

CRIMINOLOGY

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Tuesdays and Thursdays, 1:40 pm - 3:00 pm

Spring 2014

257 Tillett

Professor Jeanette Covington

Web Page URL: <http://sakai.rutgers.edu/>

OFFICE HOURS: Tuesdays and Thursdays, 5:00 p.m. – 6:00 p.m.

LOCATION: Livingston Student Center

REQUIRED TEXTS

A Primer on Crime & Delinquency Theory—Third Edition, 2011

Authors: Robert Bohm and Brenda Vogel

Crime and Racial Constructions: Cultural Misinformation about African Americans in Media and Academia—2010, 2011

Author: Jeanette Covington

Both texts are available at New Jersey Books and the Rutgers University Bookstore.

RESERVE

Additional readings have been placed online at Kilmer Library Reserve. These readings are indicated on your reading list by an asterisk (*).

COURSE DESCRIPTION

Traditionally, the study of crime has been taken up with identifying the reasons why people commit crime. In this course, then, we will begin by examining how crime is defined and measured as a way of preparing ourselves to review and critique a number of theories that identify the reasons why people commit crime. Then, because the definition of criminal behavior can change over time, we will also take a look at theories that explain how certain behaviors come to be defined as criminal in the first place. Finally, at various points in the semester, we will assess how well the theories of crime that we have reviewed explain race and gender differences in crime.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

I will make weekly announcements on the class sakai site primarily to talk about some of the major points made in lectures or to answer any class-related questions that individual students might ask. Please check the class sakai site on a regular basis.

EXAMINATIONS AND GRADING

Your grade will be based on your performance on the midterm and the final. **The midterm will be given in class on Thursday March 6th and the final exam will be given in class during the scheduled exam period—Friday May 9th from 9am to 11am.** Each exam will consist of multiple choice questions and each exam counts for one-half of your grade. The exams are meant to test your knowledge of material covered in both the readings and the lectures. The lectures do

not substitute for the readings and the readings do not substitute for the lectures as some material that is included in the lectures is not included in the readings and vice versa. Because both the readings and the lectures will be covered on the exam, you should complete all of the readings and if you miss a class, make sure you get the missed notes from classmates.

Rules for taking Exams

Since both exams will consist of multiple choice type questions, you will only need to bring # 2 pencils, erasers, pencil sharpeners, a watch, and your Rutgers ID card to take the exam. Only these items can be placed on your desk while you are taking the exam. No calculators, rulers, laptops, lecture notes, books or other aids are allowed while you are taking the exam and perhaps should not even be brought to class on exam days as they will only get in the way. If you do bring these items, they should be placed in a bag under the seats.

CLASSROOM ENVIRONMENT

Much like every other class in Sociology, this class is all about the free exchange of ideas. Among other things, that means that students are allowed to disagree with each other or with the instructor—but only as long as they do so in a courteous and lawful way. In order to facilitate the free exchange of ideas, it is important that we all make an effort to treat each other with common courtesy and mutual respect. For that reason, conduct that distracts the instructor and other students during class is not acceptable and includes behaviors such as cell phone use, surfing the internet, checking email, text messaging, listening to music, reading newspapers, leaving and returning to class, leaving early without permission, discourteous remarks and similar behaviors that demonstrate a lack of consideration for faculty and fellow students. In particular, texting during class is disruptive and disrespectful of classroom education. In light of that, if you do have an emergency that requires you to text, please go out in the hall to do so.

It has been my experience that the vast majority of students are courteous and respectful in class without being asked. However, for the tiny handful of students who cannot make the effort to be considerate to me or to other students, it might be wise to consider taking another class. Also, keep in mind that if a student does engage 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. Moreover, serious verbal assaults, harassment or defamation of the instructor or other students can lead to university disciplinary proceedings.

