

**St. Francis Xavier University  
Department of Sociology**

Sociology 394.20  
Winter Term, 2021

Dr. David Lynes  
Rm. 616, NT

**Selected Topics: Canadian Criminal Justice**

This course examines the origins and functioning of the Canadian Criminal Justice system and how it differs from other systems around the world. Topics include the structure and role of the police, the operation of the court system, and the processes of institutional and community-based corrections. More generally the issues to be examined include, the origin of laws and the concern with social control; an understanding of the legal system within the context of a democratic society; the role of the system as a means of social control; who in society the system benefits the most; and how it comes to be experienced as a form of social oppression by so many of those it claims to serve.

**Course Text and Readings**

There is one required textbook for this course: *Canadian Criminal Justice: A Primer* (6<sup>th</sup> Ed.) by Curt T Griffiths (Toronto: Nelson, 2019). Additional academic and popular readings and video presentations will also be assigned as the course proceeds. Whenever possible these additional resources will be either posted or linked to from the course Moodle page.

**Evaluation**

|                          |     |
|--------------------------|-----|
| Mid-Term Test .....      | 25% |
| Term Assignment .....    | 25% |
| Participation .....      | 10% |
| In-Class Exercises ..... | 5%  |
| Final Exam .....         | 35% |

**Important Dates:** The mid-term test will be held in class on Tuesday, February 23<sup>rd</sup> 2021. The due date for the Term Assignment is Thursday, March 18<sup>h</sup> 2019 (Note: Be sure to consult the distributed guidelines for the term assignment before you begin work on it). The Final examination will be “thak-home” and will be due during the regular exam period at a time yet to be determined. Note that the deadline to drop a three-credit first term course is Friday, March 19<sup>th</sup> 2021.

## **Attendance, Plagiarism, Academic Dishonesty**

Regular class attendance is important and expected of everyone enrolled in the course. Lack of class attendance can be grounds for the failure of the course. Please be sure you are familiar with the regulations on course attendance and withdrawal outlined on page 13 of the University Calendar. Note also that plagiarism and academic dishonesty are considered very serious academic offenses which can seriously and permanently impact your academic record and career. What constitutes such offenses and how they will be responded to is outlined on page 13 -14 of the University Calendar.

## **Office Hours**

Office hours are virtual this term. To arrange a meeting, send me an email and we can arrange a time. I will be available most of the day every Wednesday, but if you are unable to meet then, many other times are available as well. At the prearranged meeting time, join into the Collaborate virtual classroom, accessible via the Moodle page for the course.

You can also use e-mail any time to ask questions and discuss the course, in lieu of an arranged virtual meeting.

E-mail: <[dlynes@stfx.ca](mailto:dlynes@stfx.ca)>

Phone: 867-3802

Feel free discuss any aspect of the course or the Sociology program more generally at any time during the term.

## **On Equity and Non-Discrimination**

Everyone learns more effectively in a respectful, safe, and equitable learning environment free from discrimination or harassment. I invite you to work with me to create a classroom space that fosters and promotes values of human dignity, equity, non-discrimination and respect for diversity. These values and practices are in accord with the StFX Discrimination and Harassment Policy which can be found at <http://www.mystfx.ca/campus/stu-serv/equity/>. Please feel free to discuss with me any questions or concerns you have about equity in our classroom or in the StFX community. If I cannot answer your questions or help you address your concerns, I encourage you to talk to the Chair of the Department or the Human Rights and Equity Advisor on campus.