

The University of Western Ontario

Department of History

January 13-April 7, 2017

History 2415G

The History of Crime

Dr. Bill Acres

Instructor: Dr. Bill Acres, wacres@uwo.ca. bacres@gtm.net

Office: SSC 4301, Wednesdays, 2-3:30pm

Class Time: Fridays, 9:30-11:20 am., TBA

Tutorial Assistant: TBA

The class is primarily a lecture course with weekly readings which are in the Coursepack. Readings up to week six are on the Reserve Desk in Weldon and may be accessed in person only. These are filed under course number and Instructor name. The first reading (two chapters from Rick Linden's textbook *Criminology*) are too large for inclusion in the coursepack for copyright reasons and may *only* be accessed through Weldon Reserve materials—there are several copies available.

Textbooks: UWO Bookstore

1) 'The History of Crime', Course pack, ed. Dr. Bill Acres

2) *On Crimes and Punishments*, Cesare Beccaria (see Bookstore only as many editions group the chapters differently) edition TBA

3) Readings: The first six weeks of readings are in Library Reserve under Acres, History 2415G.

Assignments:

- February 3, Factum Assignment One, Medieval crime and Linden: 20%
- February 6: Factum assignment Two: Medieval and early modern, 20%

- March 3 Beccaria Document Study due: 30% The take home final will be handed out on this day.
- Final Examination: April 10 at 9:30 am, no late submissions will be accepted.

See the samples at the end of the course syllabus

Schedule of lectures and readings:

January 13: Outline and Introduction, discussion of assignments, grading, weighting and plagiarism.

Please read, Rick Linden, *Criminology: A Canadian Perspective*, Chapter 1, 'The Origins and Role of Law in Society' as well as Chapter 2, 'Crime, Law and Legal Defenses'.

With the exception of this week, each of the required readings will be done before the lecture. This is to provide sufficient background of understanding. Not doing the readings before the lecture will result in significant confusion. Materials for the Document Studies (weeks of February 8 and March 1 as due) will be provided before their completion (January 25, February 8). Please see the note below on acceptable lateness and unacceptable lateness).

Part One: Where body and soul do not agree: forming crime as a social category:

January 20

Reading,

Walter Ullmann, *The Foundations of Medieval Law*, chapter 3: 'The Scholarship of Roman Law'

January 27:

Reading,

St. Thomas Aquinas, 'On Law: Secunda pars secundae', *Summa Theologicae Summa*

Reading:

Edward Peters, *The Inquisition*, Chapter Two, 'Dissent, Heterodoxy and the Inquisitorial Office'

February 3: Factum (Document Study) Assignment due, Medieval crime and Linden: 20%

Reading also Vern D. Bullough, 'Heresy, Witchcraft and Sexuality', *The Journal of Homosexuality*, vol. 1, (2), 1974.

Part Two: States and bodies: ordering the body

February 10:

Mentalities and Criminalities in the early modern world

Reading: Gendered crime, wars and massacres

War and state: violence, property, and power

Reading: TBA

Primary documents and edition, Sir Geoffrey Elton, *The Tudor Constitution*

February 24: The grip of 'reason':

The end of witches: Sir Keith Thomas, *Religion and the Decline of Magic*, Chapter 16, 'The Making of a Witch';

Chapter 17 (Thomas), 'Witchcraft and its social environment'. Cesare Beccaria and the reformers will be discussed in the context of Foucault's rather anti-Enlightenment argument.

Reading to be done over conference week:

Cesare Beccaria, *On Crimes and Punishments*, Introduction and Sections I-XIII and XIV to Conclusion (The 'Death penalty' to the end)

Part Three: Crime, reason, and irrationalities

March 3: Factum (Document Study) Assignment Two, due. 20%

March 10: The Scientific Criminal

Readings:

Michel Foucault, *Discipline and Punish* (Vintage, 1977), pp. 231-287, 'Complete and austere institutions'; 'Illegitimacies and Delinquency'.

For an example of Beccaria's desires see in the Coursepack, Sabrina Loriga, 'A Secret to Kill the King: Magic and Protection in Piedmont in the Eighteenth Century', in Guido Ruggiero and Edward Muir, *History from Crime*, (Baltimore, 1994), 88-107.

March 17: *Beccaria Document Study due* 30%

The British penal system and the development of detection: Rachel Griffin, guest lecturer (reading for this lecture will be scanned and put into WebCT on the homepage for our course).

Readings:

Daniel Pick, *Faces of Degeneration*, Chapters 7, 8: 'Crime, urban degeneration and national decadence'.

March 24

Forensics, Computing, Genetics: Re-imagining the extent of the body and crime 1970-2014

Reading: TBA

March 31: Crime, race and nation: the twentieth-century and colonial aftermath

Residential Schools: race, culture and crime on a national scale?"

Take-home examination of two short essays will be discussed at the conclusion of this class.

April 7

Looking at categories and historical analysis.

The examination itself will be handed out at this class. Students will sign a sheet saying they have received a copy, and countersign their name on submission, April 10.

April 10 Exam due at 9:30 am. Exams will NOT be accepted after this time. Students should be prepared to hand the paper in personally. Submission will be in both hard copy and electronic copy.