

CJ-3107/3
CRIMINAL JUSTICE AND THE MEDIA

NOTE: EXAMPLE ONLY, CHECK WITH YOUR COURSE INSTRUCTOR FOR CURRENT REQUIRED TEXTBOOKS AND COURSE OUTLINE

REQUIRED READINGS:

Rafter, Nicole (2006) *Shots in the Mirror: Crime Films and Society* (Toronto: Oxford University Press), 2nd edition.
Capote, Truman (1965/1993) *In Cold Blood* (New York: Vintage)
Additional required readings will be placed on WebCT.

COURSE DESCRIPTION:

This course critically examines the depiction of crime and the criminal justice system in the media, including television, film, print and the Internet. Key research findings and theoretical approaches to studying criminal justice in the media are discussed. Implications for policy, public opinion and the operation of the agencies of the criminal justice system are examined.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS:

The course will consist of lectures and class discussions based in large part on topics in the assigned readings. A detailed syllabus of weekly topics and readings is attached below. Students are expected to complete all the required readings, and come to class prepared to engage in discussions of the topics covered. Please note that not all topics listed in this course outline may be covered completely in class time due to time constraints. Students are responsible for all required course readings regardless of whether or not the readings were covered fully in lecture time. The course is reading intensive, so students are urged to keep on top of readings and ask questions if any material is unclear.

MATURE THEMES AND SUBJECT MATTER:

Some of the visual materials viewed in this class contain material that some individuals may find offensive or disturbing. Students who have concerns about viewing scenes of violence, nudity, sexuality or coarse language are advised to speak to the instructor as soon as possible

EVALUATION:

This course is writing intensive. The first assignment is a book review and analysis of the true-crime novel *In Cold Blood* (8-10 pages). Secondly, there is an in-class midterm test covering material from the first part of the course. Third, you will write two short film review/analysis papers (4-5 pages) based on your choice of two films screened and discussed during class time (weeks 8 through 12). Fourth, a cumulative final take-home test will be distributed during the last class.

In addition to the tests and written assignments, students are expected to actively participate in the class. Active participation means 1) completing several formal in-class tasks (e.g. analysis of newspaper stories) and 2) attending and participating in class discussions. If you are shy about speaking up in class, please submit questions or comments via e-mail or drop by the instructor's office to chat. 10% of the final grade will be based on class participation and completion of in-class tasks.

More detailed instructions for the assignments will be provided in class. Values for each assignment are summarized below:

<i>In Cold Blood</i> Book Review/Analysis	20%
Term Test	25%
Short Film Reviews (2, 10% each)	20%
Take Home Final Test	25%
In Class Tasks & Participation	10%

GRADE DISTRIBUTION:

A+ = 90-100%	B+ = 75-79%	C = 60-64%
A = 83-89%	B = 70-74%	D = 50-59%
A- = 80-82%	C+ = 65-69%	F = 0-49%

ACADEMIC DISHONESTY:

Students should acquaint themselves with the University’s policy regarding **academic ethics** (i.e. cheating). It is outlined in The University of Winnipeg Course Calendar under the heading; Regulations and Policies.

<http://www.uwinnipeg.ca/index/calendar-calendar>

WITHDRAWAL DATE:

The final date to withdraw from the course without academic penalty can be found online.

<http://www.uwinnipeg.ca/index/services-withdrawal-schedules>

SERVICES FOR STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES:

Students with documented disabilities requiring academic accommodations for tests/exams (e.g., private space) or during lectures/laboratories (e.g., access to volunteer note-takers) are encouraged to contact the Coordinator of Disability Services (DS) at 786-9771 to discuss appropriate options. Specific information about DS is available on-line at <http://www.uwinnipeg.ca/index/services-disability>. All information about the disability is confidential.

EXPECTATIONS OF STUDENTS:

In order to get the most out of this course, students must come to class prepared to learn. This means completing required readings in advance, listening respectfully when others are talking, raising your hand when you want to speak, and speaking in turn. Critical announcements will normally be made at the beginning of lectures so please be on time. Also, please note that each three hour class is the equivalent of a full week of classes. Please plan to attend regularly and for the full duration of the period. Class will normally end at 8:45 p.m. with one 15 minute break approximately halfway through the period.

