

SOCIOLOGY 920: 222: 05 CRIMINOLOGY

Course Syllabus

Spring 2016
Time: Mon & Wed 2:15 to 3:35 PM
Location: Loree Hall 020

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Course web-site: <https://sakai.rutgers.edu/>

Office Hours: Mondays: 12:00 – 2:00 PM, 38 Davison Hall (848-932-7868) or by appt.

Purpose

This course examines the nature, function, and causes of crime in society. We will trace the development of criminology from the Enlightenment through the present, situating key criminological theories and research in their historical context. Furthermore, the course attempts to bridge criminological theory and contemporary crime and criminal justice issues including racial profiling, gun control, drug enforcement, and mass incarceration. While drawing critical attention to prevailing criminological wisdom, the course also attempts to broaden students' understanding of criminality through highlighting oft neglected crimes including those committed by the government and corporate executives.

Learning Goals

This course satisfies the SAS Core Curriculum requirement for the area of Social Analysis. Students will understand the criminological perspective, a distinctly interdisciplinary approach to criminal behavior. They will understand how key questions pertaining to crime and criminal justice in the 21st century can be better analyzed using both sociological and psychological concepts. Students will develop the skills necessary to read and evaluate criminological research in an intelligent and critical manner. They will understand the role of theory and methods in criminological research.

Required Readings

Two books are required in this course:

Text: Bohm, Robert M. and Vogel, Brenda L. (2015) *A Primer on Crime & Delinquency Theory* (4th ed.) Belmont, CA: Wadsworth. ISBN 9781-61163-6857. (Available at Rutgers bookstore and on-line).

Course Reader: *Boundaries: Readings in Deviance, Crime, and Criminal Justice*. Pearson Custom Publishing. (Available at Rutgers bookstore. NOT available on-line).

Other readings will be available as Pdf files through the course web-site under 'Resources'. These readings consist of short articles or book chapters.

Key Features of the Course

I wish to emphasize two features of this course:

- 1) This is a large lecture course. If you have questions, please try to raise them before, during, or after class or during my office hours before contacting me through e-mail or phone calls.
- 2) This course requires regular internet access (to read emails and view Powerpoint lectures) as well as access to the Top Hat platform for attendance and in-class quizzes. Top Hat can be accessed via laptops, smart phones, and even text messaging. Important information will regularly be sent automatically to your official Rutgers e-mail account. I encourage you to print the slides (notes or handout view only please) and bring them to class or access them while in class from a laptop.

Course Grade

Your grade will be scored on a 220 point scale (with 230 points possible) and will be apportioned as follows:

First Exam (Feb 22):	apprx. 23% (50 pts.)
Second Exam (May 10)	apprx. 27% (60 pts.)
Third Exam (Feb 22):	apprx. 27% (60 pts.)
Quizzes TBA):	apprx. 18% (40 pts.)
Attendance:	apprx. 5% (10 pts.)
Participation:	apprx. 5% (Up to 10 pts. Extra Credit)

Grading key (%'s): <60 (F), 60-69 (D), 70-74 (C), 75-79 (C+), 80-84 (B), 85-89 (B+), 90+ (A).

Attendance. I will take attendance for about half of the lectures (generally those in which I am not giving a quiz) using Top Hat. You may have two unexcused absences and still get a perfect attendance score. You are strongly encouraged to attend every lecture, since much of the material on the exams will be covered *only* in lecture--not in the readings or on any slides posted on the web-site. Furthermore, whether present or not, you are responsible for all information covered and any assignments made in every class. If you have an excused absence, feel free to ask me about the contents of a missed class. I prefer you consult your class "buddy" first (see Buddy System). If you expect to miss class due to medical reasons or family emergencies and would like assistance from me, please use the University absence reporting website <https://sims.rutgers.edu/ssra/> to indicate the date and reason for your absence. An email is automatically sent to me. Documentation of other valid excuses (e.g. airline ticket receipt, court receipt, hospital visitation receipt, funeral program) must be promptly provided to me (please make me a copy) for the excuse to be accepted. Excuses that cannot be verified with documentation (e.g. power outage, traffic jam, car trouble) will not be accepted as valid.

Classroom behavior. The Department of Sociology adopted a uniform policy on classroom conduct. Here is a truncated version:

The Department of Sociology encourages the free exchange of ideas in a safe, supportive, and productive classroom environment. To facilitate such an environment, students and faculty must act with mutual respect and common courtesy. Thus, behavior that distracts students and faculty during lecture is not acceptable. Such behavior includes cell phone and Internet use and excessive talking or laughing. Courteous and lawful expression of disagreement with the ideas of the instructor or fellow students is, of course, permitted. If a student engages in disruptive behavior, the instructor, following the University Code of Student Conduct, may direct the student to leave class for the remainder of the class period. The University Code of Student Conduct is at <http://studentconduct.rutgers.edu/university-code-of-student-conduct>.

