Criminology

(SOCY4014-001)

Spring 2018

T/Th | 8:00 – 9:15 am

CLARE 207

Instructor: Mike Burtis

Email: michael.burtis@colorado.edu

Office Hours:

Office Location:

1. **Course Description**:

This course examines the scientific study of criminal behavior. This semester, we will consider basic criminological theories and will seek to understand the social construction of crime, how social forces influence crime, and correlates of crime. This course will also examine how criminological theory informs criminal justice policy.

1. **Objectives**
   1. To understand theories of crime and to foster the development of analytical thinking about criminality.
   2. To develop a sociologically informed perspective on criminality and the criminal justice system.
   3. To identify and analyze the ways in which criminological theory informs criminal justice policy.
   4. To challenge assumptions of crime & punishment.
2. **Required Readings**
   1. Conklin, J.E. (2013). *Criminology* *11th Edition*. Pearson Education Inc.
   2. Supplementary readings will be posted on D2L.
3. **Course Requirements**
   1. Class Participation (10%):
      1. It is imperative that you participate in class. This includes participating during in-class discussion and completing in-class assignments.
   2. Weekly Reaction Papers (30%)
      1. Every Tuesday I will post a question on D2L that relates to the weeks reading. These papers are your opportunity to demonstrate your understanding of the readings, class discussion, or to explore a topic/theory in more detail. I encourage everyone to draw not only on material we cover in class, but also relevant current events, additional articles or readings not covered in class, and personal experience (if applicable). I will post questions for 12 weeks (indicated with \* on the schedule). **Students are expected to complete & submit 8 reaction papers**. Reaction papers should be between 500-1000 words, double-spaced, and are due in the D2L dropbox on the **Friday of that week at 11:59pm.**
   3. Criminological Theory Report/Presentation (15/5%)
      1. The week before spring break you will be assigned to a group of no more than 5 students. Each group will be required to compile a report on a criminological theory of their choosing. All theories must receive prior approval.

Reports are to include the following:

* + - 1. Basic Premise, Description, and Elements of the Theory
      2. Associated Theorists, Criminological Theory Classification
      3. Strengths/Weaknesses
      4. Implications for Crime Control/Policy
      5. Relevant Current Events
         * Each group will give a ten-minute presentation about their theory and how it connects to current events.
  1. Take Home Exams (40%)
     1. There will be two take home exams. Exams will test your ability to draw on empirical evidence to support/refute an argument. The exam schedule is listed below:
        1. Take Home Exam 1 Due Tuesday **March 20**
        2. Take Home Exam 2 Due Tuesday **May 6**
     2. Each exam is worth 20% of your overall grade.
     3. Exams will consist of two questions each. Answers are limited to 1500 words per question. All exams will be submitted to a dropbox on D2L.
  2. Optional Extra Credit Assignment (up to an additional 5%)

1. **Grading & Evaluation**
   * Class Participation – 10%
   * Reaction Papers – 30%
   * Criminological Theory Report/Presentation – 15%
   * Group Presentation 5%
   * Take Home Exam 1 – 20%
   * Take Home Exam 2 – 20%
   * (Optional) Criminal Justice Career Shadow (up to an additional 5%)

