








# Sociology (SOCI) 305

## Sociology and Crime (Revision 3)

**Status:**

Replaced with new revision, see the [course listing](#)  for the current revision 

**Delivery mode:**

**Individualized study online**  with **eText** , and **Video component**  (Overseas students, please contact the University Library before registering in a course that has an audio/visual component)

**Credits:**

3

**Areas of study:**

Arts or Social Science

**Prerequisites:**

None

**Precluded:**

None

**Challenge:**

SOCI 305 has a challenge for credit option.

**Faculty:**

[Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences](#) 



## Overview

*Sociology 305* covers a wide range of topics related to crime and the criminal code in Canada. These topics include the tension in law between a purely 'black letter' approach based strictly on legal principles and precedents, and a sociological approach to law that explains it in terms of economic factors, social inequalities, and social movements promoting specific moral agendas. The course devotes a significant portion of study to the ways in which crimes are measured, both formally in terms of recorded offences and informally in terms of victim surveys. In this context the course reviews the correctional data that suggests a significant over-representation of Indigenous Canadians in the justice system. A focus on the measurement issues also raises the issue of the long-term trends in crime, with specific attention to the crime drop since the early 1990s, and the various accounts offered to explain it.

## Outline

- Unit 1 Justice and the Rule of Law
- Unit 2 The Legal Elements of Crime
- Unit 3 Measuring Crime
- Unit 4 The Crime Drop and the Enterprise of Criminology
- Unit 5 Explaining Crime: The Two Different Traditions
- Unit 6 Realist Theories: Crime and Social Structure
- Unit 7 Relativistic Theories: Crime and Cultural Transmission Theories
- Unit 8 Thou Shalt Not Kill: Understanding 'Mere Murder'
- Unit 9 Murder Extraordinaire
- Unit 10 Defining Policy Considerations

## Evaluation

To **receive credit**  for *SOCI 305*, you must achieve a course composite grade of at least **C- (60 percent)** , complete and submit two written assignments, a multiple-choice mid-course quiz, and a final examination. You

must achieve a passing mark of C- 60 percent on the final examination. The weighting of the composite grade is as follows:

<b>Activity</b>	<b>Weight</b>
Research Assignment (Part 1)	10%
Research Assignment (Part 2)	25%
Mid-course Quiz	35%
Final Examination	30%
<b>Total</b>	<b>100%</b>

The **final examination** for this course must be requested in advance and written under the supervision of an AU-approved exam invigilator. Invigilators include either ProctorU or an approved in-person invigilation centre that can accommodate online exams. Students are responsible for payment of any invigilation fees. Information on exam request deadlines, invigilators, and other exam-related questions, can be found at the [Exams and grades](#) section of the Calendar.

To learn more about assignments and examinations, please refer to Athabasca University's [online Calendar](#).

## Materials

Siegel, Brown and Hoffman, (3rd Canadian edition). 2017 *CRIM*. Toronto:

Nelson Educational.  (eText)

### eText

Registration in this course includes an electronic textbook. For more information on [electronic textbooks](#), please refer to our [eText Initiative site](#).

## Other Resources

The course materials include a study guide to accompany the textbook. All other course materials are found online.

## Challenge for credit

### Overview

The challenge for credit process allows you to demonstrate that you have acquired a command of the general subject matter, knowledge, intellectual and/or other skills that would normally be found in a university-level course.

Full information about [challenge for credit](#) can be found in the Undergraduate Calendar.

### Evaluation

To **receive credit** for the *SOCI 305* challenge registration, you must achieve a grade of at least **C- (60 percent)** on the challenge examination. The two parts of the exam must be written on the same day.

 **Challenge for credit course registration form**

## Important links

- › [Questions about our Program](#)
- › [Academic advising](#)
- › [Program planning](#)
- › [Request assistance](#)
- › [Support services](#)

Athabasca University reserves the right to amend course outlines occasionally and without notice. Courses offered by other delivery methods may vary from their individualized study counterparts.

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*Updated June 5, 2024*

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