Criminology

SOCY 4014-001

Fall 2018

MWF, 9:00-9:50

HUMN 250

Instructor: Professor M.L. Radelet

173 Ketchum, OR Room 125, Institute of Behavioral Sciences

(1440 15th Street)

(303) 492-1833 (Ketchum) or (303) 735-5811 (IBS)

Radelet@Colorado.edu

Office Hours: MWF 8:00-8:45, but please let me know in advance if you

plan to visit so I will be sure to be there.

Teaching Assistant: Mr. Aaron Johnson

Office: 482 Ketchum

(720) 446-9810

Aaron.Johnson@Colorado.edu

Office Hours: MWF 10:00-11:00, and by appointment

I. Catalogue Description

Examines the scientific study of types of criminal behavior and explanations for criminal behavior, with special attention to social factors affecting criminal behavior. Prerequisite: SOCY 1001 or 1004 or 2044. Restricted to students with 57-180 credits (Juniors or Seniors).

II. Objectives

1. To foster development of a sociologically informed critical analysis of criminality, in all its forms, and the criminal justice system.

2. To assist the student in recognizing the distinction between questions of opinion vs. questions where empirical data can be used to generate answers.

3. To encourage the student in perceiving and demystifying the social forces and powers that influence and shape popular attitudes, beliefs, and ideologies about crime.

4. To help the student develop her or his thinking, writing, theoretical, and innovative skills.

III. Required Readings

1. Piers Beirne & James W. Messerschmidt, Criminology, Sixth Edition. Oxford University Press, 2015. My advice is to shop around and rent.

2. Bryan Stevenson, Just Mercy: A Story of Justice and Redemption (2014). This book is readily available at numerous online sites for less than $20. Since you will not need it until later in the semester, my advice is again to shop around and order it online.

3. University of Colorado Student Honor Code and supporting documents;

<http://www.colorado.edu/academics/honorcode>

4. Various materials on the web, or to be e-mailed (all students should check e-mail

daily). Students should expect to read one or two articles or look at one or two

web sites each week.

IV. Course Requirements

1. Class attendance. The final course grade will be reduced by one notch (e.g., from an "A" to an "A-") for each fourth unexcused absence. ALL REQUESTS FOR EXCUSED ABSENCES MUST BE SUBMITTED WITHIN ONE WEEK OF THE ABSENCE. In addition, any student with nine or more unexcused absences will receive a final grade of “F” in the course *regardless* of scores on the exams (and those taking the course Pass-Fail will receive an F). Sorry, there are no excused absences from any exams or quizzes. NOTE: Due to widespread abuses and to be fair to all students, there will be NO excused absences from classes for activities related to the CU Athletic Department.

2. Four hourly exams. The first will be given in class on Friday, September 21 (21 percent), the second in class on Wednesday, Oct. 24 (21 percent), the third on Wednesday, November 14 (19 percent), and the fourth will be at the time of the final exam, Wednesday, December 19, 1:30-4:00 (24 percent) (partially cumulative). In addition, there will be a 5-point quiz on the Stevenson book on Friday, November 30. Approximately one-third of the exams will cover lecture materials, one-third text materials, and one-third will cover both. Exams are typically essay and short answer. Note: there are no excused absences from the exams, other than extreme and documented emergencies.

3. One short (six-page or 1,800 words) “Critical Reaction Paper,” on the Stevenson book, due in class on Friday, December 7. The paper should be equally divided into two parts. In the first half (approximately 3 pages), *describe and summarize* the book, much as a book review in the Sunday *New York Times* tries to tell readers -- most of whom have not read the book and probably will not -- what a given book is all about. What are the major themes and conclusions of the book? Where is the author coming from? The second part of your paper – and please make it clear where you are starting Part II -- should describe your critical reactions to the book. Here each student has a lot of flexibility, but examples of questions the student might discuss include: What did the author get right (if anything), and what did she get wrong (if anything)? Did the book remind you of any events in your own life or of other issues that we discussed in class? What do you feel were the most thought-provoking points in the book?