Quizzes. I intend to give between 10 and 12 very short (for or five questions) *announced* quizzes during the semester. Because technological difficulties and unavoidable (but unexcused) absences may occasionally impede quiz participation, your lowest two scores will not be counted. Quizzes will be given at the beginning of a class period and will cover the required readings for that session.

Exams. You will be tested three times during the semester. I conduct exam review sessions on-line though Sakai. Although the exams will consist of true/false and multiple choice questions, they seek to gauge not only your ability to memorize pertinent facts about crime and criminology but also your ability to draw inferences from facts and logical deductions from theories and your ability to connect theories learned in the course to real world issues. The exams will cover all course material including videos shown in class. Cheating on the exams will result in a failing grade on the exam and a referral to the appropriate Dean's office. Grades on exams will be distributed at via Sakai's gradebook.

Participation/Q & A. Students have an opportunity to earn up to ten valuable *extra credit* points in the course through participation in class Q & A and the discussion boards on Sakai. I ask students who have not done the assigned reading to let others respond to questions first. This helps keep the class focused and flowing. Note also that I value good questions as much as good answers. You can also earn participation points through contributing, in a thoughtful, pertinent, and informed manner, to any professor-approved discussion threads on the course web-site. Comments that only echo what other students or I have said or that are posted after the thread's designated expiration date will not earn points. Any class participation that detracts from focused, intellectual discourse will not improve your grade. Please do not ask me about your participation grade before course grades are submitted.

Excessive or unsolicited participation will *reduce* your participation score. Because of time limitations, I will likely be able to call on you no more than twice in a class period. If you would like to share your thoughts and opinions in a more elaborate way, please wait until after the lecture is finished, come see me outside of class, or send me a comment to share with the class.

Other Extra Credit. I do not plan to provide other opportunities for extra credit.

Make-up Exams

Students with a valid, documented excuse (see above) who are unable to take the exams may take a make-up exam at the make-up exam sessions designated and administered by the Sociology Department. I will not be present. Except under extremely unusual circumstance, you are expected to notify me of your absence and obtain approval to take the make-up exam *in advance* of the regularly scheduled exam. If you are sick the day of an exam, please contact me and visit the doctor the same day. Students without a valid excuse will *not* be permitted to take the make-up exam for full credit.

Students with Disabilities

If you have a documented disability and require accommodations to obtain equal access in this course, please contact me *prior* to the exam for which an accommodation is required. Students with disabilities must verify eligibility through the Office of Student Disability Services.

Communications

The Buddy System. Because this is a large course, I may not respond to all emailed questions in a timely manner. The buddy system can help you get your questions answered more quickly. A class buddy your first point of contact should you have a question about something mentioned in class that you missed or did not understand. If you have not found a buddy on your own by the end of the second week of class, you can sign up for one. I will then randomly assign you a buddy from among those who also indicated that they would like a buddy. If possible, preferences for same-gender buddies will be honored. Students who do not sign up in class but would like a buddy will be added to a reserve list.

Buddies should exchange contact information, so you are accessible to each other when needed. You should feel some sense of obligation to your buddy, but buddy relationships, like most relationships, are built on trust and reciprocity. If your buddy repeatedly skips class and asks you for your lecture notes, you should feel free to refuse the request with no obligation. Please be respectful of your buddy's time and confidentiality. If you expect to receive help from your buddy, you should be prepared to give it.

Although I will not get involved in disputes between buddies, I will assign people new ones. If you would like a new buddy, let me know via e-mail and I will assign you one from the reserve list. If you are the subject of repeated or serious complaints from your buddy, I may not reassign you. If you are on the reserve buddy list and find a new buddy on your own, please let me know.

The buddy system is purely voluntary and is largely for *your* benefit. Those who participate assume any and all risks that such a buddy system may entail. I encourage everyone to use the buddy system.

E-mails. Even with the buddy system, you may still need to send me e-mails with questions about lectures, reading assignments, quizzes, exams etc. I will respond only to reasonable questions, and I ask that you respect the following guidelines. First, please e-mail me from an

account that *lists your name* as the sender. This makes it easier for me to track down your e-mail later. Second, if I do not know you by name, please choose a subject for your email that identifies you as one of my students. Third, while I welcome anonymous e-mails (or any e-mails) that provide me feedback on the course, I will not reply to anonymous e-mails.

If I have a backlog of e-mails, you may not receive a reply for 48 hours. I will not respond to requests for information that I provided in a class that you missed without an excuse. To reply to as many e-mails as possible, I often write very succinct responses. Please do not view this as discourteous. I will respond to all students the same way.

List-serve. The course list-serve and Sakai automatically send messages to the e-mail address you have on file at Rutgers. I do not have the ability to set the e-mail address at which you will receive messages. I use the list-serve mainly to send you updates and reminders. Do not count on the list-serve to inform you and remind you about anything I mention in class. If you are absent from lecture, it is your responsibility to find out what you missed from another classmate. Occasionally, I may post items to the list-serve that are relevant to a pending assignment or exam. You are expected to check your e-mail regularly. As a rule, I try to give at least 2 days notice for any changes I make to the readings, exams etc., and to make any important announcements in class. To contact the whole class, send an e-mail to criminology_sp16@rams.rutgers.edu rather than through Sakai. You can also use the student discussion board in Sakai.