READINGS

MEASURING CRIMINAL BEHAVIOR

- *W. Chambliss & A. Haas, "How Much Crime is There?"
- *P. Beirne & J.W. Messerschmidt, "White Collar Crime"
- *S. Barkan, "Political Crime"

THEORIES OF CRIME

Social Structure Theories

- Bohm & Vogel, chapter 6; chapter 7: pages 103-105
- *C. Shaw and H. McKay, "Juvenile Delinquency and Urban Areas"

- *W. Miller, "Lower Class Culture as a Generating Milieu of Gang Delinquency"
- *E. Banfield, ch.3 "The Imperatives of Class"
- *E. Banfield, ch. 10 "The Future of the Lower Class"
- *R.K. Merton, "Social Structure and Anomie"
- *R. Cloward and L. Ohlin, "Illegitimate Means, Differential Opportunity and Delinquent Subcultures"
- *A. Cohen, "The Delinquency Subculture"
- *R. Agnew, "Foundation for a General Strain Theory of Crime and Delinquency"

Race, Crime and Violence

- Covington**, ch.4
- Review:** Miller; Bohm & Vogel, pp.103-105
- *M. Wolfgang and F. Ferracuti, "The Subculture of Violence"
- *E. Anderson, "The Code of the Streets"
- *M.K. Connor, *What is Cool?: Understanding Black Manhood in America*, "Revolutionary Cool"
- *A. Poussaint, "Black-on-Black Homicide: A Psychological-Political Perspective"
- *W. Cross and L. Strauss, "The Everyday Functions of African-American Identity"
- **Covington**, ch.5
- *D. Black, "Crime as Social Control"
- *D. Royster, "Race and the Invisible Hand: How White Networks Exclude Black Men from Blue Collar Jobs"
- *D.F. Hawkins et al., "Race, Ethnicity and Serious and Violent Juvenile Offending"
- *B. Vobejda, "No Exit."

Social Process Theories

- Bohm & Vogel**, chapter 7
- *E. Sutherland & D. Cressey, "Differential Association"
- *R. Akers, "A Social Learning Theory of Crime"
- *G. Sykes and D. Matza, "Techniques of Neutralization"
- *T. Hirschi, "A Control Theory of Delinquency"
- *S. Walker, "The Career Criminal"
- *M. Gottfredson and T. Hirschi, "A General Theory of Crime"
- *K. Polk, Book Review: *A General Theory of Crime* by Gottfredson & Hirschi
- Bohm & Vogel**, pp.149-152
- *R. Sampson and J. Laub, "Crime and The Life Course"
- *S. Tibbetts & C. Hemmens, "Life-Course Perspectives of Criminality"
- *T. Moffitt, "Pathways in the Life Course to Crime"

Women, Crime and Victimization

- Covington**, ch.7
- Bohm & Vogel**, pp.130-132
- Review:** Wolfgang and Ferracuti, Anderson, Moffitt
- *Adler, "Sisters in Crime"

- *D. Steffensmeier, "Trends in Female Crime: It's Still a Man's World"
- *M. Chesney-Lind, "Criminalizing Victimization: The Unintended Consequences of Pro-Arrest Policies for Girls and Women"

Labeling Theory

- Bohm & Vogel**, chapter 3, chapter 8: pp.115-120
- *E. Lemert, "Primary and Secondary Deviance"
- *W. Chambliss, "The Saints and the Roughnecks"
- *H. Becker, "Moral Entrepreneurs"
- *H. Becker, "Becoming a Marijuana User"
- *J. Best, "Labeling Under Attack"
- *C. Werthman & I. Piliavin, "The Police Perspective on Delinquency"
- *A. Liazos, "The Poverty of the Sociology of Deviance: Nuts, Sluts and Perverts"
- Review:** Beirne & Messerschmidt, Barkan

Social Conflict Theory

- **Bohm & Vogel**, chapter 8: pp120-143
- *W. Bonger, "Criminality and Economic Conditions"
- Review:** Beirne & Messerschmidt, "White Collar Crime"
- Review:** Barkan, "Political Crime"