



EFFECTIVE: JANUARY 2012
CURRICULUM GUIDELINES

A. Division: Academic Effective Date: January 2012

B. Department / Program Area: Faculty of Humanities & Social Sciences/
 Criminology Revision New Course

If Revision, Section(s) Revised:
 Date of Development or Previous Revision:
 Date of Current Revision:

C: CRIM 4420 **D:** Media, Crime and Criminal Justice **E:** 3

Subject & Course No.	Descriptive Title	Semester Credits
F: Calendar Description: This course examines the relationship between media, crime and the criminal justice system. Emphases are placed on how various types of media construct or perceive criminal activities, how the media influences public policy and shapes perceptions of crime as a social problem. Students will learn to interpret and analyze specific examples of media representations of crime. Topics include crime news and entertainment, the media as a cause, consequence and cure for crime and news making criminology.		
G: Allocation of Contact Hours to Type of Instruction / Learning Settings Primary Methods of Instructional Delivery and/or Learning Settings: Lecture/Seminar Number of Contact Hours: (per week / semester for each descriptor) 4 hours per week Number of Weeks per Semester: 15	H: Course Prerequisites: CRIM 1150	
	I: Course Corequisites: NONE	
	J: Course for which this Course is a Prerequisite: NONE	
	K: Maximum Class Size: 35	
L: PLEASE INDICATE: <input type="checkbox"/> Non-Credit <input type="checkbox"/> College Credit Non-Transfer <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> College Credit Transfer: SEE BC TRANSFER GUIDE FOR TRANSFER DETAILS (www.bctransferguide.ca)		

M: Course Objectives / Learning Outcomes:

1. Describe varying portrayals of crime and deviance in media.
2. Critically identify different types of media and media content.
3. Examine media's role in reporting and explaining crime.
4. Employ qualitative and quantitative research methodologies to investigate the relationship between media, crime and the criminal justice system.
5. Critique crime and criminal justice content in news and entertainment media.
6. Analyze the media's influence on public attitudes and perceptions of crime and criminality.
7. Examine the media's influence on formal responses to crime and deviance.
8. Explain the consequences of bias, spin and framing on public understanding of crime and the criminal justice system.
9. Assess relevant theoretical perspectives of crime and deviance and the media.
10. Analyze the importance of the interplay between mass media, entertainment news and criminal justice operations.
11. Critically evaluate how deviance and crime are created and maintained by the media and agents of social control.
12. Deconstruct media imagery as it relates to crime and criminal justice.

N: Course Content:

1. Introduction
 - History of Media and Crime
 - Images of Crime and Criminality
 - Claims and Claimsmakers
 - Moral Panics
 - Media and the Criminal Justice System
2. Social Constructionism
 - Social Construction of Crime and Justice
 - The Role of Media
 - Content and Imagery
 - Criminal Justice Ideologies
 - Gender and Sexuality
 - Race and Socioeconomic Status
 - Violence and Aggression
3. Consequences of Crime
 - Media as a Cause
 - Media as a Cure
 - Case Studies
4. Media Portrayals of the Criminal Justice in Action
 - Police
 - Courts
 - Corrections
5. Media and Criminal Justice Policy
 - Social Construction of Criminal Justice Policy
 - Public Agenda
 - Political Efforts and Responses
 - Media Research
 - Technology
6. Current Issues
 - Internet
 - Reality TV
 - Copycat Crimes
 - CSI Effect
7. Media Relations
 - Analysis
 - Training

O: Methods of Instruction:

This course will employ a variety of instructional methods to accomplish its objectives, including some of the following:

- Lectures
- Seminar presentations
- Audiovisual/Video
- Small group discussions
- Research projects
- Research papers

P: Textbooks and Materials to be Purchased by Students:

Texts will be updated periodically. Typical examples are:

Surette, Ray. (2011). *Media, Crime and Criminal Justice: Images, Realities, and Policies (4th ed.)*. Pacific Grove, CA: Brooks/Cole.

Jewkes, Yvonne. (2011). *Media and Crime (2nd ed.)*. London: SAGE.

McCormick, Chris. (1995). *Constructing Danger: The Mis/Representation of crime in the News*. Halifax: Fernwood.

Chomsky, Noam. (1989). *Necessary Illusions: Thought Control in Democratic Societies*. Toronto: CBC.

Muraskin, Roslyn and Domash, Shelly Feuer. (2007). *Crime and the Media: Headlines vs. Reality*. Pearson: New Jersey.

Boyle, Karen. (2005). *Media and Violence*. London: SAGE.

Halton, William. (1998). *Reporting on the Courts: How the Mass Media Cover Judicial Actions*. Chicago: Nelson-Hall Publishers.

Q: Means of Assessment:

Evaluation will be based on course objectives and will be carried out in accordance with Douglas College policy. The instructor will provide a written course outlines with specific evaluation criteria at the beginning of the semester. Evaluation will be based on some of the following:

1. Short answer tests
2. Exams
3. Oral presentation
4. Research project/term project
5. Class participation/group discussion
6. Journal assignment/weekly questions
7. Group project

An example of one possible evaluation scheme would be:

Weekly Critiques	25% (10 @2.5% each)
Individual Application Presentation	15%
Term Paper	30%
Final Exam	<u>30%</u>
Total	100%

R: Prior Learning Assessment and Recognition: specify whether course is open for PLAR

No

Course Designer: Lorree Bogden, M.A.

Education Council / Curriculum Committee Representative

Dean: Catherine Carlson, Ph.D.

Registrar