

SOCI2116/UGEC2983: Criminals and the Law
2020/21 First Term
Thursday 10:30am-1:15pm Online

Teacher's name: Prof. ZHONG Hua (Sara)
Telephone: 3943-6613 (437 Sino Building)
Office Hour: By appointment
Email: sarazhong@cuhk.edu.hk

Course Assistants:

Mr. Aikins Amoako Asiana aikins.asiama@link.cuhk.edu.hk
Mr. Jacky cheuk lap siu 1155094256@link.cuhk.edu.hk

COURSE DESCRIPTION

Students enrolled in this cross-disciplinary course will address three basic questions: “why people become criminals”, “who makes criminal law”, and “how criminal law is enforced”. Specifically, this course will include topics such as the social causes of criminal behavior, the role of criminal law in social control, and the operation of the criminal justice system (their internal interaction and external interaction with other social organizations). Comparative and local empirical research will also be drawn to explore the crime problems and the development of criminal law and criminal justice system in PRC, Hong Kong, Taiwan and the United States. In addition, to strengthen the students’ understandings on the “injustice” of current criminal justice system, students will be given one field opportunity to directly experience police departments, courts or prisons in Hong Kong. Several guest lectures conducted by legal practitioners will also be arranged.

LEARNING OUTCOMES

1. Gain an understanding of major data sources, methodological approaches and issues in the study of crime, law and criminal justice;
2. Gain familiarity with diverse patterns and types of crime in the United States, mainland China, Hong Kong and Taiwan, and their connection to processes of stratification and social control in the larger society;
3. Gain an understanding of the major theories of crime, law and criminal justice and be able to apply them in the student’s “hometown” community.
4. Develop analytical and critical-thinking skills through the application of concepts and theories, as well as a broadened and more appreciative view of self and the society in which we live.

ACADEMIC INTEGRITY

Attention is drawn to University policy and regulations on honesty in academic work, and to the disciplinary guidelines and procedures applicable to breaches of such policy and regulations. Details may be found at <http://www.cuhk.edu.hk/policy/academichonesty/>. With each assignment, students will be required to submit a signed declaration that they are aware of these policies, regulations, guidelines and procedures. For assignments in the form of a computer-generated document that is principally text-based and submitted via the plagiarism detection engine VeriGuide, the statement, in the form of a receipt, will be issued by the system upon students’ uploading of the soft copy of the assignment. Assignments without the receipt will not be graded by teachers.

REQUIRED READINGS

Akers, Ronald L, Christine S. Sellers and Wesley G. Jennings. 2017. *Criminological Theories* (7th ed.). NY: Oxford University Press.

Vago, Steven and Steven Barkan. 2017. *Law and Society* (11th edition). New York, NY: Routledge.

RECOMMENDED READINGS

On Crime:

Broadhurst, Roderic G. 2004. "Crime Trends in Hong Kong: Another Look at the Safe City". In Broadhurst, Roderic G. (Ed.) *Crime and its Control in PR China: Proceedings of the Annual Symposium 2000-2002*: 133-149. Hong Kong: Centre for Criminology, University of Hong Kong. http://eprints.qut.edu.au/5386/1/5386_1.pdf

Zimring, Franklin E. and David T. Johnson. 2005. "On the Comparative Study of Corruption." *British Journal of Criminology* 45: 793-809.

Wells, J., Armstrong, T., Boisvert, D., Lewis, R., Gangitano, D., & Hughes-Stamm, S. 2017. "Stress, genes, and generalizability across gender: Effects of MAOA and stress sensitivity on crime and delinquency". *Criminology* 55(3): 548-574.

Laub, John H. and Robert J. Sampson. 2003. *Shared Beginnings, Divergent Lives (Chapter 3)*. Cambridge, MA: Harvard University Press.

Steven F. Messner, Jianhong Liu, and Susanne Karstedt. 2008. "Economic Reform and Crime in Contemporary China: Paradoxes of a Planned Transition." Pp. 271-293 in *Urban China in Transition*, edited by John R. Logan. Oxford, UK: Blackwell Publishing Ltd.

