

Crime and Society- SOCY 2044-001

Course Syllabus- Spring 2015

Instructor: Nicole Lambert

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Office: *Location TBA*

Office Hours: T/R: 9:15-10:15

Course Description:

This is an introductory-level course designed to give students an opportunity to critically think, talk, read, and write about issues pertaining to crime, the criminal justice system, and crime-related public policy. Throughout the course we will identify, explain, and critique various sociological theories that attempt to explain crime.

We will focus specifically on the following four areas: (1) What is “crime,” why is it crime, and how do we know what we know about crime; (2) How/why do we, as a society, respond to crime and those who commit crimes; (3) How institutions designed to respond to crime (e.g., police, the court system) do and do not perform and function; and, (4) Why contemporary issues pertaining to criminal justice and public policy matter.

Course Objectives:

1. Understand key theoretical perspectives in the sociological study of crime and the criminal justice system and how these are embedded within social, political, and historical conditions
2. Develop critical thinking skills and improve writing for better expression of analyses of social life.
3. Exams and papers will require you to understand, analyze, apply, and critique course information.
4. The in-class assignments and group work will help you to develop the skills to frame useful and thoughtful questions over course material as well as how to successfully participate in academic discussions.

Required Course Materials

Fagin, James A. 2014. *Criminal Justice 2014*. New Jersey, Prentice Hall (will be marked “CJ” in the syllabus)

Other readings (marked ** on syllabus) posted on D2L.

Grade Scale:

94-100%	A	74-76%	C
90-93%	A-	70- 73%	C-
87-89%	B+	67- 69%	D+
84-86%	B	64-66%	D
80-83%	B-	60-63%	D-
77-79%	C+	59% or below	F

Your grades will be based on the following items (for a total of **500 points**):

<i>Application Papers (5 total)</i>	100 points
<i>Current Events Assignments</i>	20 points
<i>Exam #1</i>	60 points
<i>Exam #2</i>	60 points
<i>Exam #3</i>	60 points
<i>Paper #1</i>	50 points
<i>Paper #2</i>	50 points
<i>Participation</i>	100 points

Course Requirements:

Weekly Readings:

The schedule of weekly reading assignments is included at the end of this syllabus. You are expected to complete all of the reading assignments, make ties to course concepts, and integrate them into discussions, written assignments and exams. **You should have completed the week's reading assignments before lecture begins on Tuesday of each week.** I encourage you to bring your textbook and/or printed copies of the appropriate assigned readings to lecture with you every day that we meet. Any changes to the reading schedule that may be made throughout the semester will be announced in class and via email.

Late Writing Assignments/Exams:

Late work (whether this is an exam or a writing assignment) will **not be accepted**. The only situation in which you may turn in a writing assignment after the due date is in an extreme circumstance and with proper documentation (medical emergency or a court appearance, for example).

I will not give make-up exams except in the case of certain circumstances (death in the family, medical/health issue, university-sponsored event, religious observance, court date) in which you will need to provide written proof of the reason for your absence and notify me at least a week in advance when applicable (e.g. a university-sponsored event).

Application Papers (20 points each):

Five times throughout the semester (as indicated on the course schedule) there will be links to videos that relate to case studies provided at the end of each chapter of the textbook. For the designated application papers, you will write up a **short** response (1-2 pages, single-spaced, Times New Roman 12 point font) to questions I pose over the videos and case studies. These application papers will be used as a way to gauge your ability to apply course concepts to outside materials. You are **required** to use (and properly cite) course readings and/or lecture in each paper.

Current Events Assignments (20 points total):

One of my goals of this course is to have you understand how the issues we discuss have real-life relevance. You will be required to find news stories that relate to class material for that week. You may choose the weeks you submit (any week that we have readings is acceptable) and are required to submit a total of **4 news articles throughout the semester**, each worth 5 points.

For this assignment, you will be uploading to D2L a **brief summary of how the story relates to course material** (3-5 sentences or so) as well as a link to the article/clip/etc... These will be due by **Monday at 5 pm** the week for which you want to submit. For example, if you would like to submit a

news story that relates to week 2 material, your summary would need to be uploaded by **5pm** the Monday of week 2.

Exams (60 points each):

There will be three exams this semester (including the final exam). ***None of the exams are cumulative.*** The exams will consist of multiple choice and short answer questions.

Writing Assignments (50 points each):

Crime and the Media: One of your writing assignments is a research paper in which you will find a news story that addresses some element of crime in society. In this paper, you will incorporate class concepts, theories, and outside research in your paper in order to critique some of the premises, data presented, conclusions, or policy solutions proposed. More details about the paper will be announced in class.

Position Paper: There is a second paper in this course in which you will be asked to critically evaluate different viewpoints on a list of crime-related topics we have discussed in class (you will be provided with a list of potential topics). You will need to analyze outside research for positions on the topic as well as incorporate class readings. More details will be announced in class.

Participation and In-class Activities (100 points total):

I will not be taking attendance each week; however, if you are not present in class you will likely not do well in the course. There will be lecture material, discussions and group activities that will enrich your understanding of the material beyond the readings, so while attendance is not graded, it is mandatory.

However, simply being in class is not enough! In order to get the most out of this course, you also need to be an active participant in our in-class discussions. Throughout the semester, you will get together with group members to discuss the materials (group participation is worth a total of **100 points**).