Lecture Topics, Required Reading and Dates

Please do the reading corresponding to a lecture in advance of the lecture. (Topics and readings are subject to change at least two days in advance of the corresponding lecture date.). If the reading specifies a page range (e.g. 76-82) rather than a whole chapter, begin the reading on the first section that *begins* on the first page in the range and end the reading after the last section that *ends* on the last page in the range. If no section begins or ends on the pages described above, use *paragraphs* as markers instead of sections.

Key: Text: Bohm & Vogel. Reader: Boundaries. Sakai: Reading will be available electronically from the course web-site.

Date	Topics/Assignments	Readings
Jan. 20	Introduction to the course.	None
Jan. 25	The Who, What, Why, and How of crime and criminology	Sakai: Conklin, Ch. 1 (p. 5-12 Optional); Barkan (p. 38-46).
Jan. 27	Patterns of Crime	Barkan (p. 47-63).
Feb. 1	Enlightenment Thought, rational choice, and deterrence.	Text: Ch. 2. Reader: Katz, The Motivation of the Persistent Robber (skip "Reflections on Methodology")
Feb. 3	Biological and Psychological Origins of Crime and Criminality	Text: Ch. 4 (skip 44-45). Ch. 5. (pp. 76-83); 135-137 (Gottfredson & Hirschi).

Date	Topics/Assignments	Readings
Feb. 8	The Functions of Crime in Society	Text (pp. 91-93 on Durkheim; 102-105 on Functionalism). Sakai: "The Joys of Crime" "Crime and the Community: Durkheim and Capote"
Feb. 10	Social Structure, social strain and crime	Text: (pp. 105-113). Reader: Merton, "Social Structure and Anomie"
Feb. 15	Organized Crime	Sakai: Reid, "Organized Crime"; Broadhurst et al, "Organizations and Cyber crime"
Feb. 17	Movie: <i>The History of The Mob in America</i>	Readings from Feb. 15 or TBA
Feb. 22	First Exam	
Feb. 24	Radical Criminology	Text (pp. 145-147; 156-163). Reader: Lynch & Groves, "Causes of Crime: A Radical View"
Mar. 2	Conflict Theory/ Labeling	Text. (pp. 147-156). Sakai: Tuohy & Bacon (USA Today) Sakai Hirschfield "Declining Significance of Delinquent Labels."
Mar. 7	Social Process Theories	Text: (pp. 121-131; 134-35; 137-139); Reader: Sykes and Matza "Techniques of Neutralization"
Mar. 9	Crime over the Life Course.	Text: (pp. 196-199) Reader: Laub and Sampson "Why Some Offenders Stop"
Mar. 14-16	Spring Break	Have fun!
Mar. 21	Gender, Feminism and Crime	Text (164-167). Reader: Simpson, Feminist Theory Crime and Justice.
Mar. 23	Guns, Homicide, and Crime	Sakai: Zakaria, "The Case for Gun Control"; Wilson, "Guns Control Isn't the Answer"; Douthat, "On Gun Control and Prohibition"
Mar. 28	Drugs and Crime	Sakai: Mohamed & Fritsvold, "Social Organization of the Illicit Drug Trade"
Mar. 30	Movie: <i>Crips and Bloods</i>	TBA

Date	Topics/Assignments	Readings
April 4	Schools and Delinquency	Sakai: Agnew, "The School" Sakai: Kimmel & Mahler, "Adolescent Masculinity" p. 1440-1443, p. 1450-1454
Apr. 6	Second Exam	
Apr. 11	Media Effects on Crime	Sakai: Anderson et al. "The Influence of Media Violence on Youth"
Apr. 13	Crime in the News Media	Beckett & Sasson: "Crime in the News"
Apr. 18	Gangs and Subcultural Theories (Guest Speaker)	Text (131-134); Reader: Anderson. <i>Code of the Streets</i> .
Apr. 20	Race and Crime	Sakai: Dumke & Joravsky, "The Grass Gap"; Kennedy, "Getting Beyond Ferguson"
Apr. 25	White Collar and Corporate Crime	Sakai: Crime Law and Deviance Newsletter. "White Collar Crime Discussion" (pp. 3-6). Sakai: Benson, "Denying the Guilty Mind;" Porter, "Surging Scourge"
Apr. 27	State Crime	Reader: Chambliss, "State Organized Crime"; Greenwald
May 2	Police and Crime.	Reader: Kelling and Wilson, "Broken Windows". Sakai: Marx, "Ironies of Social Control."
May 4	Incarceration and Crime	Sakai: Mauer, "The Prison-Crime Connection"; Sakai: (in Johnson, <i>Crime and Punishment</i>) Hargrove, "A Single Unheard Voice" and Elam, "My Rehabilitation"
May 10	Final Exam, 12 p.m., Loree 020	