

Criminology (SOC 3810)

Maymester 2009
9:30-12:15; Baldwin Hall, Room 307

Instructor: Sara Z. Morris
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Office hours: By appointment
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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 Theories: Introduction, Evaluation, and Application (5th Edition) by Ronald L. Akers and Christine S. Sellers

Electronic reserve readings may also be provided as needed.

The books are required and available at the University Bookstore.

Course Objectives:

This course is intended to survey major issues in criminology, including the nature of crime, causes of crime, and societal reactions. In the first section we will examine how crime is measured, who commits crime, as well as discuss why certain behaviors are considered "criminal". We will also discuss major categories of crime, including property crimes, violent crime, victimless crime, and white-collar crime. In the second section we will focus on the causes of crime. Here we will study several theories of crime, comparing evidence between theories and applying the theories to real-life events. 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.

Exams & Grades:

There will be two in-class exams. Each exam will consist of multiple-choice, matching, and/or short answer questions and will be worth 60 points. Exams focus upon (and therefore you are responsible for knowing) material presented in the readings, textbook, and lectures; no exam, including the "final," is cumulative in the traditional sense. It is impossible, however, to avoid concepts and material presented in earlier units as the semester unfolds. There are 150 total points in the course. Grades will be based on the following intervals: 139-150 points = A; 135-138 points = A-; 130-134 points = B+; 124-129 = B; 120-123 = B-; 115-119 = C+; 109-114 = C; 105-108 = C-; 90-104 = D; and fewer than 90 points = F. For sociology majors, a grade of C- or less will NOT count toward major course work. Students in the Franklin College must earn a grade of "C" or better in major required course. *I make NO exceptions to*

these grade intervals; you will receive the grade you earn in the class by virtue of your performance. Trust that I won't offer a break to someone else that I won't offer to you--everyone must, and will be, held to the same standard.

Participation:

We will have a number of in-class exercises and group activities. These will be worth between 5-10 points, depending on the specific activity. For the most part, they will be graded in terms of "pass/fail" (either you do it or you don't); consequently, if you aren't in class on the day of a given assignment, there will be no way to make up the points. These points will make up the remaining 30 points for the 150-point total.

Make-Up Exams:

Make-ups are uncommon and should not be expected. Unless it is impossible for you to do so (e.g., you are in the hospital from a car wreck), you must contact me in advance of the test or you will receive a zero. I reserve the right to refuse to offer a make-up exam even if you contact me in advance. I reserve the right to offer a different exam than that offered during the normal test-taking period. Please understand that offering a false rationale for a make-up exam is an act of academic dishonesty and amounts to cheating on an exam.

Attendance Policy:

Attendance is required. Each day, sign-in sheets will be available at the front of the room before class; sheets will also circulate as class begins. Sign in once and only for yourself: signing in for another student is an act of academic dishonesty and will be treated as such. It is your responsibility to sign in if you are present; if you do not sign an attendance sheet, then you will be considered absent. If UGA is in session, and hence we meet for class, then you are expected to be in class. There are no "excused" absences. The way to approach attendance in this and the rest of your classes is to make it a priority and a habit. Because this is a summer class and we only meet 15 times, being absent more than a few times could result in serious consequences. You are allowed two absences with no consequences to your grade. After the third absence, your final grade will be lowered by three points; after the fourth absence you will lose an additional two points off your final grade. Each further absence will result in one point reduction per class missed. As an instructor, I will strive to be on time and prepared, and I expect the same from you. **Therefore, if you are more than 15 minutes late, you are welcome to join the class session, but you will be recorded as absent for the day; the same policy holds for those who leave the session early.**

Academic Honesty:

All students are responsible for maintaining the highest standards of honesty and integrity in every phase of their academic careers. A few examples of academic dishonesty are copying answers from another student during an exam, giving a false excuse for failing to show up for an exam, signing in for another student on an attendance sheet, making use of old exams from this course, or taking a copy of an exam from our classroom. Students who assist other students in academically dishonest acts are in violation of the policy of academic honesty. A full version of the UGA policy regarding academic honesty, "A Culture of Honesty," can be found at http://www.uga.edu/ovpi/academic_honesty/culture_honesty.htm. The penalties for academic dishonesty are severe and ignorance is not an acceptable defense.

