

CJ 3117
CRIME CAREERS

TEXTBOOK: Paul Cromwell (editor). 2006. In Their Own Words: Criminals on Crime – An Anthology -Fourth Edition. Los Angeles, California: Roxbury Publishing Company.

**Note: additional readings listed below will be available on WebCT.

COURSE DESCRIPTION:

The purpose of this course is to introduce students to the discipline of criminology and the study of 'criminals.' Topics covered include traditional and contemporary criminological and research methods, property crime, violent crime, occupational crime, and other illegal occupations such as gang activities and drug trafficking. Lectures will provide students with theoretical and methodological skills to assess the 'crime careers' profiled in the text.

The course text provides in depth accounts, real stories, of 'criminals' sharing their perspectives on various crimes and their involvement. This ethnographic research strategy is one of many used by criminologists. Students will learn about other research methods and specific theories as we apply them to these social problems. Issues covered in this course are diverse, from crack dealing to auto thefts, to street gangs, to motorcycle gangs, to prostitution, to corporate crime, to serial killers. An open-minded attitude is essential for developing a broad understanding of the complexities involved in understanding the aetiology of crime and societal responses to it.

This course requires consistent reading every week. A substantial amount of information is covered, and it is essential that students keep up with their reading. **Do not fall behind.** At the start of the course you should make note of the readings required for each week.

INSTRUCTION:

In the lectures, the instructor will assume that you have read the required readings for the class. The lectures will complement, not replicate, the material. We will elaborate on key concepts and introduce examples that prompt students to apply what they are learning. The lectures will be kept interesting and exciting by referring to current issues, bringing in examples, showing relevant videos, presenting some material with PowerPoint, inviting guest lectures, and by encouraging group discussions. Class attendance is *critical* for success in the course. Please note that not all topics listed in this course outline may be covered completely in class time due to time constraints and that the readings may vary from time to time.

COURSE EVALUATION:

TERM TESTS (60%):

There are two closed book tests, each worth 30% of your final grade. Exams will consist of true false questions, short answer, and long answer questions. Written proficiency in English, at an academic level, is assumed for this third year University course. You will only need a pencil or blue pen for exams.

The exams will cover the material within the text, and **also** the additional information discussed in class lectures (including videos, handouts and guest lectures).

TERM PAPER (25%)

A major portion (30%) of evaluation in this course is your term paper. The purpose of this paper is to apply what you have learned in the course and go into a specific area of 'Crime Careers' that interests you. One option is to write a paper about 'crime as work.' You would conduct a review of the methodologies used to study the crime career. You might also discuss: onset of the criminal career (what factors influenced movement into the career?); success (what career contingencies affect the level of success achieved?); and desistance (how and why do offenders end their careers?). On the basis of your research, what policy recommendation would you suggest to reduce the incidence of this type of offending? What are the possible directions for future research?

Late papers will be docked 2% each day

PAPER TOPIC (5%)

You will submit a paper topic and brief outline of your proposed paper. It will include a paragraph length description of the paper and **at least five academic references** (bibliography). Two of these references must be from scholarly journals. APA reference styling is preferred, but you may use whichever style you like as long as you are **consistent**. This is worth 5% of your final grade to encourage your early attention. Early appropriate topic selection will undoubtedly influence your grade in the final paper. Late topic submissions will receive comments, but will receive a 'zero' grade

Class participation throughout the term will make up the final 10% of the course evaluation.

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.

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COURSE OUTLINE AND REQUIRED READING**

First Lecture	Introduction to the course and to the text
Section I	'Introduction to Ethnographic Research in Criminal Justice and Criminology,' Cromwell text, In Their Own Words. Introduction to crime careers -**WebCT reading, 'Introduction' and 'Overview of Criminal Careers,' from <u>Key Issues in Criminal Career Research</u> , Piquero et al. 2007.
Section II	'Criminal Lifestyles and Decision Making,' Cromwell Text, In Their Own Words. WebCT reading – 'From victims to survivors to offenders,' Gilfus. 2006.
Section III	'Property Crime,' Cromwell Text, In Their Own Words.
Section IV	'Violent Crime,' Cromwell Text, In Their Own Words.
Section V	'Occupational Crime,' Cromwell Text, In Their Own Words.
Section VI	'Illegal Occupations,' Cromwell Text, In Their Own Words. WebCT reading, 'One women's voice,' Levine. 2006.

- Section VII** 'Gangs and Crime,' Cromwell Text, In Their Own Words.
WebCT reading, 'Young women and gang violence,' Decker
and Miller. 2006.
- Section VIII** 'Drugs and Crime,' Cromwell Text, In Their Own Words.
- Section IX** 'Quitting Crime,' Cromwell Text, In Their Own Words_