

**UNIVERSITY OF BRITISH COLUMBIA
DEPARTMENT OF SOCIOLOGY**

**Sociology 470: Sociology of Crime and Justice
Section 101 - Term 1 (September – December 2020)**

Tuesday/ Thursday 9:30-11:00
WEB ORIENTED – Asynchronous/ Synchronous

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Office Hours: By appointment

Course Description:

Questions of crime and justice have become significant local, national and international issues that have been newly politicized in the contemporary moment. In national/ global media coverage and on social media, we repeatedly witness the ongoing violence directed at Black, Indigenous, and People of Colour (BIPOC) as well as claims of injustice directed at state institutions, most notably police. Given the tireless work of activist and grassroots organizations (including *Idle No More*, *Black Lives Matter*, among others), it is becoming increasingly apparent that responses to crime, which are often legitimized under the guise of “justice,” produce effects that are profoundly unjust, particularly for the most marginal: BIPOC and the urban poor.

As a way to think through contemporary questions of violence, this seminar will critically explore the tensions and contradictions that exist between law, crime, and justice.

Students will consider:

- a. The contested origins of law and its relationship to justice
- b. How justice has been conceived over time/place and law/ politics
- c. How historical approaches to law and justice inform present day struggles for justice

Because crime and justice are problems that exceed a single discipline, the course readings draw from sociology, anthropology, cultural studies, legal studies, and political theory. ***Please note: this is a very reading and theory intensive course.***

Discussions of law and justice inevitably deal with questions of violence. Some of the material we cover in class may be difficult for students.

During this pandemic, the shift to online learning has greatly altered teaching and studying at UBC, including changes to health and safety considerations. Keep in mind that some UBC courses might cover topics that are censored or considered illegal by non-Canadian governments. This may include, but is not limited to, human rights, representative government, defamation, obscenity, gender or sexuality, and historical or current geopolitical controversies. If you are a student living abroad, you will be subject to the laws of your local jurisdiction, and your local authorities might limit your access to course material or take punitive action against you. UBC is strongly committed to academic freedom, but has no control over foreign authorities (please visit the UBC

Calendar for an articulation of the values of the University conveyed in the Senate Statement on [Academic Freedom](#)). Thus, we recognize that students will have legitimate reason to exercise caution in studying certain subjects. If you have concerns regarding your personal situation, consider postponing taking a course with manifest risks, until you are back on campus or reach out to your academic advisor to find substitute courses. For further information and support, please visit: <http://academic.ubc.ca/support-resources/freedom-expression>

Course Format:

This is a web-oriented course that includes **asynchronous lectures** and **synchronous seminars**. The Tuesday lectures will be asynchronous. Lectures will be uploaded to Canvas (see Modules) before the Tuesday morning class. Please note that all readings **MUST** be completed before listening to the lecture. The materials will not make sense unless you have completed the readings. Thursday classes will be synchronous. During class time, we will discuss readings, engage with group presentations, and do peer assessments.

Required Readings:

All readings are available on the Library Online Course Reserve Page (Canvas) or as hyperlinks in the syllabus. In most weeks, there are 2 articles/ book chapters plus a shorter/popular essay. The short essays will guide the synchronous seminar discussions.

Course Evaluation:

Seminar Participation	15%
Group Presentation	15%
Video Essay proposal	10%
Video Essay	20%
Take Home Final Exam	40%

NOTE: THE LATE PENALTY FOR ASSIGNMENTS/ PAPERS IS 5% PER DAY (including weekends)

Please Note the Following Important Dates:

Last date for withdrawal without a W on your transcript – September 21/2020

Last date for withdrawal with a W on your transcript – October 30/2020

Seminar Participation***15%***

Online participation is an integral part of this course. Given that this is a fourth year seminar, the success of the class discussion depends on the participation of **all** students. In the **synchronous Thursday classes**, students will be expected to actively participate by asking questions, commenting on the readings, providing peer assessments when applicable, and creating a learning environment that is respectful, stimulating, and productive. This requires all students to complete the weekly readings and listen to the online lectures prior to the Thursday class. Some weeks, there will be in-class activities that must be submitted and count toward seminar participation.

Group Presentation**15%**

From **week 5 onwards**, in the synchronous class on Thursdays, students in groups of 3-4 will be expected to ask questions and offer a short presentation. The presentation provides an opportunity for students to work collaboratively in small groups to engage with the week's themes by critically discussing the readings. Groups are responsible for all the readings assigned for the week they are presenting. Students will sign up via canvas.