Withdrawals:

Students who withdraw from the class *on or before the midpoint of the semester* will be assigned a grade of "W". While grades of "W" do not influence your GPA, they can be consequential for financial aid, athletic eligibility, and veteran's benefits (to name just a few). You should contact the appropriate office (Student Financial Aid, Athletic Department, and so on) if you have questions concerning the possible

impact of withdrawing from the course. Students who withdraw after the mid-point can avoid a grade of "WF" (which counts as an F for purposes of grade-point averages) only if (a) the Office of the Vice President of Student Affairs (542-3564) grants what is called a Hardship Withdrawal and (b) I agree that the situation warrants such consideration. Contact that office for details and procedures. After the midpoint, I do not have the authority to submit a non-grade of "W" without intervention and support from those higher up the administrative ladder.

Classroom Etiquette:

The success of a class depends upon cooperation and consideration. I expect you to arrive and be seated by the time class is set to begin. The class will be excused no later than 12:15. Other behaviors which are discourteous and distracting to me and your fellow students are **reading the newspaper, talking, and cell-phone interruptions** (please set your phone so that it does not ring in class, put it away and off your desk). *I reserve the right to withdraw students from the class (with either a grade of W or WF) who I determine to be disruptive; I also reserve the right to limit or prohibit laptop use if you abuse the privilege (it's a privilege -- not a right -- to use them in class).* I want you to have a good experience in this class. If there is something on your mind that you would like me to address, then please let me know about it. Remember that I can only respond to the information and feedback that you provide.

Laptop Policy:

I do not permit the use of laptops in class, based on my experience and that of other colleagues who have found that they interfere with student performance and class participation. I sometimes make exceptions if students have a disability for which the use of a laptop is desirable, please see me to discuss this.

Course Outline and Readings:

This is a tentative outline; as such it is subject to revision or modification as necessary.

Tuesday, May 12. Introduction: What is Criminology? What is Crime?

Wednesday, May 13. Measuring and Classifying Crime.

Readings: Crime Profiles, chapter 1

Thursday, May 14. Violent Crime.

Readings: Crime Profiles, Chapters 3, 4, 5

Friday, May 15. Property Crime.

Readings: Crime Profiles, Chapters 6 & 7

Monday, May 18. Victimless Crime.

Readings: Crime Profiles, Chapter 9

Tuesday, May 19. White-Collar Crime

Readings: Crime Profiles, Chapter 8

Wednesday, May 20. Criminal Justice System: Incarceration and Policing.

Readings: Criminological Theories, Chapter 1

Thursday, May 21. Exam 1.

Introduction to Criminological Theories

Readings: Criminological Theories, Chapter 1 (if you didn't already read it)

Friday, May 22. Classical Criminology and Biological Theories.
Readings: Criminological Theories, pgs. 17 – 26; Chapter 3

Monday, May 25: Memorial Day Holiday, No Class.

Tuesday, May 26. Social Disorganization Theories and Anomie/Strain Theories.
Readings: Criminological Theories, Chapter 8

Wednesday, May 27. Social Learning Theories.
Readings: Criminological Theories, Chapter 5

Thursday, May 28. Social Bonding/Control Theories
Readings: Criminological Theories, Chapter 6

Friday, May 29. Rational Choice Theory and Routine Activities Theory.
Readings: Criminological Theories, pgs. 26 – 44

Monday, June 1. Special Topics: Family Violence.
Readings: provided by instructor.

Tuesday, June 2. Special Topics: Criminal Justice System; Review for final exam, wrap-up.
Readings: provided by instructor.

Wednesday, June 3. Final Exam.

Human Rights Statement

All students should know that the Department of Sociology has a Human Rights Committee for the resolution of 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 then 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 Chairman 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's complainant and the instructor or staff member involved. Any appeal of that decision must be to the Dean of the college of Arts and Sciences.