CRM 1301 F: History of Criminological Thought (Winter 2011)  
Department of Criminology, University of Ottawa  
Tuesday, 16.00-17.30 and Thursday, 14.30-16.00 (DMS 1160)

Instructor: Prashan Ranasinghe  
Contact Information:  
Office: 30 Stewart, Room 302  
E-mail: prashan.ranasinghe@uottawa.ca  
Phone: 613 562 5800 x 2653  
Office Hours: Thursday 4.30pm – 5.30pm or by appointment

Teaching Assistants and Contact Information:  
Stela Murrizi – SMURR017@uottawa.ca  
Elisha Welch – EWELC016@uottawa.ca  
Suzanne Johnson – SJOHN129@uottawa.ca

Official (Departmental) Course Description:

“Conceptions of crime and punishment during the 18th, 19th and early 20th centuries. Classical period, penitentiary reform movement, first scientific studies, Italian positivist school and other studies at the turn of the century.”

Overview of the Course:

The purpose of this course is to introduce students to important currents in the history and development of criminology. In order to do so, the course focuses broadly on the ways problems of order and security were thought about in the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries, and then explores how these ideas came to shape so-called criminological thinking beginning in the nineteenth century. It is, to put it another way, a course about the history of ‘criminological’ ideas and how these ideas take shape over time and across space.

On Virtual Campus: NO

Evaluation:

1. TWO (2) in-class tests, each counting for twenty-five percent (25%) of the final grade. Each test will be one-hour and fifteen minutes in length. The tests will be held on February 1st and March 15th.

2. A two and one-half hour final, closed-book, exam, written during the examination period, April 11-28th, counting for fifty percent (50%) of the final grade. The exam is cumulative.

Text:

A packet of readings prepared for this course is available for purchase at Rytec Printing, 404 Dalhousie Street (613 241 2679).
COURSE OUTLINE AND READINGS:

January 6:
Introduction: Aims and Purposes of the Course

January 11 and 13:
Thomas Hobbes: The State of Nature and the Basis of Society

January 18 and 20:
John Locke: Law and Liberty

January 25 and 27:
Preparation for Tests (January 25)
Cesare Beccaria: Crime and Punishment

February 1 and February 3:
TEST #1 (on February 1)
Jeremy Bentham: Crime and Punishment, I

February 8 and 10:
Jeremy Bentham: Crime and Punishment, II
February 15 and 17:

John Stuart Mill: Law, Liberty and Harm.


February 22 and 24: NO CLASSES (Reading Week)

March 1 and 3:

Friedrich Nietzsche: Morality, Law and Order


March 8 and 10:

Francis Galton: Heredity and Eugenics


March 15 and 17:

TEST #2 (March 15)

Cesare Lombroso: The Birth of Criminological Sciences, I


March 22 and 24:

Cesare Lombroso: The Birth of Criminological Sciences, II


March 29 and 31:

Emile Durkheim: The Function of Crime

April 5 and 7:

Wrap-up and Review for Exam

*** Please note that there is a good possibility that we might carry material that is slated for particular days over to other days, if and when for example, I do not finish that material. As well, we might begin material slated for particular dates earlier, if and when, I finish up material and there is time left, though the former is much more likely than the latter ***

*** IMPORTANT INFORMATION PERTAINING TO THE COURSE – READ THOROUGHLY AND CAREFULLY !! ***

The Course

1. This course is based heavily on lectures (and where appropriate and applicable, class discussions) and the assigned readings.

2. You are responsible for all the material outlined for the course, inclusive of the lectures, discussions, assigned readings, and any other material (additional handouts or films/documentaries) that may be used. Where you miss a particular class(es), you should get this material from one of your classmates; neither I, nor the TAs, will be recapitulating this information for you. And DO NOT ask me for my lecture notes. Therefore, it is a good idea to ‘buddy-up’ with someone in this class.

3. It is in your interest thus to attend class regularly (by which I mean, you really should not miss more than one week’s worth of classes) and keep up with the readings. If you are having difficulties with the course, you should set up a meeting with me or your TA to discuss these matters, and you should not wait till the last minute (for example, just before the test or exam) to do so.

In-class Tests, Exam, Grades and Appeals

1. The two tests will be written on February 1st and March 15th. Each test will be comprised of one (1) essay question (you will have no choice in the question). More details to follow on the day marked ‘preparation for tests.’

2. If you miss either of the two tests and do not have a legitimate reason(s) for this, you will receive a zero (0) for the missed test(s) and you may not make it up. Where you have such a reason, you may write a make-up (Legitimate excuses mainly involve illness, for which case you should have a doctor’s note *which clearly states that you could not write the test because of illness*). In this case, you should contact me *as soon as possible* to let me know of your situation, and I will deal with the matter accordingly. I reserve the right to allow you to write a make-up, depending on whether I deem your excuse to be
legitimate and whether you got in touch with me within what I consider to be a reasonable time.

3. The date and time of the final exam is scheduled by the University. You should thus, make yourself available to write the exam during the examination period, April 11-28. In other words, do not make travel arrangements or otherwise commit yourself to something, until this date and time has been set by the University.

4. I will hand-out the graded tests in class. If you miss that class, you may pick up your test in the subsequent classes. DO NOT e-mail me or the TAs for your grade.

5. If you are not satisfied with your grade on either of the two tests and believe that the grade does not reflect the quality of work, you may appeal your grade. This would involve a typed-written statement on your part which clearly stipulates your grievances, and why you believe the grade ought to be increased. The appeal should be made directly to me and you should note that the grade can be increased, decreased or left the same.

6. Final exams are not returned to students, and DO NOT e-mail me or the TAs for your final grade.

Academic Conduct

1. It is your responsibility to familiarize yourself with the rules pertaining to academic conduct – for example, in relation to fraud – and other important matters, including important dates.

2. For this course, if you plan to use a laptop ensure that you use it for class purposes (for example, taking notes) and not to check e-mail or surf the Internet. I will also not tolerate the use of cell phones including ‘texting.’ Finally, do not show up to class late, for it disrupts me and other students.

2. Generally, I strive to create a safe and orderly environment where students feel free and comfortable to voice their opinions. While you do not have to agree with the diverse opinions, you MUST respect the right of each student to voice his/her views, regardless of how offensive it might appear to you.

Contacting Me

1. The best, and easiest, way to contact me is via e-mail. Allow at least 24 hours for a response to your e-mail during the weekday (and at least 48 hours during weekends). Where your e-mail might require substantial discussion or explanation, I will instruct you to call me or leave me a number where I might reach you.

2. If the answer(s) to the question(s) you pose can be found in the course outline, I will simply reply asking you to consult the syllabus (if you continue this practice by repeatedly asking me questions that are in the outline, I will not respond to that particular email).

3. I will assign you a TA in the second week of the course. From that point, you should make contact only with your TA, if and when you require the assistance of a TA.