**Schedule**

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| Week | Date(s) | Topic | Assignment |
| 1 | Tue Jan 16 | Introduction | Syllabus Review |  |
|  | Thur Jan 18 | Studying Crime | *Conklin: Chapter 1* |
| 2\* | Tue Jan 23 | Measuring Crime | *Conklin: Chapter 2*  *Sullivan & McGloin (2014)* |
|  | Thur Jan 25 | Criminological Research Methods | *Conklin: Chapter 4*  *Readings: Goffman (2009), Peterson & Krivo (2009)* |
| 3\* | Tue Jan 30 | Types/Dimensions of Crime | *Conklin: Chapter 3* |
|  | Thur Feb 1 | Why People Conform: Social Bonding & Control Theories | *Conklin: Chapter 7*  *Readings: Akers: Chapter 6 (2017)* |
| 4\* | Tue Feb 6 | Social Control Theory | *Readings: Pratt et al. (2000), Pratt et al. (2014), Grasmick et al. (1993), Hirschi & Gottfredson (1993)* |
|  | Thur Feb 8 | Social Learning Theory | *Conklin: Chapter 8 Readings: Akers: Chapter 5 (2017),* |
| 5\* | Tue Feb 13 | Social Learning/Labeling Theory | *Readings: Akers (1968), Pratt et al. (2010), Akers: Chapter 7 (2017)* |
|  | Thur Feb 15 | Labeling Theory | *Readings: Becker (1968), Hay (2001), Robbers (2009)* |
| 6\* | Tue Feb 20 | The Criminal Justice System | *Conklin: Chapter 13* |
|  | Thur Feb 22 | Punishment | *Conklin: Chapter 14* |
| 7\* | Tue Feb 27 | Deterrence Theory | *Readings: Wright et al. (2004), Pratt et al. (2008)* |
|  | Thur Mar 1 | Death Penalty I | *TBD* |
| 8\* | Tue Mar 6 | Death Penalty II | *TBD* |
|  |  | Mass Incarceration & The War on Drugs I | *TBD* |
|  | Thur Mar 8 | Mass Incarceration & The War on Drugs II | *TBD* |
| 9\* | Tue Mar 13 | Restorative Justice | *TBD* |
|  | Thur Mar 15 | Restorative Justice Guest Speaker | *TBD* |
| 10 | Tue Mar 20 | Group Work | Take Home Exam 1 Due **Tuesday Mar 20 @ 8 am** |
|  | Thur Mar 22 | Group Work | *No Readings* |
|  | Spring Break (Mar 27 & 29) | No Class | *No Class* |
| 11 | Tue Apr 3 | Group Presentations | *No Readings* |
|  | Thur Apr 5 | Group Presentations | *No Readings* |
| 12\* | Tue Apr 10 | Feminist Criminology | *TBD* |
|  | Thur Apr 12 | Sex/Gender & Crime - Masculinities | *TBD* |
| 13\* | Tue Apr 17 | Crime and Social Class | *TBD* |
|  | Thur Apr 19 | Hate Crimes | *TBD* |
| 14\* | Tue Apr 24 | Crime & The Media | *Readings: Berger (2009), TBD* |
|  | Thur Apr 26 | Crime & The Media | *TBD* |
| 15\* | Tue May 1 | Policing | *TBD* |
|  | Thur May 3 | Policing | *TBD* |
| 16 | May 5 – 9 Final Exams (Date/Time/Location: TBD) |  | Take Home Exam 2 Due **Tuesday May 6 @ 8am** |

**Accommodations for Disabilities**

If you qualify for accommodations because of a disability, please submit your accommodation letter from Disability Services to me in a timely manner 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) (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 and discuss your needs with me as soon as possible.

# 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. If you observe religious holidays that conflict with exams, attendance, or completing any work in the schedule, please notify me as soon as possible. See the [campus policy regarding religious observances](http://www.colorado.edu/policies/observance-religious-holidays-and-absences-classes-andor-exams) for full details.

# 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 early in 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/).

# Sexual Misconduct, Discrimination, Harassment and/or Related Retaliation

The University of Colorado Boulder (CU Boulder) is committed to maintaining a positive learning, working, and living environment. CU Boulder will not tolerate acts of sexual misconduct, discrimination, harassment or related retaliation against or by any employee or student.  CU’s Sexual Misconduct Policy prohibits sexual assault, sexual exploitation, sexual harassment, intimate partner abuse (dating or domestic violence), stalking or related retaliation. CU Boulder’s Discrimination and Harassment Policy prohibits discrimination, harassment or related retaliation based on race, color, national origin, sex, pregnancy, age, disability, creed, religion, sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression, veteran status, political affiliation or political philosophy. Individuals who believe they have been subject to misconduct under either policy should contact the Office of Institutional Equity and Compliance (OIEC) at 303-492-2127. Information about the OIEC, the above referenced policies, and the campus resources available to assist individuals regarding sexual misconduct, discrimination, harassment or related retaliation can be found at the [OIEC website](http://www.colorado.edu/institutionalequity/).

# Honor Code

All students enrolled in a University of Colorado Boulder course are responsible for knowing and adhering to [the academic integrity policy](http://www.colorado.edu/policies/academic-integrity-policy). Violations of the policy may include: plagiarism, cheating, fabrication, lying, bribery, threat, unauthorized access to academic materials, clicker fraud, resubmission, and aiding academic dishonesty. All incidents of academic misconduct will be reported to the Honor Code Council ([honor@colorado.edu](mailto:honor@colorado.edu); 303-735-2273). Students who are found responsible for violating the academic integrity policy will be subject to nonacademic sanctions from the Honor Code Council as well as academic sanctions from the faculty member. Additional information regarding the academic integrity policy can be found at the [Honor Code Office website](http://www.colorado.edu/honorcode/).