

CRIMINOLOGY – SOCI 3810

Fall 2009

Period 1: MW/F, 8:00 – 8:50 am
and
Period 2: M/W/F, 9:05 – 9:55 am

Baldwin 322

Instructor: Jackson Bunch

Email: jbunch@uga.edu (Please do NOT email me through ELC)

Phone: 542-3208

Office: 419 Baldwin Hall

Office Hours: Monday & Friday, 10:00 – 11:00 am (and by appointment)

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 reaction to crime. 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 for the course is to provide you with the necessary tools to understand the complex issues of crime, as well as to evaluate crime-control strategies.

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

Required Readings:

Crime Profiles: The Anatomy of Dangerous Persons, Places, and Situations (3rd edition) by Terrance Miethe, Richard McCorkle, and Shelly Listwan.

Criminological Theories: Introduction, Evaluation, and Application (5th Edition) by Ronald Akers and Christine Sellers.

The Rich Get Richer and the Poor Get Prison (8th Edition) by Jeffery Reiman

Several additional readings will be available on E-Learning Commons (<http://elc.uga.edu/>) in the folder marked “Course Readings.”

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

Three Exams

You will have three exams, each worth 30% of your grade. All exams will have two versions: essay or objective testing (multiple choice, true false, short answer). You may take either version of every test. Exams focus upon (and therefore you are responsible for knowing) material presented in the readings and in class. 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. Exam dates are indicated on the course outline.

Quizzes and In-Class Activities

In addition to the exams, you will also have periodic quizzes and in-class exercises/group activities. These will account for the remaining 10% of your grade. The quizzes will assess your comprehension of the assigned readings and will be given within the first 5 minutes of class. Please note that if you arrive late or are absent for **any** reason, you will be unable to make-up that day’s quiz. If, during our class discussions, I am left with the impression that you have not read the assigned readings, then I will be inclined to increase the frequency (and difficulty) of these quizzes. We will also have several in-class group activities. 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. I will drop your **two** lowest quiz/activity grades.

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
F	0 – 59.99

Class Participation and Attendance

While I have no official attendance requirement, I strongly encourage you to attend all class sessions. And, 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 and quizzes 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 be aware that we will discuss a number of subjects that you may find controversial. In all of our class 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 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 discussion 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 should be turned off before entering the classroom (do not even think about texting during class). When class begins, please put away all newspapers, including the crossword puzzle. 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. Finally, wait until the end of class before putting away your books.

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, 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/honesty/ahpd/culture_honesty.htm. The penalties for academic dishonesty are severe and ignorance is not an acceptable defense.

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 are 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. 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. 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 the make-up exam may vary from the original exam and must be taken as soon after the missed exam as possible.

Withdrawals

Students who withdraw from the class **on or before the withdrawal deadline, October 22**, 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.

Course Outline

Nature and Extent of Crime

Monday, August 17: Course Introduction: What is Criminology?

Wednesday, August 19: What is Crime?

Friday, August 21: Measuring and Classifying Crime
Reading: Crime Profiles, Chapter 1

Monday, August 24: Measuring and Classifying Crime
Reading: Crime Profiles, Chapter 1 (review)

Wednesday, August 26: Measuring and Classifying Crime
Reading: Crime Profiles, Chapter 1 (review)

Friday, August 28: Violent Crime
Reading: Crime Profiles, Chapters 3 & 4

Monday, August 31: Violent Crime
Reading: Crime Profiles, Chapter 5

Wednesday, September 2: Film: "Criminals"

Friday, September 4: Film: "Criminals"

Monday, September 7: Labor Day (no class)

Wednesday, September 9: Violent Crime
Reading: "Creating the Illusion of Impending Death" (available on ELC)

Friday, September 11: Terrorism
Reading: "The New Face of Terrorism" (available on ELC)

Monday, September 14: Property Crime
Reading: Crime Profiles, Chapter 6

Wednesday, September 16: Property Crime
Reading: "The Five-Finger Discount" (available on ELC)

Friday, September 18: Property Crime
Reading: Crime Profiles, Chapter 7

Monday, September 21: Victimless Crime
Reading: Crime Profiles, Chapter 9

Wednesday, September 23: Victimless Crime
Reading: Crime Profiles, Chapter 9 (review)

Friday, September 25: White Collar Crime
Reading: Crime Profiles, Chapter 8

Monday, September 28: White Collar Crime
Reading: "Denying the Guilty Mind" (available on ELC)

Wednesday, September 30: Catch-up

Friday, October 2: EXAM #1

Causes of Crime

Monday, October 5: Overview
Reading: Criminological Theories, Chapter 1

Wednesday October 7: Classical Criminology
Reading: Criminological Theories, pp. 17-26

Friday, October 9: Biological Theories
Reading: Criminological Theories, Chapter 3

Monday, October 12: Social Disorganization Theory and Anomie/Strain Theories
Reading: Criminological Theories, Chapter 8

Wednesday, October 14: Social Disorganization Theory and Anomie/Strain Theories
Reading: Criminological Theories, Chapter 8 (review)

Friday, October 16: Social Disorganization Theory and Anomie/Strain Theories
Reading: Criminological Theories, Chapter 8 (review)

Monday, October 19: Differential Association Theory and Social Learning Theory
Reading: Criminological Theories, Chapter 5

Wednesday, October 21: Differential Association Theory and Social Learning Theory
Reading: “Neutralization and Deviance in the Workplace” (available on ELC)

Friday, October 23: Social Bonding/Control Theories
Reading: Criminological Theories, Chapter 6

Monday, October 26: Rational Choice Theory and Routine Activities Theory
Reading: Criminological Theories, pp. 26 – 44

Wednesday, October 28: Rational Choice Theory and Routine Activities Theory
Reading: “The Reasoning Offender” (available on ELC)

Friday, October 30: Fall Break (no class)

Monday, November 2: Catch-up and Review

Wednesday, November 4: Exam #2

Societal Responses to Crime

Friday, November 6: American Society of Criminology meetings (no class)

Monday, November 9: Film: “The Injustice System in America”

Wednesday, November 11: Film: “The Injustice System in America”

Friday, November 13: The Structure of the Criminal Justice System

Monday, November 16: The Structure of the Criminal Justice System

Wednesday, November 18: Crime Control in the U.S.
Reading: The Rich Get Richer..., Introduction and Chapter 1

Friday, November 20: Social Constructions of Crime
Reading: The Rich Get Richer..., Chapter 2

Monday, November 23: Thanksgiving Break (no class)

Wednesday, November 25: Thanksgiving Break (no class)

Friday, November 27: Thanksgiving Break (no class)

Monday, November 30: Race, Class, and Incarceration

Reading: The Rich Get Richer..., Chapter 3

Wednesday, December 2: Race, Class, and Incarceration

Reading: The Rich Get Richer..., Chapter 3 (review)

Friday, December 4: Why is the Criminal Justice System Failing?

Reading: The Rich Get Richer..., Chapter 4

Monday, December 7: Seeking Justice

Reading: The Rich Get Richer..., Conclusion

Tuesday, December 8: Catch-up

Thursday, December 10: 8:00 am Class: FINAL EXAM (8:00 am)

Monday, December 14: 9:05 am Class: FINAL EXAM (8:00 am)

Disabilities

If you have a documented disability and would like to request classroom accommodations, please see me after class or make an appointment during office hours.

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 Department 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 to the Dean of the College of Arts and Sciences.