Early departures, excessive talking, fidgeting, etc. are particularly distracting during films. Please be advised that we will be watching several feature length films (in the range of 1½ to 2 hours in length) that demand your sustained attention. Out of respect to your classmates, please keep all distractions to a minimum.

E-MAIL ETIQUETTE:

Please keep e-mail questions as concise and focused as possible. Questions requiring a more detailed response should be dealt with by telephone or in person.

Assignments must be submitted in hard copy only; for a variety of reasons the instructor cannot accept submissions sent by e-mail.

DUE DATES:

All due dates in this course are final. Assignments and the take home test must be completed on the specified dates unless arrangements are made in advance with the instructor. Late submissions will not be accepted without prior authorization. Documentation must be provided before any alternate arrangements will be considered. Only authorized university excuses will be considered acceptable grounds for an extension. This normally includes only documented illnesses and unanticipated family emergencies. Each student must present proper documentation of illness (e.g. a letter from a doctor) or a letter explaining the nature of the family emergency.

CRIMINAL JUSTICE AND THE MEDIA CJ-3107/3 COURSE OUTLINE AND REQUIRED READING

Part One:

FOUNDATIONS OF CRIME, CRIMINAL JUSTICE AND THE MEDIA

Introduction to the Course: Media Representations of Reality

No assigned reading.

Theory and Analysis

Jewkes, Y. (2004) "Theorizing Media and Crime" WebCT

Valverde, Mariana (2006) "Representations and their Social Effects: a Template" in *Law and Order: Images, Meanings, Myths* (New Brunswick, NJ: Routledge), pp. 31-57. WebCT

Part Two:

CRIME STORIES IN THE NEWS

The Construction of Crime News

Jewkes, Y. (2004) "The Construction of Crime News" WebCT

Surette, R. (1998) "Media and the Construction of Crime and Criminal Justice" WebCT

Fishman, M. (1978) "Crime Waves as Ideology" WebCT

Media, Moral Panics and Public Policy

Goode, E and N. Ben-Yehuda (1994) "Enter Moral Panics" WebCT

Cohen, Stanley (2002) "Moral Panics as Cultural Politics" in *Folk Devils and Moral Panics*, 3rd ed. (New York: Routledge), pp. vii-xxxvii. WebCT

Surette, R. (1995) "News From Nowhere, Policy to Follow: Media and the Social Construction of "Three Strikes and You're Out" WebCT

Part Three:

TRUE CRIME STORIES

True Crime as Entertainment

Capote, Truman (1965/1993) *In Cold Blood* (New York: Vintage)

Strange, C. and T. Loo (2004) *True Crime True North* (Vancouver: Raincoast Books), pp. 1-15, 81-95. WebCT

Part Four:

CRIME STORIES ON TELEVISION

Reality, Television and Crime

Doyle, Aaron (2003) "Reality Television and Policing: The Case of Cops" WebCT

Cavender, G. and S. Deutsch (2007) "CSI and Moral Authority: The Police and Science" *Crime, Media, Culture*, Vol 3(1): 67–81. WebCT
Altheide, David (1992) "Gonzo Justice" WebCT

TERM TEST: 25%

Part Five:

CRIME FILMS AND SOCIETY

Please Note: Several feature length films will be screened and discussed in class during these weeks. Films and alternate screening locations will be announced in class or on WebCT. Film reviews are due at the beginning of class the week following the date when films are screened. The students are required to write short (4-5 page, double-spaced) reviews/analyses of any TWO of these films. Films must be discussed through the lens of criminology/criminal justice and use the conceptual/theoretical/methodological materials presented in class and in course readings. Detailed instructions will be provided.

Crime and Justice in Film

Rafter, N. (2006) Introduction and chapter 1

Criminology in Film

Rafter, N. (2006) Chapters 2 & 3

Criminal Law and Law Enforcement in Film

Rafter, N. (2006) Chapter 4 & 5

Crime and Punishment in Film

Rafter, N. (2006) Chapter 6

Heroes and the Alternative Tradition in Crime Films

Rafter, N. (2006) Chapters 7 and 8

TAKE HOME EXAM