

Criminology 465
Crime, Economics, and the Economy
School of Criminology
Simon Fraser University
Fall 2011 (Term 1117)

Instructor: Prof. M.A. Andresen

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Office Hours: Thursdays 1030 am – 1120 am; by appointment

Calendar Description:

Considers the study of crime from an economic perspective and the relationship between crime and the economy. Theoretical frameworks and empirical examples from both economics and criminology will be discussed. (Seminar)

Prerequisite:

CRIM 101. A student may not take for credit for this course that took the same course numbered CRIM 416.

Course objectives:

To introduce criminology students to the following two sets of literature: economics of crime and the relationship between crime and the economy. The first literature is the study of crime as done by economists and the second is the study of the economy's impact on crime done by criminologists.

Course structure:

There is one seminar (3 hours) per week. The first 2 hours of the seminar is set up as a lecture covering the topic of the week. The remaining hour is the form of a tutorial/discussion. In this last hour students are to discuss, under the direction of the instructor, the readings for that week.

Course evaluation:

Exam	30 %
Participation	30 %
Paper	30 %
Presentation	10 %

Textbook:

There is no textbook for this course. Rather, there is a set of required readings that will all be available on WebCT. I have put a lot of thought into these readings, so I expect you to read them. One-quarter of your grade is dependent on your reading the article(s) and/or book chapter(s) and being prepared for a discussion in the seminar.

You are responsible to download, print, or borrow these readings from the library. I have undertaken this format of required readings to save you a lot of money relative to the cost if I were to prepare a custom courseware package to be sold in the SFU Bookstore.

Lecture topics, schedule, and readings (Weeks 1 – 8):

Lecture 1. Introduction to the course, Rationality, and Rational Choice (12 September)

- Becker, G.S. (1995) *The Economics of Crime*. Richmond, VA: The Federal Reserve Bank of Richmond.
- McCarthy, B. (2002) New economics of sociological criminology. *Annual Review of Sociology* 28: 417 – 442.

Lecture 2. Economic Theories of Crime I (19 September)

- Becker, Gary S. (1968) Crime and punishment: an economic approach. *Journal of Political Economy* 76: 169 – 217.

Lecture 3. Economic Theories of Crime II (26 September)

- Usher, D. (1997) Education as a deterrent to crime. *Canadian Journal of Economics* 30: 367 – 384.
- Ehrlich, I. (1973) Participation in illegitimate activities: a theoretical and empirical investigation. *Journal of Political Economy* 81: 521 – 565.
- Felson, M. (1986) Linking criminal choices, routine activities, informal control, and criminal outcomes, in D.B. Cornish and R.V. Clark (eds.) *The Reasoning Criminal: Rational Choice Perspectives on Offending*. New York, NY: Springer-Verlag, 119 – 128. Available at:
<http://www.popcenter.org/Library/RecommendedReadings/ReasoningCriminal/08%20felson.pdf>

Lecture 4. The Death Penalty and Deterrence (03 October)

- Kessler, K. and S.D. Levitt (1999) Using sentence enhancements to distinguish between deterrence and incapacitation. *Journal of Law and Economics* 42: 343 – 363.
- Katz, L., S.D. Levitt, and E. Shustorovich (2003) Prison conditions, capital punishment, and deterrence. *American Law and Economic Review* 5: 318 – 343.
- Avio, K.L. (1979) Capital punishment in Canada: a time-series analysis of the deterrent hypothesis. *Canadian Journal of Economics* 12: 647 – 676. (**Recommended**)
- Ehrlich, I. (1975) The deterrent effect of capital punishment: a question of life or death. *American Economic Review* 65: 397 – 417. (**Recommended**)

- Ehrlich, I. (1977) Capital punishment and deterrence: some further thoughts and additional evidence. *Journal of Political Economy* 85: 741 – 788. **(Recommended)**
- Levitt, S.D. (1998) Why do increased arrest rates appear to reduce crime: deterrence, incapacitation, or measurement error? *Economic Inquiry* 36: 353 – 372. **(Recommended)**
- Friedman, D. (1999) Why not hang them all: the virtues of inefficient punishment. *Journal of Political Economy* 107: S259 – S269. **(Recommended)**

NO CLASS ON 10 OCTOBER 2011 (THANKSGIVING DAY)

Lecture 5. Guns and Crime (17 October)

- Lott, J.R. and D.B. Mustard (1997) Crime, deterrence and right-to-carry concealed handguns. *Journal of Legal Studies* 26: 1 – 68.
- Duggan, M. (2001) More guns, more crime. *Journal of Political Economy* 109: 1086 – 1114.

Lecture 6. Cost – Benefit Analysis of Crime (24 October)

- Cohen, M.A. (2000) Measuring the Costs and Benefits of Crime and Justice. In *Measurement and Analysis of Crime and Justice, Criminal Justice 2000 Volume 4*, D. Duffee (ed.). Rockville, MD: National Institute of Justice, 263 – 315.
- Andresen, M.A. and N.T. Boyd (2010). A cost - benefit and cost - effectiveness analysis of Vancouver's supervised injection facility. *International Journal of Drug Policy* 21(1): 70 - 76.
- Miller, T.R., M.A. Cohen, and B. Wiersema (1996) *Victim Costs and Consequences: A New Look*. Washington, DC: U.S. Department of Justice, National Institute of Justice. **(Recommended)**
- Brantingham, P. and S.T. Easton (1998) *The Costs of Crime: Who Pays and How Much? 1998 Update*. Vancouver, BC: Fraser Institute. **(Recommended)**
- Cohen, M.A., R.T. Rust, S. Steen, S.T. Tidd (2004) Willingness-to-pay for crime control programs. *Criminology* 42: 89 – 109. **(Recommended)**

