FOSS0005 Globalisation and Crime  
2005-6 Second semester  
Course co-ordinator: Dr. Maggy Lee, Department of Sociology (leesym@hkucc.hku.hk)

Course description

The course will provide an overview of crime, risk and insecurity as global issues, their links with the political, economic, cultural and social development of countries around the world, and the implications for the governance of crime. The course has two parts. The first part looks at the crime-globalisation nexus and extends our conventional understanding of ‘the problem of crime’ by considering the patterns and effects of a diverse range of activities, actors and organisations in both licit and illicit economies (including the drugs trade, corruption, terrorism, trafficking of human beings). In what ways have processes of globalisation, the new technological revolution and the presence of weak states altered the nature of crime? How does crime affect public health, personal and international security, and the environment?

The second part considers the changing nature, limits and possibilities of crime control. In particular, recent developments in policing, the use of technology and punitive sanctions will be discussed. Has globalisation led to increasingly homogeneous and interdependent criminal justice policies and practices around the world? To what extent has globalisation transformed the governance of crime vis-à-vis the role of national and transnational institutions of criminal justice and policing?

Aims

The principal aim of this course is to provide students with a multi-disciplinary understanding of crime, insecurity and control in a globalised world. The course draws on work undertaken in sociology, criminology, political science, international relations and security studies. The teaching team includes: Maggy Lee (course co-ordinator, Department of Sociology), Borge Bakken (Department of Sociology), Lucy Cummings (Department of Politics and Public Administration), Karen Joe Laidler (Department of Sociology), Nick Thomas (Centre of Asian Studies) and guest speaker, David Hodson (formerly with the Hong Kong Police).

By the end of the course, students should:

(a) Be familiar with key concepts and relevant literature in globalisation and crime studies.

(b) Have a critical understanding of the contemporary debates surrounding the nature, politics and efficacy of globalised crime and its control.
Timetable

The seminar is held on Thursday, 3pm to 4:55pm in Room S325, Meng Wah Complex.

26th January 2006  Globalising Crime: Key Themes and Debates (ML)
Lunar New Year break
2.  9th February 2006  Theories, Histories and Methodologies (ML)
3.  16th February 2006  Human Security (NT)
4.  23rd February 2006  Drugs and Drug Control (KL)
5.  2nd March 2006  Terrorism (LC)
6.  9th March 2006  Student presentations (ML)
7.  Reading Week
8.  23rd March 2006  Human Trafficking (ML)
9.  30th March 2006  Globalising Crime Control (ML)
10.  6th April 2006  Global Policing and Interpol (DH)
11.  13th April 2006  Punishment and Control (BB)
12.  20th April 2006  Student presentations (ML)

27th April 2006  Futures of Crime and Control (ML)

Assessment

The course assessment takes place in three ways

(a) End of semester written examination (50%).
(b) One in-class presentation plus a written up script of your notes (25%). The presentation must address a key topic (or topics) covered by the course, using the assigned readings and any other relevant material. You should think critically and creatively in putting the presentation together. The presentation should be given in your own words. You should also note that the presentation does not count without the script.
Further advice on presentation will be given in class. *The script is due within one week of the presentation.*

(c) Each student will be expected to assemble a portfolio of recent (within the last 12 months) news clippings that discuss the problem of globalised crime or control in the mass media (newspapers, magazines, web) (25%). The news articles can concern the transnational dynamics of a particular crime group, corporation or phenomenon, global crime and security problems, or enforcement and control. You should obtain diverse articles (minimum five articles) with enough substance to be analysed.

The purpose of this assignment is to reveal the diversity of globalised crime problems that exist, the impact they have on political, social and economic development, and the constantly changing nature of globalised crime. Students are to Xerox or print the articles, submit them as part of their portfolio, and write approximately five pages including the following:

(a) a short abstract of each article,
(b) how it relates to themes discussed in the seminar and the readings
(c) how it clarifies, expands upon, or conflicts with the readings, and
(d) what it reveals about globalised crime and crime control today.

You should incorporate relevant concepts discussed in the seminar, cite relevant readings (author and full references) and choose a variety of topics. Do not over-summarize the articles, and analyse, analyse, analyse! *Deadline for submission is the 2nd May 2006.*

All coursework should be submitted to the Sociology Department Office.

**Course Reading**

There is no single text that covers all the themes and issues examined. Nevertheless, the books listed below cover key aspects of the course.

**Key texts**


Session 1  Globalising crime: key themes and debates

Key readings


Background readings


Session 2  Theories, histories and methodologies

Key readings


Background readings


Session 3  Human security

Suggested readings


Session 4  Drugs and drug control

Suggested readings


Session 5  
Terrorism

Suggested readings – to follow.

Session 6  
Student presentations

Session 7  
Human trafficking

Key readings


Background readings


Session 8  Globalising crime control

Key readings


Background readings


Lahav, G. and Guiraudon, V. (2000), ‘Comparative Perspectives on Border Control: Away from the Border and Outside the State’ in Andreas, P. and Snyder, T. (eds), The wall around the West: state borders and immigration controls in North America and Europe, pp. 55-80.

Session 9  Global policing and Interpol (Guest speaker – David Hodson)

Session 10 Punishment and control

Suggested readings

Further readings to follow.

**Session**

**Student presentations**

**Session 12**

**Futures of crime and control**

**Key readings**


**Suggested readings**


http://www2.warwick.ac.uk/fac/soc/law/elj/lgd/2000_1/fitzpatrick/
