

CRIMINOLOGY – SOCI 3810WI

Spring 2009

T/TH – 8:00 – 9:15
Baldwin 311

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Course Overview

In this course we will survey many of the major issues in criminology, including the nature of crime, causes of crime, and societal reactions. In the first section of the course we will examine how crime is measured, who commits crime, as well as discuss why certain types of behaviors are considered “criminal.” We will also discuss characteristics of major categories of crime, including property crime, violent crime, victimless crime and white-collar crime. In the second section of the course we will focus on the causes of crime. Here, we will study several theories of crime, comparing evidence between the theories and applying the theories to real-life events. Finally, we will discuss the criminal justice system and efforts to control crime. Throughout the course, you will be encouraged to think critically and to weigh the evidence for and against various perspectives. In this way, the ultimate goal of the course is to provide you with the necessary tools to understand the complex issue of crime, as well as to evaluate crime-control strategies.

This course has also been designated as “writing intensive,” meaning that we will be using writing in a number of ways throughout the semester both to develop and express ideas. You will have opportunities to hone your writing skills, as well as learn to view writing as a process instead of as a product. We will have short in-class writing assignments that will not be graded, as well as graded writing assignments to be completed outside of class. These writing assignments will promote critical thinking skills, communication skills, as well as a greater understanding of course material. As a result, you should leave this course better prepared for writing in the professional world. You will also be able to analyze and problem-solve more efficiently. Ultimately, you will use the techniques you learn in this course in other classes, during your job search, as well as in your professional life

Required Readings:

Crime Profiles: The Anatomy of Dangerous Persons, Places, and Situations (3rd edition) by Terance D. Miethe, Richard C. McCorkle, and Shelley J. Listwan

Criminological Theory (4th edition) by Frank P. Williams, III and Marilyn D. McShane

The Rich Get Richer and the Poor Get Prison (8th edition) by Jeffrey Reiman

You are expected to complete the assigned readings before class each day. The readings establish the foundation for the lectures and class discussions, so do not expect to be taught the information that appears in the readings during class. Instead, our in-class time will be spent going beyond the readings.

Course Requirements

1) Two Exams (45%)

You will have two non-cumulative exams.

- a) First Exam (20%)
- b) Second Exam (25%)

2) Paper Project (55%)

You will complete one 12-15 page research paper on a topic approved by the instructor. In this paper you must ask a sociologically relevant question related to criminology and answer it through analysis and presentation of research literature. You will have your work reviewed and critiqued at various points in the semester, and you are encouraged to consult with the professor and the teaching assistant throughout the process. You may share your paper with other class members for critique, but all ideas presented in the paper must either be your own or properly cited. You will write this paper in stages and will have your work evaluated at each stage. Each portion of the paper must be turned in on the due date. **No late assignments will be accepted (see also “Late Final Paper Policy” below).** The breakdown of points for each of these assignments and the final paper is as follows:

a) 1-2 page proposal	5%
b) Annotated Bibliography	5%
c) Outline	10%
d) First Draft	10%
e) Peer-review of classmate’s paper	5%
f) Final Paper	20%

You will be able to turn in one revision of the *proposal, bibliography, and outline*. The grade you receive on the revision will be averaged with your original grade. For example: if you receive an 85 on your original proposal and a 95 on the revision, then your grade on the proposal will be 90. You will have exactly one week from the day that the assignment is returned to the class to turn-in your revision. Only students who turned in the original assignment will be allowed to turn-in a revision, and you must turn in the original, graded assignment along with the revision in order to receive credit. **No late revisions will be accepted.**

Late Final Paper Policy

Final papers are due no later than April 28th **in class**. Papers turned in anytime after class will be assessed a one-letter grade penalty for each 24 hours that the paper is late. For example, a paper turned in at 9:30 a.m. on the due date will be assessed a one-letter grade penalty. A paper turned in at 9:30 a.m. the day following the due date will be assessed a two-letter grade penalty. This applies to the FINAL PAPER only. As stated in the previous section, **no other late assignments will be accepted.**

Academic Honesty Policy

All academic work must meet the standards contained in “A Culture of Honesty.” Students are responsible for informing themselves about those standards before performing any academic work.

Grading Scale

Letter Grade	Average
A	93 - 100
A-	90 - 92.99
B+	87 - 89.99
B	83 - 86.99
B-	80 - 82.99
C+	77 - 79.99
C	73 - 76.99
C-	70 - 72.99
D	60 - 69.99
	59.99 and
F	below

Class Participation and Attendance

Students are expected to attend all class sessions. Because this class will emphasize class discussion, it is important that you come to class prepared to discuss the readings. Students who attend regularly and participate in class discussions tend to perform better on exams than those who do not. We will also have in-class exercises that you will not be able to make-up. At my discretion, I may provide extra-credit to round up a borderline grade for students who have exemplary attendance and active, high-quality participation.

You should also be aware that we will discuss a number of subjects that you may find controversial. In all of our discussions, you will be expected to be respectful toward your classmates, despite any disagreement you may have with a classmate's ideas. In this way, we will foster an atmosphere in which each student feels comfortable presenting his or her thoughts, as well as critiquing the arguments presented by others. You also should not worry that your grade will be affected if you express opinions different from what you perceive the professor's opinions to be. Instead, focus upon using evidence and logic to present your own arguments and in critiquing the arguments of others. In following these ground rules, I expect our discussions to be lively, interesting, and intellectually challenging.