Steffensmeier, Darrell and Jeffery T. Ulmer. 2004. *Confessions of a dying thief: understanding criminal careers and illegal enterprise (Chapter 1&19)*. New Brunswick, NJ: Transaction Publishers.

Zhang, Sheldon and Ko-Lin Chin. 2002. "Enter the dragon: Inside Chinese human smuggling organizations." *Criminology* 40: 737-767.

On Law and Criminal Justice:

Bernard, Thomas J. and Engel, Robin S. 2001. "Conceptualizing criminal justice theory". *Justice Quarterly* 18 (1): 1-30.

Craig, Susan Clark. 2014. "Rehabilitation versus control: An organizational theory of prison management." *The Prison Journal* 84.4 suppl: 92S-114S.

Feeley, Malcolm M., and Simon, Jonathan. 1992. "The new penology: notes on the emerging strategy of corrections and its implications". *Criminology* 39 (4): 449-474.

Klinger, David A. 1997. "Negotiating order in patrol work: an ecological theory of police response to deviance". *Criminology* 35: 277-306.

Sun, Ivan, Wu, Yuning, Hu, Rong, & Farmer, Ashley. 2017. "Procedural justice, legitimacy, and public cooperation with police: Does Western wisdom hold in China?" *Journal of Research in Crime and Delinquency* 54: 454-478.

Reiman, Jeffrey. 2007. *The Rich Get Richer and the Poor Get Prison* (8th ed.). Boston: Allyn & Bacon.

Ulmer, J. T., & Johnson, B. 2004. "Sentencing in Context: a multilevel analysis". *Criminology* 42(1): 137-177.

Unger, Roberto Mangabeira. 1976. *Law in modern society: toward a criticism of social theory* (Chapter 2). New York: Free Press.

TEACHING SCHEDULE

Topic 1 (Sept 10): Introduction to Criminology, Sociology of Law, and Criminal Justice—subject matters and research questions

Corresponding Reading:
Vago Chapter 9

Topic 2 (Sept 17): Types of crime, crime patterns, and crime statistics (official data, self-report data, and victimization data)

Corresponding Reading:

Zimring, Franklin E. and David T. Johnson. 2005. "On the Comparative Study of Corruption." *British Journal of Criminology* 45: 793-809.

Wells, J., Armstrong, T., Boisvert, D., Lewis, R., Gangitano, D., & Hughes-Stamm, S. 2017. "Stress, genes, and generalizability across gender: Effects of MAOA and stress sensitivity on crime and delinquency". *Criminology* 55(3): 548-574.

Laub, John H. and Robert J. Sampson. 2003. *Shared Beginnings, Divergent Lives* (Chapter 3). Cambridge, MA: Harvard University Press.

Topic 3 (Sept 24): Organization of crime

Corresponding Reading:

Steffensmeier, Darrell and Jeffery T. Ulmer. 2004. *Confessions of a dying thief: understanding criminal careers and illegal enterprise* (Chapter 1&19). New Brunswick, NJ: Transaction Publishers.

Zhang, Sheldon and Ko-Lin Chin. 2002. "Enter the dragon: Inside Chinese human smuggling organizations" *Criminology* 40: 737-767.

Topic 4 (Oct 8): Social change and crime trends

Corresponding Reading:

Steven F. Messner, Jianhong Liu, and Susanne Karstedt. 2008. "Economic Reform and Crime in Contemporary China: Paradoxes of a Planned Transition." Pp. 271-293 in *Urban China in Transition*, edited by John R. Logan. Oxford, UK: Blackwell Publishing Ltd.

Broadhurst, Roderic G. 2004. "Crime Trends in Hong Kong: Another Look at the Safe City". In Broadhurst, Roderic G. (Ed.) *Crime and its Control in PR China: Proceedings of the Annual Symposium 2000-2002*: 133-149. Hong Kong: Centre for Criminology, University of Hong Kong. http://eprints.qut.edu.au/5386/1/5386_1.pdf

Topic 5 (Oct 15 & Oct 22): Theories to explain crime and criminals

Corresponding Reading: Akers and Sellers Chapter 5-8

Topic 6 (Oct 29): Classical Thoughts on Law and Society

Corresponding Reading:

Vago Chapter 1 & 2

Unger, Roberto Mangabeira. 1976. *Law in modern society: toward a criticism of social theory* (Chapter 2). New York: Free Press.

