

SOCI 206 A02

Crime and Deviance

Instructor: Dr. Michael C.K. Ma

Course Description:

In this course, we will set out to think seriously about what it means to study criminology in the current context. We will explore concepts, trends, theories, institutions, and processes associated with defining, explaining, and responding to crime and deviance. We will consider the roots of contemporary ideas about deviance and social control, including our own beliefs and assumptions. By thinking critically about the *status quo*, we will develop an understanding of how things came to be --and how they might be changed. This course offers an opportunity to reflect on important social issues and critically consider some taken-for-granted beliefs about crime, law, justice, and social control.

Course Outcomes/Objectives:

Having successfully completed this course, you will be able to:

- Explain how crime is a social phenomenon
- Identify, describe, and critically analyze the various ways that crime is measured
- Analyze the role of social and historical context in crime and criminalization
- Apply various interdisciplinary theories to the study of crime and criminalization
- Analyze the effects of media representation on criminological issues
- Describe how Eurocentric perspectives might influence crime and criminalization
- Critically assess opposing points of view on key criminological issues
- Analyze the impact of colonization on Indigenous peoples in relation to the Canadian criminal justice system

Topics May Include:

Right and Wrong, Fear of Harm, Causation, Media, Counting, Consent, Social Response, Racism, Inequality and Poverty.

Required Resources May Include:

There is no textbook required for this course. All required readings will be uploaded onto Brightspace. A list of all required readings will be included in the detailed course syllabus.

¹ This outline is only intended to give students a general sense of the course, and course details may change. Detailed course syllabi will be made available for all registered students on the first day of class. Only those syllabi are considered official.