VI. Grading

First Hourly Exam.......................... 21 percent

Second Hourly Exam...................... 21 percent

Third Hourly Exam ……………… 19 percent

Final Exam ..................................... 24 percent (partially cumulative)

Critical Reaction Paper................... 10 percent

Quiz on Stevenson book……...….. 5 percent

VI. Special Notes

# 1. Accommodation for Disabilities

If you qualify for accommodations because of a disability, please submit your accommodation letter from Disability Services to Prof. Radelet within the first two weeks of the semester or within 72 hours of receiving your letter so that your needs can be addressed. Disability Services determines accommodations based on documented disabilities in the academic environment. Information on requesting accommodations is located on the [Disability Services website](http://www.colorado.edu/disabilityservices/students). Contact Disability Services at 303-492-8671 or [dsinfo@colorado.edu](mailto:dsinfo@colorado.edu) for further assistance. If you have a temporary medical condition or injury, see [Temporary Medical Conditions](http://www.colorado.edu/disabilityservices/students/temporary-medical-conditions) under the Students tab on the Disability Services website.

2. Classroom Behavior

Students and faculty each have responsibility for maintaining an appropriate learning environment. Those who fail to adhere to such behavioral standards may be subject to discipline. Professional courtesy and sensitivity are especially important with respect to individuals and topics dealing with race, color, national origin, sex, pregnancy, age, disability, creed, religion, sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression, veteran status, political affiliation or political philosophy. Class rosters are provided to the instructor with the student's legal name. I will gladly honor your request to address you by an alternate name or gender pronoun. Please advise me of this preference before the end of the second week of the semester so that I may make appropriate changes to my records. For more information, see the policies on [classroom behavior](http://www.colorado.edu/policies/student-classroom-and-course-related-behavior) and the [Student Code of Conduct](http://www.colorado.edu/osccr/).

3. No extra credit work will be permitted.

4. Absences will be excused only for medical reasons (with letter from a physician) or documented emergencies, not personal obligations (e.g., weddings, delayed airplane flights, etc.).

5. Religious Holidays

Campus policy regarding religious observances requires that faculty make every effort to deal reasonably and fairly with all students who, because of religious obligations, have conflicts with scheduled exams, assignments or required attendance. PLEASE NOTIFY PROFESSOR RADELET BEFORE THE END OF THE SECOND WEEK OF THE SEMESTER IF YOU PLAN TO REQUEST AN EXCUSED ABSENCE BECAUSE OF RELIGIOUS ACTIVITIES.

See the [campus policy regarding religious observances](http://www.colorado.edu/policies/observance-religious-holidays-and-absences-classes-andor-exams) for full details.

6. Honor Code

All students enrolled in a University of Colorado Boulder course are responsible for knowing and adhering to the Honor Code. Violations of the policy may include: plagiarism, cheating, fabrication, lying, bribery, threat, unauthorized access to academic materials, clicker fraud, submitting the same or similar work in more than one course without permission from all course instructors involved, and aiding academic dishonesty. All incidents of academic misconduct will be reported to the Honor Code ([honor@colorado.edu](mailto:honor@colorado.edu)); 303-492-5550). Students who are found responsible for violating the academic integrity policy will be subject to nonacademic sanctions from the Honor Code as well as academic sanctions from the faculty member. Additional information regarding the Honor Code academic integrity policy can be found at the [Honor Code Office website](https://www.colorado.edu/osccr/honor-code).

**Prof. Radelet’s policy**: Any violation of the University of Colorado Honor Code, including adding forged signatures on the attendance sheets, will result in an automatic failing grade in the class.

7. Sorry, no audio or video recording of class sessions is permitted without written

permission from the instructor.