Topic 7 (Nov 5): Law-Making and Law-Processing

Corresponding Reading:

Vago Chapter 7

Reiman, Jeffrey. 2007. *The Rich Get Richer and the Poor Get Prison* (8th ed.). Boston: Allyn & Bacon.

Kuo, S., Cuvelier, S. J., Sheu, C., & Chang, K. 2012. Crime reporting behavior and black's behavior of law. *International Sociology* 27(1): 51-71.

Bernard, Thomas J. and Engel, Robin S. 2001. "Conceptualizing criminal justice theory". *Justice Quarterly* 18 (1): 1-30.

Topic 8 (Nov 12): Police--operation, theories and research

Corresponding Reading:

Klinger, David A. 1997. "Negotiating order in patrol work: an ecological theory of police response to deviance". *Criminology* 35: 277-306.

Sun, Ivan, Wu, Yuning, Hu, Rong, & Farmer, Ashley. 2017. "Procedural justice, legitimacy, and public cooperation with police: Does Western wisdom hold in China?" *Journal of Research in Crime and Delinquency* 54: 454-478.

Topic 9 (Nov 19 & Nov 26): Courts—operation, theories and research

Corresponding Reading:

Ulmer, J. T., & Johnson, B. 2004. "Sentencing in Context: a multilevel analysis". *Criminology* 42(1): 137-177.

(the week of Nov 19 would be used for our field visit; no class)

Topic 10 (Dec 3): Correction--operation, theories and research

Corresponding Reading:

Craig, Susan Clark. 2014. "Rehabilitation versus control: An organizational theory of prison management." *The Prison Journal* 84.4 suppl: 92S-114S.

Feeley, Malcolm M., and Simon, Jonathan. 1992. "The new penology: notes on the emerging strategy of corrections and its implications". *Criminology* 39 (4): 449-474.

COURSE REQUIREMENT

(1) About six class discussions (after watching some video clips or doing some other class activities relevant to recent class materials) will be conducted in class (online). Students are required to turn in their answers on discussion questions. One field trip (tentatively) and guest lectures will be arranged. Students also need to answer corresponding questions after the field trip and guest lectures.

(2) Students should choose two of the recommended readings (one is about crime/criminals and the other is about law or criminal justice system); then briefly summarize and evaluate the readings. The first article/book critique will due on Oct 29, 2020 (before 5:30pm) and the deadline for the second one is Dec 7, 2020 (before 5:30pm). For instance, you could compare/contrast this reading with the

required reading; or you could identify at least one theoretical, methodological, or ideological point you want to make or question for the reading. These should be **not less than two and not more than four typed pages in length (double space and font size 12)**. A **soft copy** with the VeriGuide receipt should be submitted to Blackboard on time. Late submission will receive grade deduction (one point per day). The goal of the assignment is to provide an incentive for students to read and critically think about more materials.

(3) There will be one open-book final exam at the end of the semester. It would be a take-home exam lasting for two hours. Please submit the final answers to Blackboard on time. The content of the required readings and lecture notes will be included in the exam.

GRADING POLICY

Discussion Questions, 20% (2 points for each discussion, plus 2 points for the field visit **participation**)
Article/Book Critiques, 40% (20 points each)
Final Exam, 40% (100 points)

The grade descriptors for this course are as follows:

Grade A: Outstanding performance on all learning outcomes.

Grade A-: Generally outstanding performance on all (or almost all) learning outcomes.

Grade B: Substantial performance on all learning outcomes, OR high performance on some learning outcomes which compensates for less satisfactory performance on others, resulting in overall substantial performance.

Grade C: Satisfactory performance on the majority of learning outcomes, possibly with a few weaknesses.

Grade D: Barely satisfactory performance on a number of learning outcomes.

Grade F: Unsatisfactory performance on a number of learning outcomes, OR failure to meet specified assessment requirement.

REMARKS

1. Weekly lecture notes and discussion summaries will be uploaded to Blackboard on every Wednesday;
2. All Books would be reserved at CC and/or UL. All Articles can be found online.