

Criminology
SOCY 4014-001
Spring 2014
TuTh 9:30-10:45
HLMS 201

Instructor: Professor Michael Radelet
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I. Catalogue Description

Scientifically studies criminal behavior with special attention given to development of criminal law and its use to define crime, causes of law violation, and methods used to control criminal behavior.

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

III. Required Readings

1. John E. Conklin, *CRIMINOLOGY, ELEVENTH EDITION*. Pearson Education, 2013. Amazon.com lists new or used copies for about \$55.00 or rentals for \$26.00. UMC Bookstore has used copies for \$104, new rentals for \$87.25, or used rentals for \$62.50.
2. Steve Bogira, *Courtroom 302*. New York: Alfred Knopf, 2005. Available for \$8.00 (new) or \$3.50 on Amazon.com, and later this month for \$16 at the UMC Bookstore.
3. University of Colorado Student Honor Code and supporting documents; <<http://www.colorado.edu/academics/honorcode>>
4. Various materials on reserve in the library, on the web, or to be e-mailed (all students must have an active e-mail address and check e-mail regularly). Students should expect to read one or two newspaper articles per week, to be delivered by e-mail.

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. If you plan to request an excused absence from the exam, the instructor must be notified **BEFORE** the exam (and notification does not constitute being excused) in all but the most unusual cases (e.g., car accident on the way to the exam). Even in those cases, the instructor must be contacted within 24 hours.
2. Three hourly exams. The first will be given in class on Thursday, February 13 (28 percent), the second in class on Thursday, March 20 (28 percent), and the third will be at the time of the final exam, Wednesday, May 7, 4:30-7:00 pm (29 percent). In addition, there will be a 5-point quiz on the Bogira book on Thursday, April 3. 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. The second exam is the Thursday before Spring Break.
3. One short (six-page or 1,800 words) "Critical Reaction Paper," on the Bogira book, due in class on Thursday, April 10. 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 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.....	28 percent
Second Hourly Exam.....	28 percent
Final Exam	29 percent
Critical Reaction Paper.....	10 percent
Quiz on Bogira book.....	5 percent

VI. Special Notes

1. The University of Colorado's "Student Classroom and Course-Related Behavior Policy" will be enforced in this class; see www.colorado.edu/policies/classbehavior.html
2. Any student with a disability who may need special accommodations must see the professor during the first two weeks of the semester. Further information can be obtained from the Office of Disability Services, 492-8671; www.colorado.edu/disabilityservices
3. Dogs and other pets are not welcome in the classroom.
4. No extra credit work will be permitted.
5. 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.). Students who will need to miss a class because of religious observances or obligations to intercollegiate athletic teams must make arrangements with Professor Radelet during the first week of the semester.
6. Any violation of the University of Colorado Honor Code (that is, plagiarism or other forms of cheating) will result in an automatic failing grade in the class.

READING LIST SCHEDULE

Week 1 (Jan. 14 & 16): Conklin, Ch. 1 - The Study of Crime

Week 2 (Jan. 21 & 23): Conklin, Ch. 2 - Measuring Crime

Week 3 (Jan. 28 & 30): Conklin, Ch. 3 – Crime and its Costs

Week 4 (Feb. 4 & 6): Conklin, Ch. 4 – Dimensions of Crime

Week 5 (Feb. 11 & 13): Conklin, Ch. 14 – Deterrence, Incapacitation, Retribution & Rehabilitation

Exam #1 on Thursday, February 13

Week 6 (Feb. 18 & 20): Conklin, Ch. 6 – Social, Cultural & Economic Sources of Crime

Week 7 (Feb. 25 & 27): Conklin, Ch. 7 – Social Control & Commitment to the Law

Week 8 (Mar. 4 & 6): Conklin, Ch. 8 – Learning to Commit Crime

Week 9 (Mar. 11 & 13): No new reading

Week 10 (Mar. 18 & 20): Conklin, Ch. 13 – The Criminal Justice System

Exam #2 on Thursday, March 20

Week 11 (Mar. 25 & 27): Spring Break

Week 12 (Apr. 1 & 3): Conklin, Ch. 9 – Opportunities & Facilitating Factors

Quiz on Bogira Book, Thursday April 3

Week 13 (Apr. 8 & 10): No new reading

Critical Reaction paper due Thursday, April 10

Week 14: (Apr. 15 & 17): Conklin, Ch. 10 – Criminal Careers

Week 15 (Apr. 22 & 24): Conklin, Ch. 11 – The Organization of Criminal Behavior

Week 16 (Apr. 29 & May 1): Conklin, Ch. 15 – Reducing Crime

FINAL EXAM (Exam #3): Wednesday May 7, 4:30-7:00 pm

(to be submitted during the first week of class)

TO: Professor Radelet

RE: SOCY 4014, Spring 2014

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

Thursday February 13

Thursday March 20

Thursday May 7

And that there will be a short quiz administered in class on April 3.

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

Signature

Printed Name