Lecture 7. Unemployment and Crime (31 October)

- Arvanites, T.M. and R.H. Defina (2006) Business cycles and street crime. *Criminology* 44: 139 – 164.
- Cantor, D. and K.C. Land (1985) Unemployment and crime rates in post – World War II United States: a theoretical and empirical analysis. *American Sociological Review* 50: 317 – 332.
- Rengert, G.F. and J. Wasilchick (2000) *Suburban Burglary: A Tale of Two Suburbs, Second Edition*. Springfield, IL: Charles C. Thomas. **(Recommended)**

Lecture 8. B.C. Bud (07 November)

- Plecas, D., A. Malm, and B. Kinney (2005) *Marihuana Growing Operations in British Columbia Revisited, 1997 – 2003*.

- Malm, A.E. and G.E. Tita (2006) A spatial analysis of green teams: a tactical response to marijuana production in British Columbia. *Policy Sciences* 39: 361 – 377.
- Easton, S.T. (2004) *Marijuana Growth in British Columbia*. Vancouver, BC: Fraser Institute, Public Policy Sources Number 74. (**Recommended**)
- Bouchard, M. (2007) A capture-recapture model to estimate the size of criminal populations and the risks of detection in a marijuana cultivation industry. *Journal of Quantitative Criminology* 23: 221 – 241. (**Recommended**)

Examination

- Week 9 (**14 November 2011**)

Class Presentations

- Weeks 11, 12, and 13 (21 November, 28 November, 05 December)

The Paper

The paper you are to write, and present, for this course shall be approximately 2500 words, 10 double-spaced pages, of text. Any significant deviation in length, both too long and too short, may be cause for a reduced grade.

You are to obtain, using the library resources, three (3) related book chapters and/or journal articles (NO “TEXTBOOK” CHAPTERS) that are in the field of economics of crime, crime and economics, crime and the economy, etc. The lecture topics may serve as a good guideline for your choices. Please feel free to contact me if you are unsure of your topic. ***None of your choices may be from the course reading list, required or recommended.***

For each paper/book chapter, you are to provide the thesis, main points, conclusion, and your assessment of the research. Think of using 750 words for each paper/book chapter. Then use the remaining 250 words to tell me what you have learned from your paper. In other words, synthesize everything. These are, however, just guidelines for length.

How you choose to write your paper is up to you. You may “stack” the 3 reviews in a format similar to an annotated bibliography. Or you may treat the 3 articles and/or book chapters as a single entity and write about that entity referring to your chosen articles and/or book chapters. If you are interested in a particular aspect of crime and economics that you would like to explore further, you may also write a “standard” research paper.

The paper is due on the last day of class: **05 December 2011.**

General Outline for Class Presentation

Your presentation will take up 10 – 12 minutes: approximately 8 - 10 minutes of your talking, and 2 – 4 minutes of fielding questions from your classmates.

We will be on a tight schedule so it is important that presentations do not go over this time. You will be choosing your presentation date (from the 3 available weeks) so once your date is set, it is set. If you wish to change your presentation date you must find someone to switch with.

You are to present on one article/paper/chapter that is in your course paper, or the common theme within the 3 pieces of work you are writing about—discussing 3 separate ideas will be too time consuming.

Consequently, you will want to focus on how the article/paper/chapter is relevant to the course (briefly), what theoretical point of departure it has, and the contribution of the article/paper/chapter. This contribution may be extending theory, the testing of theory, policy implications, or some combination of all three.

Your goal, in 10 – 12 minutes, is to teach your classmates a little something about the course material that was not covered in class.

General Outline for Course Paper

For each article/paper/chapter provide the following:

1. Thesis of the work
2. The Main Points
3. The Conclusions of the Authors
4. Your Assessment of the Work

With three papers to review, this should be approximately 750 words for each paper.

Lastly, provide 250 or so words stating what you learned from reading these three papers.

The total is 2500 words.

ATTENTION STUDENTS WITH A DISABILITY: Please contact the Centre for Students with Disabilities, (MBC 1250 or Phone 778-782-3112) if you need or require assistance, not your individual instructors.

N.B.: Students are reminded that attendance in the first week of classes is important. However, there are no tutorials in the first week.

Assignments not submitted to the Professor/T.A. during class/office hours must be placed in the security box behind the General Office (Saywell Hall). The box is emptied Monday to Friday at 8:30 a.m. and 3:30 p.m. only and the contents are date stamped accordingly. No other department's date stamp will apply (e.g. Library/Campus Security) and the School of Criminology is not responsible for assignments submitted any other way (e.g. slid under office doors).

E-mail policy: The School of Criminology STRONGLY DISCOURAGES the use of e-mail in lieu of office hour visits. Criminology advises its instructional staff that they are NOT required to respond to student e-mails and that students wishing to confer with them should do so in person during scheduled meeting times.

The University does NOT accept assignments by fax.

The University has formal policies regarding intellectual dishonesty and grade appeals which may be obtained from the General Office of the School of Criminology.

UNIVERSITY POLICY FORBIDS FINAL EXAMINATIONS WHILE CLASSES ARE STILL IN SESSION.