extra), doubled-spaced and type-written. I will **not** accept papers sent over the Internet, and thus you must keep a copy of your paper and submit a hard copy version to me by the due date (see syllabus). I must approve the topic before you begin your research and writing assignment.

MARKING SCALES

Marks for achievement in courses are assigned as follows:

90 –100	A+
80-89	A
70-79	B
60-69	C
50-59	D
0-49	F

Readings:

Roberts, Julian and Michelle Grossman (2012) **Criminal Justice in Canada: A Reader** (Scarborough, Ontario: Thomson, 4th Edition).

Michael, C.W. (2012) **The Criminal’s Handbook: A Practical Guide to Surviving Arrest and Incarceration in Canada** (London: Insomniac Press).

Schedule of Lectures and Readings

January 6, 2015: Introduction and overview of the course. Discussion of definitions and basic concepts. “Mini-Lecture -- Crime as Politics: Making Policy in Canada Today.” Hand-out First Assignments.

January 13, 2015: Read: Roberts & Grossman, Chapters 1-3; Michael, Chapter 1. Introduction: Prepare your paper abstracts for next week. Memo Presentations.

January 20, 2015: Individual Memo Presentations; Major Paper Abstracts Due Today! Read: Roberts & Grossman, Chapters 4-6; Michael, Chapter 2

January 27, 2015: Individual Memo Presentations
Read: Roberts & Grossman, Chapters 7-9; Michael, Chapter 3.

February 3, 2015: Individual Memo Presentations
Read: Roberts & Grossman, Chapters 10-12; Michael, Chapter 4.

February 10, 2015: First Debate (A and B Teams)

February 17, 2015: Study Week. No Class. Enjoy!

February 24, 2015: Individual Memo Presentations.
Read: Roberts & Grossman, Chapters 25-27; Michael, Chapter 5.

March 3, 2015: Individual Memo Presentations
Read: Roberts & Grossman, Chapters 13-15; Michael, Chapter 6.

March 10, 2015: Individual Memo Presentations
Read: Roberts & Grossman, Chapters 16-18; Michael, Chapter 7.

March 17, 2015: Individual Memo Presentations
Read: Roberts & Grossman, Chapters 19-21; Michael, Chapter 8.

March 24, 2015: Individual Memo Presentations
Read: Roberts & Grossman, Chapters 22-24; Michael, Chapter 9-10.

March, 31, 2015: Final Debate (A and B Teams)

April 7, 2015: Final Class. Hand-in Major Paper. Wrap-up.

SPECIAL NOTES

Students with special needs may apply through the Counseling and Student Development Office to obtain special accommodations with their studies and tests. **Please note that it is the student's responsibility to make these arrangements with sufficient time prior to the first test that accommodations can be arranged.**

Retain Copies of Work Submitted

It is crucial that you retain a hard copy of all assignments/take home tests submitted in every course! Remember also to back-up your work on disk/CD/computer!

For Religious Observance

Students requesting academic accommodation on the basis of religious observance should make a formal, written request to their instructors for alternate dates and/or means of satisfying academic requirements. Such requests should be made during the first two weeks of class, or as soon as possible after the need for accommodation is known to exist, but no later than two weeks before the compulsory academic event.

For Pregnancy

Pregnant students requiring academic accommodations are encouraged to contact an Equity Advisor in Equity Services to complete a *letter of accommodation*. The student must then make an appointment to discuss her needs with the instructor at least two weeks prior to the first academic event in which it is anticipated the accommodation will be required.



Statement on Academic Offences

King's is committed to Academic Integrity.

"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/handbook/appeals/scholasticdiscipline_undergrad.pdf.

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 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.

Unless otherwise noted by your Professor, the following policies are in effect:

Statement on Use of Electronic Devices

Use of Electronic Devices:

You are not allowed to have a cell phone, or any other electronic device, with you during tests or examinations.

Use of Laptops in the Classroom

"King's University College at The University of Western Ontario acknowledges the integration of new technologies and learning methods into the curriculum. The use of laptop computers can contribute to student engagement and effective learning. At the same time, King's recognizes that instructors and students share jointly the responsibility to establish and maintain a respectful classroom environment conducive to learning.

The use of laptops by students during lectures, seminars, labs, etc., shall be for matters related to the course at hand only. Students found to be using laptops for purposes not directly related to the class may be subject to sanctions under the Student Code of Conduct. See http://www.kings.uwo.ca/kings/assets/File/currentStudents/studentLife/conduct/code_of_conduct_2003.pdf. Inappropriate use of laptops during lectures, seminars, labs, etc., creates a significant disruption. As a consequence, instructors may choose to limit the use of electronic devices in these settings. In addition, in order to provide a safe classroom environment, students are strongly advised to operate laptops with batteries rather than power cords."

Submission of Late Essays/Assignments - *Only late essays/assignments may be placed in the green mailbox.*

All essays and assignments must be submitted directly to your professor, or designated assistant. Arrangements for submission must be made with the professor for any assignments handed-in outside the scheduled due date/time that are not considered late.

Essays in the late essay/assignment box will be picked-up twice per day: once in the morning (9:30 a.m.) and in the afternoon (4:00 p.m.). All essays dropped off after 4:00 p.m. on a Friday will be date-stamped the following Monday. The drop-box located on the main floor of The (south) Annex

Please ensure your professor's name is on the essay/assignment.

Policy on Accommodation for Medical Illness:

(http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/handbook/appeals/accommodation_medical.pdf)

Student Medical Certificate (SMC): http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/medicalform.pdf

Tests/Examinations

Students are responsible for seeking accommodation with appropriate documentation, prior to writing tests/examinations, if they are of the view that their performance may be affected by extenuating circumstances.

Faculty Office Hours: Faculty office hours can be found on King's homepage under the menu heading Academics and are also posted on the bulletin board outside the Faculty Secretaries' Office on the 2nd floor of Dante Lenardon Hall.

Support Services

Students who are in emotional/mental health distress should refer to Mental Health@Western: <http://www.uwo.ca/uwocom/mentalhealth/> for a complete list of options about how to obtain help.

University Students Council provides many valuable support services for students (including the health insurance plan) <http://westernusc.ca/services/>.

Information about Counselling and Student Development Services at King's is available at <http://www.kings.uwo.ca/current-students/academic-support/>;

for emotional/mental health assistance see specifically: <http://www.kings.uwo.ca/current-students/campus-services/student-support-services/personal-counselling/>

The web site for Academic Services at King's University College is:

<http://www.kings.uwo.ca/current-students/courses-enrolment/program-and-course-planning/academic-advising/>

updated July 2014