# 8. Sexual Misconduct, Discrimination, Harassment and/or Related

# Retaliation

The University of Colorado Boulder (CU Boulder) is committed to fostering a positive and welcoming learning, working, and living environment. CU Boulder will not tolerate acts of sexual misconduct (including sexual assault, exploitation, harassment, dating or domestic violence, and stalking), discrimination, and harassment by members of our community. Individuals who believe they have been subject to misconduct or retaliatory actions for reporting a concern should contact the Office of Institutional Equity and Compliance (OIEC) at 303-492-2127 or cureport@colorado.edu. Information about the OIEC, university policies, [anonymous reporting](https://cuboulder.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_0PnqVK4kkIJIZnf), and the campus resources can be found on the [OIEC website](http://www.colorado.edu/institutionalequity/).

*Please know that faculty and instructors have a responsibility to inform OIEC when made aware of incidents of sexual misconduct, discrimination, harassment and/or related retaliation, to ensure that individuals impacted receive information about options for reporting and support resources.*

**READING LIST SCHEDULE**

Week 1 (Aug. 27, 29, & 31): Beirne & Messerschmidt, Ch. 1, The Problem of Crime

Week 2 (Sept. 3 (no class), 5, &7): Beirne & Messerschmidt, Ch. 2, The Measurement of Crime

Week 3 (Sept. 10, 12, & 14): Beirne & Messerschmidt, Ch. 10, Property Crime

Week 4 (Sept. 17, 19, & 21): Beirne & Messerschmidt, Ch. 11, Interpersonal Crime

**Exam #1, Friday, September 21 (covering chapters 1, 2, 10, & 11)**

Week 5 (Sept 24, 26, & 28): Beirne & Messerschmidt, Ch. 3, Inventing

Criminology: Classicism, Positivism, and Beyond

Week 6 (Oct. 1, 3, & 5): Beirne & Messerschmidt, Ch. 12, White-Collar Crime

Week 7 (Oct. 8, 10, & 12): Beirne & Messerschmidt, Ch. 4, Social Structure, Anomie, and

Crime

Week 8 (Oct. 15, 17, & 19): Beirne & Messerschmidt, Ch. 6, Social Learning Theory and Social Control Theory

**Exam 2: Wednesday, October 24 (covering chapters 3, 12, 4, and 6)**

Week 9 (Oct. 22, 24, & 26): Ch. 5, Delinquent Subcultures, Subcultures of Delinquency, and the Labeling Perspective

Week 10 (Oct. 29, 31, and Nov 2): Beirne & Messerschmidt, Ch. 8, Feminist and Critical Criminologies

Week 11 (Nov. 5, 7, & 9): Beirne & Messerschmidt, Ch. 7, The Conflict Tradition

Week 12 (Nov. 12, 14, & 16): Begin reading Stevenson book

**Exam 3: Wednesday, November 14 (covering chapters 5, 7, & 8)**

Week 13 (Nov. 19, 21, & 23): Fall Break

Week 14: (Nov. 26, 28, & 30): **Quiz on Stevenson Book, Friday, November 30.**

Week 15 (Dec. 3, 5, & 7): **Critical Reaction paper due Friday, December 7.**

READ: Beirne & Messerschmidt, Ch. 9, Inequality, Crime, and Victimization

Week 16 (Dec. 10 & 12): Beirne & Messerschmidt, Ch. 14, Comparative Criminology and Globalization (December 14 is “Reading Day,” no class).

We will not cover Chapter 13, Political Crime.

**FINAL EXAM (Exam #4)** (covering Chapters 9 & 14): **Wednesday, December 19, 1:30-4:00**

**(to be submitted during the first week of class)**

TO: Professor Radelet

RE: SOCY 4014, Fall 2018

I understand that the exams in the class will be administered on:

Friday, September 21

Wednesday, October 24

Wednesday, November 14

Wednesday, December 19, 1:30-4:00 (during finals week)

And that there will be a short quiz administered in class on November 30.

I realize that there will be no excused absences from any of the exams or quizzes, and I promise not to ask for one.

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Signature

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Printed Name