Classroom Courtesy

Please plan to arrive on time for all class sessions and to stay for the entire class. If you *must* arrive late or leave early, please notify the instructor in advance and sit near the door so as not to disturb your classmates. Cell phones and pagers should be turned off before entering the classroom. Laptops may not be used unless you have a documented disability that requires the use of a laptop, as these devices are distracting for other students.

Make-Up Exam Policy

Make-up exams will be given at the instructor's discretion. The only times in which a make-up exam will be considered is when the student experiences a serious illness or family situation that prevents him or her from being physically present during the exam. Note that a broken alarm clock, cold, out-of-town event, etc. will NOT merit a make-up. In all cases it is the student's responsibility to contact the professor to request a make-up. The failure of the student to request the make-up within 24 hours of the missed exam will be sufficient cause for the professor to deny the request. If the request is denied, then a score of zero is entered for that exam. If the instructor elects to permit a make-up, then the format of make-up exam may vary from the original exam and must be taken as soon after the missed exam as possible.

The course syllabus is a general plan for the course: deviations announced to the class by the instructor may be necessary

Course Outline

Nature and Extent of Crime

January 8:	Course Introduction: What is Criminology?	
January 13:	What is Crime?	<u>Criminological Theory</u> , pp. 167-174
January 15:	Measuring and Classifying Crime	<u>Crime Profiles</u> , Chapter 1
January 20:	Measuring and Classifying Crime	<u>Crime Profiles</u> , Chapter 1 (review)
January 22:	Violent Crime	<u>Crime Profiles</u> , Chapters 3 & 4
January 27:	Violent Crime	<u>Crime Profiles</u> , Chapter 5
January 29:	Property Crime	<u>Crime Profiles</u> , Chapter 6
February 3:	Property Crime	<u>Crime Profiles</u> , Chapter 7
February 5:	Policing PROPOSALS DUE	
February 10:	Victimless Crime	<u>Crime Profiles</u> , Chapter 9
February 12:	Victimless Crime	<u>Crime Profiles</u> , Chapter 9 (review)
February 17:	White Collar Crime	<u>Crime Profiles</u> , Chapter 8
February 19:	Incarceration ANNOTATED BIBLIOGRAPHY DUE	
February 24:	Catch-up	

February 26: **EXAM #1**

Causes of Crime

March 3:	Classical Criminology	<u>Criminological Theory</u> , Chapter 2
March 5:	Biological Theories	<u>Criminological Theory</u> , Chapter 3
March 9-13:	SPRING BREAK	
March 17:	Social Disorganization Theory OUTLINE DUE	<u>Criminological Theory</u> , pp. 57-62
March 19:	Learning Theories	<u>Criminological Theory</u> , Chapter 5 <u>Criminological Theory</u> , Chapter 11
March 24:	Anomie/Strain Theories	<u>Criminological Theory</u> , Chapter 6
March 26:	Anomie/Strain Theories	<u>Criminological Theory</u> , Chapter 6
March 31:	Rational Choice Theory	<u>Criminological Theory</u> , Chapter 12

Societal Responses to Crime

April 2:	Crime Control in the U.S.	<u>Rich Get Richer...</u> , Intro and Chap.1
April 7:	Social Constructions of Crime	<u>Rich Get Richer...</u> , Chapter 2
April 9:	Race, Class, and Incarceration PAPER DRAFT DUE (2 copies)	<u>Rich Get Richer...</u> , Chapter 3
April 14:	Why is the Criminal Justice System Failing?	<u>Rich Get Richer...</u> , Chapter 4
April 16:	Seeking Justice	<u>Rich Get Richer...</u> , Conclusion
April 21:	EXAM #2	
April 23:	PEER REVIEW DUE (2 copies) Peer Review of Papers	
April 28:	Discussion of Papers FINAL PAPERS DUE IN CLASS	

Human Rights Statement

All students should know that the Department of Sociology has a Human Rights Committee for the resolution of all student grievances. Any student registered for a sociology course at the University of Georgia who feels that he or she has not been treated in a fair or professional manner by an instructor is advised to follow these procedures:

- (1) The student should discuss his or her problems with the instructor of the course, unless extenuating circumstances prohibit this.
- (2) If that discussion does not resolve the grievance, the student should discuss the problem with the Head of the Department of Sociology.
- (3) If that discussion does not resolve the grievance to the satisfaction of the student, the student may request the activation of the Human Rights Committee by submitting a letter to the Chairperson of the Human Rights Committee, Department of Sociology, University of Georgia.

The Human Rights Committee will have the responsibility of investigating all charges in accordance with procedures on file in the Sociology office, copies of which are available to students. The Committee will also have the responsibility of making recommendations in writing to the Head, copies of which will be made available to the student complainant and the instructor involved. The Department Head will review the recommendations and make a decision in writing, with copies to the student complainant and the instructor or staff member involved. Any appeal of that decision must be made to the Dean of the College of Arts and Sciences.