

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

Sociology 394.10  
Fall Term, 2019

Dr. David Lynes  
Rm. 617, 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 mean 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 Thursday, October 10<sup>th</sup> 2019. The due date for the Term Assignment is Thursday, November 7<sup>th</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 held during the regular exam period, on a the day assigned by the Registrar's Office. This date will be posted by the Registrar's office on Friday, October 27<sup>th</sup> 2019. The deadline to drop a three-credit first term course is Friday, November 1<sup>st</sup> 2019.

**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**

My office is in Rm 617 in the Nicholson Tower. Office hours are as follows:

Wednesday 2:30 to 4:30  
Thursday 1:00 to 3:30

There will be times when I am unable to be in the office during the posted office hours due to committee and department meetings or other unforeseen appointments. If this happens, please send a message and I will get back to you as soon as possible. Other times can be arranged by appointment if you are unable to make those listed. You can also contact me through e-mail to ask any questions or arrange a meeting.

E-mail: <dlynes@stfx.ca>  
Phone: 867-3802

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

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, the Director of your Program, or the Human Rights and Equity Advisor.