

SC237 – 2009

# Crime, Deviance and Social Structure

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I also blog and put material online at <http://genicus.wordpress.com/>

and have a website at <http://www.criminologyinpublic.com/index.html>

This module guide is available on



where you will find lecture notes and other resources such as journal articles and websites.

The purpose of this module is to build on student's knowledge of a sociologically based criminology. Specifically it aims to augment sociological thinking and knowledge in students gained in other sociology modules by reference to the topics of crime and deviance and some policies and practices to deal with them.

The level 1 module focussed on crime and theory and this module on social structures (gender, race, ethnicity, class, age, sexuality, ability etc) and on crime and crime control. There is obviously an overlap but in this module sociological theory will be applied to crime and .... (various elements of social structure) as well as giving greater details of the institutions of crime control and their place in and support for social structures. Some weeks will be supported by material which focuses on that week's topic through examination of its relation to one of those structural variables, often from a country outside of the UK to add comparisons. In addition other supporting articles – for instance, on whiteness and youth sub-cultures are also on St Mary's online.

### **Assessment:**

This module is assessed by a class test (40%) of 45mins on 30 November and an essay (60%) of 2,000 words due in on 14 December. Answer one of the following:

- a critically discuss the issues of 'race' and ethnicity **OR** gender and sexuality effecting policing
- b analyse the issues of social structure affecting punishment
- c 'binge drinking': criminal, medical or media question?

### **Bibliography and Set Book**

The set book is [Carrabine B, Iganski P, Lee M, Plummer K and South. N Criminology: A sociological introduction](#) Routledge (2004). A new edition is now available which is only slightly changed and will be used for this course from next year and SC153 from this. **It will be used in all weeks and you should have bought it last year. Other useful books in library are:**

Coleman Clive and Norris Clive (2001) [Introducing Criminology](#) Willan  
Downes, D. and Rock, P. 1994 [Understanding Deviance](#). Oxford University Press  
Farrell, J. and Saunders, C.R. 1995 [Cultural Criminology](#). Northeastern University Press  
Hopkins Burke Roger (2001) [Criminological Theory](#) Willan Publishing  
Hogg Russell and Carrington Kerry (eds) [Critical Criminology: issues, debates, challenges](#) (2001) Willan  
Jewkes Yvonne and Letherby Gayle (eds) [Criminology: A Reader](#) (2002) Sage  
Lilly, Cullen and Ball. 1995. [Criminological Theory](#). Sage  
Maguire, M., Morgan, R., Reiner, R. (eds). [The Oxford Handbook of Criminology](#)  
Muncie, J., Laughlin, E. and Langan, M. (eds) 1996. [Criminological Perspectives: a reader](#). Sage  
Mcloughlin, E and Muncie, J (eds) (2001) [Sage Dictionary of Criminology](#) Sage.  
Taylor, I., Walton, P. and Young, J. 1973. [The New Criminology](#). Routledge

Stenson Kevin and Sullivan Robert R. (eds) (2000) [\*Crime, Risk and Justice: the politics of crime control in liberal democracies\*](#) Willan  
White and Haines (2001) [\*Crime and Criminology\*](#) OUP

The college takes the [\*British Journal of Criminology\*](#) and other sources can be found on [Ebsco](#).

The Module in brief

Wk1	21 Sept	Video The Trial
Wk2	28 Sept	Victims and Victimization (ch 7)
Wk3	5 Oct	Restorative justice (p63, 237/238)
Wk4	12 Oct	Crime and Property (ch 8)
Wk5	19 Oct	Crime and Sexuality (ch 9)
Wk6	26 Oct	Crime and Emotion (ch 10)

Study week

Wk7	9 Nov	Organisational and Professional Forms of Crime (ch 11)
Wk8	16 Nov	Drugs, Alcohol, Health and Crime (ch 12)
Wk9	23 Nov	History and Functions of Police (chs 14/15)
Wk10	30 Nov	<b>Class test</b>
Wk11	7 Dec	History and Functions of Imprisonment (chs 14/16)
	14 Dec	<b>Hand in essay</b>

The module in full

Wk1 Video The Trial

The course will be introduced by looking at this module guide and online sources.