A note on class discussions: Throughout the semester, we will discuss a number of potentially sensitive topics. For example, we may talk about drugs, homicides/violent crimes, sexual assault/rape/sex crimes, child abuse, domestic violence, capital punishment, mass shootings, undocumented immigration, war, gangs, racism, sexism, classism, and so on. While your participation in discussions is encouraged and important, it is essential that we maintain a courteous and respectful course environment that promotes the participation of all members of the class. No mean-spirited comments or name-calling will be tolerated at any point in the semester.

Classroom Policies

- ***No cellphone use.***
- Laptops are to be used for **class purposes only!** If I catch anyone checking email, on social media, etc, the **entire class will lose laptop privileges for the remainder of the semester!**
- We will begin class on time each day and use the entire class period to discuss material. I expect that you arrive on time and ***do not pack up your things before our time is up.***
- 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

- Academic dishonesty will not be tolerated. For definitions and University regulations regarding academic dishonesty, familiarize yourself with—and adhere to—the University Honor Code: www.colorado.edu/academics/honorcode and the University’s Policy on Classroom Behavior: www.colorado.edu/policies/classbehavior.html.

Discrimination and Harassment

The University of Colorado at Boulder policy on Discrimination and Harassment, the University of Colorado policy on Sexual Harassment and the University of Colorado policy on Amorous Relationships apply to all students, staff and faculty. Any student, staff or faculty member who believes s/he has been the subject of discrimination or harassment based upon race, color, national origin, sex, age, disability, religion, sexual orientation, or veteran status should contact the Office of Discrimination and Harassment (ODH) at 303-492-2127 or the Office of Judicial Affairs at 303-492-5550. Information about the ODH, the above referenced policies and the campus resources available to assist individuals regarding discrimination or harassment can be obtained at <http://www.colorado.edu/odh>.

Disability Statement

If you qualify for accommodations due to disability, please let me know during the first two weeks of the semester. It is your responsibility to contact Disability Services and obtain documentation. The Disability Services Office is in Willard 322 and can be contacted at (303) 492-8671 or through <http://www.colorado.edu/disabilityservices>.

Grades

If you feel that you have been given an unfair grade on an exam or written assignment, you need to come and see me during office hours ***within one week (7 days) of receiving the graded assignment or exam*** to explain why you feel that you have earned a higher grade than received. When appealing the grade, you need to be aware that the grade can be raised, lowered, or remain the same. You are responsible for keeping all materials that have been graded and returned to you. If you cannot provide these materials, your grades cannot be appealed.

Calendar

Week	Topic
1	1/13-1/15: Introductions, Definitions, and a Sociological Approach to Crime CJ: Chapter 1 <i>1/16/14: Application Paper #1- The Fight Over Marijuana (extension to 1/23/15)</i>
2	1/20-1/22: Criminological Theory CJ: Chapter 2 (pp.30-36) Becker: “Labeling Theory”** Merton: “Social Structure and Anomie”** <i>**Readings to be posted to D2L</i> <i>1/23/15: Application paper #1- The Fight Over Marijuana (extension)</i>
3	1/27-1/29: Measuring Crime and Victimization CJ: Chapter 3

	<p>Heiner: "Crime Scars"***</p> <p><i>1/30/15: Application Paper #2- Sexual Assault in the Military</i></p>
4	<p>2/3-2/5: Criminal Law CJ: Chapter 4</p>
5	<p>2/10-2/12: Law Enforcement CJ: Chapter 5</p> <p><i>Exam #1: 2/12/15</i></p>
6	<p>2/17-2/19: Oversight and Professionalism of Law Enforcement CJ: Chapter 6 <i>Additional Reading TBA</i></p>
7	<p>2/24-2/26: The Court System CJ: Chapter 7</p> <p><i>2/27/15: Application Paper #3- FISA, NSA, and Surveillance</i></p>
8	<p>3/3-3/5: Prior to and in the Courtroom CJ: Chapter 8</p>
9	<p>3/10-3/12: Sentencing CJ: Chapter 9 Cole: "No Equal Justice"***</p>
10	<p>3/17-3/19: Jails and Prisons CJ: Chapter 10 Alexander: "The New Jim Crow"***</p> <p><i>3/20/15: Media and Crime Paper due by 11:59pm</i></p>
11	<p>3/24-3/25: No classes, Spring Break</p>
12	<p>3/31-4/2: Probation and Parole CJ: Chapter 11</p> <p><i>Exam #2: 4/2/15</i></p>
13	<p>4/7-4/9: Corrections in the Community CJ: Chapter 12</p> <p><i>4/10/15: Application Paper #4- Prisoner Re-entry Programs</i></p>
14	<p>4/14-4/16: Juvenile Delinquency Frymer: "The Media Spectacle of Columbine: Alienated Youth as an Object of Fear"*** Garot: "'Where you From!' Gang Identity as Performance"***</p>
15	<p>4/21-4/23: Homeland Security CJ: Chapter 14 Rothe and Muzzatti: "Enemies Everywhere: Terrorism, Moral Panic, and US Civil Society"***</p> <p><i>4/24/15: Application Project #5: Safety or Torture?</i></p>
16	<p>4/28-4/30: Special Topics- Immigration Samson: "Rethinking Crime and Immigration** <i>Additional Reading TBA</i></p> <p><i>5/1/15: Position Paper due by 11:59 pm</i></p>

17	<i>5/5-5/7: No Class, Finals Week</i> <i>Final Exam: Wednesday, May 6, 2015 7:30-10pm</i>
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