Video Essay Proposal**10%**

Students must submit a **2-3 page double-spaced proposal** outlining ideas for the film project. This is due on **October 15th**. The proposal should be written as an essay, with questions and headings, and accompanied by proper citations of relevant course readings. The proposal will be graded on engagement/ interpretation of readings, the questions raised, and the creativity of format. Your grade will also be determined by the feasibility of the film project: Is it appropriate for an undergraduate class? Can it be completed in a few weeks? Please ensure that your proposal is clearly written and carefully proofread.

Video Essay**20%**

Social understandings of law, crime, and justice are deeply shaped by popular representations that are most often traced to TV, film, and social media. However, images of law, crime, and justice have a much long history in social and political imaginaries. The video essay will explore concepts, ideas, and arguments developed in the 17th - 19th century and in the writings of European thinkers including Thomas Hobbes, John Locke, Jean-Jacques Rousseau, Jeremy Bentham **or** John Stuart Mill. The assignment is intended as a **visual response** and **critical commentary** of a key concept, idea, or argument (e.g. state of nature, commonwealth, sovereignty, freedom, government, punishment, etc.). This is due **November 24th**. Additional requirements and expectations will be posted on Canvas.

Students will create a short (3-5 minute) film as a visual and critical commentary. This film can be any style: documentary, narrative, or experimental.

Take Home Final Exam**40%**

The take home final exam will be handed out in the last week **December 1st/20** and is due on **December 8th by 11:59pm (PST)**. The final exam will consist of two essay questions which draw together the course readings and discussions. Students will be required to complete one. The take home exam should be 10 pages in length (including references), double-spaced, and in 12-point font with 1-inch margins. **Please note this is a formal essay, not a research paper.** Students are expected only to engage with the course materials (readings, films, and class discussions) and must use an acceptable referencing format (ASA, APA, Chicago Manual Style, or some other citation style approved by the Professor). Students will be graded on the quality of argument and on evidence, creativity, grammar, style, organization, and use of course materials (discussions, readings, films).

University Policies

UBC provides resources to support student learning and to maintain healthy lifestyles but recognizes that sometimes crises arise and so there are additional resources to access including those for survivors of sexual violence. UBC values respect for the person and ideas of all members of the academic community. Harassment and discrimination are not tolerated nor is suppression of academic freedom. UBC provides appropriate accommodation for students with disabilities and for religious observances. UBC values academic honesty and students are expected to acknowledge the ideas generated by others and to uphold the highest academic standards in all of their actions.

Details of the policies and how to access support are available on [the UBC Senate website](#).

Academic Dishonesty:

Please review the UBC Calendar “Academic Regulations” for the University’s policy on plagiarism and other forms of academic dishonesty. Also visit the [UBC Student Services website](#) for useful information on academic integrity.

Grading:

UBC courses are graded on a percentage basis. Corresponding letter grades are assigned automatically by the Registrar’s Office.

Letter Grade	A+	A	A-	B+	B	B-	C+	C	C-	D	F
Percent	90-100	85-89	80-84	76-79	72-75	68-71	64-67	60-63	55-59	50-54	00-49

Copyright

All materials of this course (course handouts, prerecorded lectures, lecture slides, assessments, course readings, etc.) are the intellectual property of the Course Instructor or licensed to be used in this course by the copyright owner. Redistribution of these materials by any means without permission of the copyright holder(s) constitutes a breach of copyright and may lead to academic discipline.

Sociology 470A: Crime and Justice

Class Schedule and Readings

I. ORIENTATION: WHAT IS LAW, WHAT IS JUSTICE?

Week 1:

Sept. 8 th	Sept. 10 th
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No classes due to IMAGINE DAY 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No class due to Scholars Strike Please familiarize yourself with the strike.

No Required Readings

To prepare for next week's classes, please watch [Lord of Flies on YouTube](#)

Week 2: From the 'State of Nature' to Law and Justice

Sept. 15 th	Sept. 17 th
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> LECTURE 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Seminar Discussion

Required Readings:

- Thomas Hobbes, *Leviathan*, ["Of Other Lawes of Nature,"](#) - Project Gutenberg
- John Locke, [The Second Treatise of Government](#), Chapters 1,2, & 8 - Project Gutenberg
- Jean- Jacques Rousseau, [The Social Contract](#), Foreword to Chapter 5 - Project Gutenberg
- ["Kadir' Nelson's 'Say their Names,'" New Yorker](#)

Week 3: Utility, Justice, and Authority

Sept. 22 nd	Sept. 24 th
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> LECTURE 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Seminar Discussion

Required Readings:

- Jeremy Bentham, *An Introduction to the Principles of Morals and Legislation*, Chapter 1, ["Of the Principle of Utility,"](#) - online
- John Stuart Mill, *Utilitarianism*, [Chapter 5](#) - online
- "The Golden Rule is Dying of Covid-19," [Bloomberg](#)