This BBC video shows examples of trials in Scotland which has different jurisdiction to England and Wales. See this [article](#) on televising courts by Paul Mason and the [DCA website](#) on their last consultation on the issue.

We will then discuss whether court proceedings should be broadcast but mostly concern ourselves with the extent to which different social groups or actors within the criminal justice system may have different perspectives, intentions and capacities.

Wk2 Victims and Victimization (ch 7)

How do power differentials relate to victims and victimisation? How does crime affect individuals and society? Which offences or victims get attention? And what is the role now of victims within criminal justice?

We will then discuss the report Hate Crime Against Disabled People in Scotland which is on St Mary's online. You should read that before the seminar and be able to summarize the main points.

Wk3 Restorative justice (p63, 237/238)

Having examined the little that the set book says about RJ and relating it to victims we look at some academic work: one which praises it, one which evaluates it in relation to a specific problem of sex offending by priests and the other raises problems of the merging of RJ with more traditional criminal justice methods. These can be found on St Mary's online and we will discuss them. You should have looked at least one of these so that you can discuss them.

Wk4 Crime and Property (ch 8)

We look at what might be considered property theft, how patterns vary over time and place, the characteristics of property offenders and the distribution of victimisation.

We will discuss a report on European comparisons of crime and criminal justice concentrating on the property issues but also noting the comparative issues. This can be found on St Mary's online. You will need to have looked at it.

Wk5 Crime and Sexuality (ch 9)

**NB – whilst much of this module raises highly sensitive issues this week particularly may raise difficult matters. There will be a general discussion but also the opportunity for single sex discussion.**

What is the pattern of crime related to sex (and gender)? How are these viewed? Are they changing over time and what might be done about them?

Some of these issues are addressed in this report [A gap or a chasm? Attrition in reported rape cases](#) which we will discuss. You will have looked at it.

Wk6 Crime and Emotion (ch 10)

Crime as fun, the significance of self-esteem or 'respect' and hate rage and joy in crime.

Jack Katz's Seductions of Crime is the classic and Amazon let you have a look [online](#). See also [Groombridge](#) on the pleasures (joy?) of driving someone else's car and Nathan Hall on [Hate Crime](#). You should look at a minimum of one of these for this week's discussion.

Wk7            Organisational and Professional Forms of Crime (ch 11)

Can we easily define organised or professional crime? What kinds of activities involved in Britain? Is it a new crime? Where is the overlap in legitimate and illegitimate business?

You should consult 'The Politics of Organised Crime and Organised Crime of Politics' by Dorn, Nicholas. *British Journal of Criminology*, Mar2007, Vol. 47 Issue 2, p354-359 for our discussion this week.

Wk8            Drugs, Alcohol, Health and Crime (ch 12)

The contribution of drugs and alcohol to crime (and vice versa). The cultural history of drug use. The 'normalisation' debate. The connection between ill health and crime.

To aid our discussion for this week you should have read the article about women drug dealers in Oz and property crime. Clearly this connects with previous weeks too. This can be found on St Mary's online.

Wk9            History and Functions of Police (chs 14/15)

In addition to a lecture on the history and functions of the police. See also the BBC's [Secret Policeman](#) programme .

Wk10          Class test and essay planning

There will be a class test on the first nine weeks of the course worth 40% of the marks. I will also discuss the essay.

Wk11          History and Functions of Imprisonment (chs 14/16)

In the lecture period we will look at how prisons became the defining form of punishment in the modern world.

We can then discuss both the functions and history of prisons but also of police and the sometimes blurred line between punishment and policing. You might want to look at the article about 'confinement' in Ireland.

Wk12          Hand in the essay