

SC237 – 2011/12 semester 1

# Crime, Deviance and Social Structure



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

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This module guide is available on simmsCAPital 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 more 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 by way of comparison. In addition other supporting articles are also on simmsCAPital.

### **Assessment:**

This module is assessed by a class test (40%) of 45mins on 24 November and an essay (60%) of 2,000 words due in on 8 December. Answer one of the following:

- a critically discuss how the issues of 'race' and ethnicity **OR** gender and sexuality effect punishment
- b analyse the issues of social structure affecting policing
- c critically assess the merits of these two articles: *Situational Crime Prevention and its Discontents: Rational Choice Theory versus the 'Culture of Now'* by Keith Hayward and *Situational Crime Prevention and Its Discontents: Rational Choice and Harm Reduction versus 'Cultural Criminology'* by Graham Farrell

### **Bibliography and Set Book**

The set book is [Carrabine B, Iganski P, Lee M, Plummer K and South. N Criminology: A sociological introduction](#) Routledge (2009 2e). This new edition is only slightly changed from first edition - 2 extra chapters - so you can use either but chapter numbers differ. **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](#). Sage have a number of criminological journals that we now have access to.

### The Module in brief

Wk1	15 Sept	Video The Trial
Wk2	22 Sept	Victims and Victimization (ch 9)
Wk3	29 Sept	Restorative justice
Wk4	6 Oct	Crime and Property (ch 10)
Wk5	13 Oct	Crime and Sexuality (ch11)
Wk6	20 Oct	Crime and Emotion (ch 12)
Wk7	27 Oct	Organisational and Professional Forms of Crime (ch 13)
Wk8	3 Nov	Drugs, Alcohol, Health and Crime (ch 14)
Wk9	10 Nov	History and Functions of Police (chs 16/17)
Wk10	27 Nov	History and Functions of Imprisonment (ch 18)
Wk11	24 Nov	<b>Class test</b>
Wk12	1 Dec	State Crime etc and Futures (Chs 21/22)
Wk13	8 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 is a 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. This [link](#) takes you through an OU video about being a member of a jury. And [this](#) from Ministry of Justice on being a witness.

We might discuss whether court proceedings should be broadcast the greatest concern should be with the extent to which different social groups or actors (black/white, old/

young, middle/working class etc) within the criminal justice system may have different perspectives, intentions and capacities.

## Wk2 Victims and Victimization

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 online at [simmsCAPital](#). You should read that before the seminar and be able to summarize the main points.

## Wk3 Restorative justice

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 online and we will discuss them. You should have looked at least two of these so that you can discuss them.

## Wk4 Crime and Property

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 online. You will need to have looked at it.

## Wk5 Crime and Sexuality

**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.

## Wk6 Crime and Emotion

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

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

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 online.

## Wk9 History and Functions of Police

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

## Wk10 History and Functions of Imprisonment

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 online.

## Wk11 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.

Wk12            State Crime etc and Futures (Chs 21/22)

Whilst much criminology looks at the crimes of the powerless some criminology looks at the crimes of the powerful - indeed so powerful as to be able to define what is and isn't a crime and how it should be policed and punished.

No seminars this week but extra office hours for essay preparation.

Wk13            **Hand in the essay**

No lecture or seminar

## **The Legal stuff**

### **Academic Misconduct**

Academic misconduct is taken very seriously. Tutors guide students through the learning process with the aim of helping them to attain their own academic achievements, ultimately so they can graduate with a degree that they have gained through their own work, not by cutting corners, copying, or using other people's work. Below are examples of academic misconduct, where it appears that students have:

copied work from reference sources or other students (**plagiarism**);  
worked too closely together to produce very similar submissions (**collusion**);  
allowed another student to copy their work (**unfair advantage**)  
fabricated results or other outcomes that form part of the work (**falsification of data**);  
brought unauthorised materials into an examination room or behaved in other ways that could bring an unfair advantage (**examination cheating**).

More details on these forms of misconduct can be found in the course handbook on pages 24-28. Plagiarism is the most frequent type of misconduct and, as such, is discussed in a little more detail below.

### **Plagiarism**

As mentioned, this is the most common type of academic misconduct. Be very careful to avoid plagiarism in your written work. Plagiarism is defined as 'taking and using (the thoughts, writings, inventions etc of another person) as one's own' (Concise Oxford Dictionary, 1990). Whilst it is perfectly acceptable to paraphrase the wisdom of others or

quote verbatim, you must acknowledge the author i.e. reference with surname, date (and page number where applicable). The quality that will gain most marks is original thought. Reproducing your own work for different modules also constitutes academic misconduct. For more information regarding plagiarism and correct referencing please refer to the course handbook.

**Plagiarism constitutes academic misconduct and is treated very seriously.**

All coursework will be subjected to the Turnitin plagiarism prevention software which generates an originality report for your work. This plagiarism detection service enables staff to carry out a comparison of your work against a huge range of sources including journal articles, periodicals, books, and other pieces of student work. Plagiarism will be penalised in accordance with the Academic Regulations. Please see pages 33-73 of undergraduate student handbook (available at: [http://portal.smuc.ac.uk/fileadmin/media/Downloadable\\_Documents/Key\\_Information\\_for\\_Students/General\\_Study\\_Information/UG\\_H-Book\\_09-10-MAIN.pdf](http://portal.smuc.ac.uk/fileadmin/media/Downloadable_Documents/Key_Information_for_Students/General_Study_Information/UG_H-Book_09-10-MAIN.pdf)) for further information regarding plagiarism and the penalties for plagiarism.

**YOU MUST KEEP A COPY OF YOUR WORK, both in hard copy and electronic format, until you have graduated**