Week 4: Justice, Distribution, and Difference

Sept. 29 th	Oct. 1 st
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> LECTURE 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Seminar Discussion – Video Essay Proposal Brainstorming with Peers

Required Readings

- John Rawls, [A Theory of Justice](#) – Chapter 1
- Iris Marion Young, [Inclusion and Democracy](#) – Chapter 7 - Canvas
- “Employers should Help Workers Struggling with Childcare During Covid-19,” [The Conversation](#)

Week 5: The Universality of Justice and its Particular Exceptions I

Oct. 6 th	Oct. 8 th
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> LECTURE 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Seminar Discussion – GROUP PRESENTATION

Required Readings:

- Nancy Fraser, [Justice Interruptus](#) – Chapter 1 - Canvas
- Uday Singh Mehta, [Liberalism and Empire](#) – Chapter 2 – Canvas
- “How Britain Stole \$45 Trillion from India,” [Al Jazeera](#)

II. LAW, CRIME, AND JUSTICE**Week 6: The Universality of Justice and its Particular Exceptions II**

Oct. 13 th	Oct. 15 th
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> LECTURE 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Seminar Discussion – GROUP PRESENTATION

- Denise Ferreira da Silva, “No Bodies: Law, Racality, and Violence” - Canvas
- Nick Estes, “Fighting for Our Lives” – Canvas
- [“2 Years After Standing Rock,”](#) NPR

Video Essay Proposal Due October 15th by 11:59 pm PST

Week 7: Law and Justice: What is the Relationship?

Oct. 20 th	Oct. 22 nd
• LECTURE	• Seminar Discussion – GROUP PRESENTATION

Required Readings:

- Nicholas Blomley, “Law, Property, and the Geography of Violence” - Canvas
- Sherene Razack, “Settler Colonialism, Policing, and Racial Terror” – Canvas
- [Summary of the MMIWG Report](#), Harsha Walia

Week 8: Punishment and Justice: Part I

Oct. 27 th	Oct. 29 th
• LECTURE	• Seminar Discussion – GROUP PRESENTATION

Required Readings:

- Michel Foucault, Discipline and Punish – “The Gentle Way in Punishment” - Canvas
- Loic Wacquant, “From Slavery to Mass Incarceration” - Canvas
- [“Floating Guantánamos,”](#) YouTube

Week 9: Punishment and Justice: Part II

Nov. 3 rd	Nov. 5 th
• LECTURE	• Seminar Discussion – GROUP PRESENTATION

Required Readings:

- Simone Brown, Dark Matters – “Introduction, and Other Dark Matters” - Canvas
- David Garland, “Penal Excess and Surplus Meanings” – Canvas
- “Colonial Australia’s Foundation is Stained with the Profits of Slavery,” [The Guardian](#)

III. MASS VIOLENCE AND THE QUEST FOR JUSTICE**Week 10: Genocide and its Responses**

Nov. 10 th	Nov. 12 th
• LECTURE	• Seminar Discussion – GROUP PRESENTATION

Required Readings

- Mahmood Mamdani, “A Brief History of Genocide” - Canvas

- Samera Esmeir, “The Violence of Non-Violence” - Canvas
- Mahmood Mamdani, “The Politics of Naming,” [London Review of Books](#)

Week 11: Law and Justice at Home and Abroad

Nov. 17 th	Nov. 19 th
• LECTURE	• Seminar Discussion – GROUP PRESENTATION

Required Readings

- Henry Giroux, “Reading Hurricane Katrina” – Canvas
- Kiera Ladner, “Political Genocide” - Canvas
- Christina Sharpe, “The Weather,” [The New Inquiry](#)

IV: THE GLOBAL QUEST FOR JUSTICE

Week 12: Globalization and Social Justice

Nov. 24 th	Nov. 26 th
• LECTURE	• Seminar Discussion – GROUP PRESENTATION

Required Readings:

- Zygmunt Bauman, “The Great War of Recognition” - Canvas
- Nancy Fraser, “Reframing Justice in a Globalized World” – Canvas
- Jessica Lehman, “Blue History,” [The New Inquiry](#)

Video Essay Due on November 24th at 11:59pm PST

Week 13: Making Global Communities?

Dec. 1 st	Dec. 3 rd
• LECTURE	• Course Summary

Required Readings:

- Dian Million, “There is a River In Me: Theory from Life” – Canvas
- Robyn Maynard, “Reading Black Resistance”
- Robyn D.G. Kelley, “What Does Black Lives Matter Want?” [Boston Review](#)

Final Exam will be distributed on December 1st and is due on December 8th by 11:59pm (PST).