CRIMINOLOGY
01:920:222:01
Tuesdays and Thursdays, 1:40 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.
Spring 2015
Tillett 257
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


Both texts are available at the Rutgers University Bookstore.

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

COURSE DESCRIPTION
Traditionally, criminology 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.

This course meets SAS core curriculum learning goals for social and historical analysis.

ANNOUNCEMENTS
I will make weekly announcements on the class sakai site at the beginning of each week primarily to tell you what readings were covered in the previous week’s lectures and what readings will be covered in the coming week; I will also answer any class-related questions that individual students might ask. Please check the class sakai site and your Rutgers e-mail on a regular basis.

EXAMINATIONS, GRADING AND ATTENDANCE
Your grade will be based on your performance on the midterm and the final. The midterm will
be given in class on Thursday March 3rd and the final exam will be given in class during the scheduled exam period—Friday May 8th 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 attend all of the lectures.

Slides presented during class lectures are available online on reserve. However the slides on reserve and the slides presented in class will not always match perfectly as I may add new material to the slides presented in lectures. Therefore, it is best to attend all of the lectures as newly added material will only be covered on the slides presented in class. If you miss a class, make sure you get the missed lecture notes from classmates.

Finally, regular class attendance can affect your grade for the course. Because if a student ends up between two grades at the end of the semester and has regularly attended class, that student will receive the higher grade. (For example, a student who ends up between a B and a C+ will receive the B if they have regularly attended class.)

**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, sleeping, putting your head on the desk, 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**
- *Fundamentals*, chapters 2, 11, 12, pages 237-240
  - *J. Reiman, “A Crime By Any Other Name…”*
  - *S. Barkan, “Political Crime”*
- *Fundamentals*, chapter 10; pages 222-225

**THEORIES OF CRIME CAUSATION**

**Social Structure Theories**
- *Fundamentals*, chapter 4
  - *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”*

**Race, Crime and Violence**
- *Crime & Racial Constructions*, ch.4
  - *Fundamentals*, chapter 8
- **Review**: Miller
  - *M. Wolfgang and F. Ferracuti, “The Subculture of Violence”*
  - *M.K. Connor, What is Cool?: Understanding Black Manhood in America, “Revolutionary Cool”*
  - *A. Poussaint, “Black-on-Black Homicide: A Psychological-Political Perspective”*
- *Crime & Racial Constructions*, ch.5
  - *D. Black, “Crime as Social Control”*
  - *D.F. Hawkins et al., “Race, Ethnicity and Serious and Violent Juvenile Offending”*
  - *B. Vobejda, "No Exit."*
Social Process Theories
-Fundamentals, chapter 5--pp. 103-113, 116-127
-*E. Sutherland & D. Cressey, "Differential Association"
-*G. Sykes and D. Matza, "Techniques of Neutralization"
-*T. Hirschi, "A Control Theory of Delinquency"
-*S. Walker, “The Career Criminal”
-*R. Sampson and J. Laub, “Crime and The Life Course”

Life Course Theories
-Fundamentals, chapter 7--153-156, 165-189
-*T. Moffitt, “Pathways in the Life Course to Crime”

Women, Crime and Victimization
-Crime & Racial Constructions, ch.7
-Review: Wolfgang and Ferracuti; Anderson; Moffitt; Fundamentals, chapter7
-*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

Summing Up: Positivism & Theories of Crime Causation
-Fundamentals, chapter 1
-R. Bohm & B. Vogel, “An Introduction to Theory”
-R. Bohm & B. Vogel, “Positivist Theories”

CRITICAL PERSPECTIVES

Labeling Theory
-Fundamentals, pages 114-116
-*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”
-*S. Barkan, “Consensual Crime”

Social Conflict Theory
-Fundamentals, chapter 6
-*W. Bonger, “Criminality and Economic Conditions”
- **Review**: Beirne & Messerschmidt, “White Collar Crime”
- **Review**: Barkan, “Political Crime”
- **Review**: Reiman,”A Crime By Any Other Name…”