CRIMINOLOGY
01:920:222:01
Tuesdays and Thursdays, 1:40 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.
Spring 2017
257 Tillett
Professor Jeanette Covington
Web Page URL: https://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—Fourth Edition, 2015
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 the Rutgers University Bookstore (Barnes & Noble).

RESERVE

Additional readings have been placed online at Alexander 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. In light of the topics covered, this class 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 email 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 1st and the final exam will be given in class during**

the scheduled exam period—Friday May 4th from 9:00 am to 11:00 am. 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.

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 class 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.

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 cell phones, calculators, rulers, laptops, lecture notes, books, tablets 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

-*S. Barkan, The Measurement and Patterning of Criminal Behavior"
-*J. Reiman, "A Crime By Any Other Name…"
-*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 131-132
-*C. Shaw and H. McKay, "Juvenile Delinquency and Urban Areas"
-*F. Thrasher, *The Gang,* chapters 1,2
-*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"
-*D. Bell, "Crime as an American Way of Life"
-*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.131-132
-**Bohm & Vogel**, pp.132-134
-*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.196-202
-***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"

CRITICAL THEORIES

-**Bohm & Vogel,** chapters 1, 2, 3; pp. 43-49

Labeling Theory

-**Bohm & Vogel,** chapter 8: pp.145-152
-*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"
-*A. Liazos, "The Poverty of the Sociology of Deviance: Nuts, Sluts and Preverts"
-**Review**: Beirne & Messerschmidt, Barkan

Social Conflict Theory

-**Bohm & Vogel**, pp. 152-185
-*G. Vito & J. Maahs, "Social Conflict and Crime"
-*W. Bonger, "Criminality and Economic Conditions"
-*M. Colvin & J. Pauly, "An Integrated Structural-Marxist Theory of Delinquency"
-**Review**: Beirne & Messerschmidt, "White Collar Crime"
-**Review**: Barkan, "Political Crime"
-**Review:** Reiman,"A Crime By Any Other Name…"

Women, Crime and Victimization

-**Covington,** ch.7
-**Bohm & Vogel,** pp.43-49, 164-167
-**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