

SOCY 4014.001
Criminology

Maymester 2012
Monday-Friday, 12:15pm to 3:30pm
Class Room: Ketchum 234

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COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course analyzes the scientific study of criminal behavior. We will consider ordinary (e.g., theft) and unique (e.g., murder) cases to understand why individuals commit acts deemed “criminal” by society and the government. Traditional *sociological* theories of crime causation – such as deterrence, social disorganization, strain, social learning, control, and labeling – will be covered. Special attention will also be given to contemporary interpretations of traditional crime causation theories, and to critical, feminist, progressive race, and developmental/life-course theories on criminality. In studying sociological theories of criminal behavior, we will examine associated social policy implications in the criminal legal system. (**Prerequisite:** SOCY 1001, *Introduction to Sociology* or SOCY 1004, *Deviance in U.S. Society*.)

TEACHING DELIVERY

This class will incorporate several teaching methods. Each of these teaching methods is important to the learning process in this course. Some of the more common methods to be used in this class are as follows:

Lectures: Traditional lecture will be used to assure that all students are fully aware of the information the professor wishes the students to grasp.

i>Clickers: A student response system, or “clickers,” will be integrated into the course to foster participation from all students in the class. According to Educause, “The system allows for active participation by all students and provides immediate feedback to the instructor – and the students – about any confusion or misunderstandings of the material being presented.”

Guest Lectures: Criminal legal system professionals and ex-offenders may be utilized a few times throughout the course to offer their assessments about criminality. The guest lectures are to be highly regarded and will be included in the course quizzes.

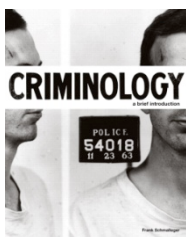
Documentary Films: Documentary films will be shown throughout the course to provide visually stimulating examples for several course topics. These screenings are to be treated as “lectures” for the course, and should be taken as serious subject matter that will be discussed and included in course quizzes.

Class Discussions: Students are expected to participate in discussion of the daily topics by providing their insights and asking questions for clarification or rhetorical contemplation.

In-Class Writing Exercises: Short in-class writing assignments (to be written in small groups or individually) will be used to generate critical thinking on a specific topic and to encourage class participation.

D2L: On a regular basis, students must access the *Desire2Learn* website, also referred to as *D2L*, at learn.colorado.edu in order to retrieve supplemental reading assignments, turn in written assignments, view course announcements, monitor grades, and find other important materials and information.

REQUIRED READING MATERIAL

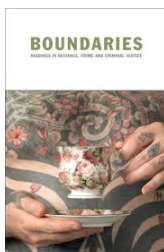


Criminology: A Brief Introduction (2010)

Written by Frank J. Schmalleger

Publisher: Prentice Hall Publishing

ISBN: 978-0-13-234069-4

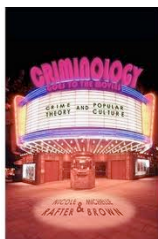


Boundaries: Readings in Deviance, Crime, and Criminal Justice (2011)

Edited by Bradley R.E. Wright and Ralph B. McNeal, Jr., and Compiled by Hillary Potter

Publisher: Pearson Learning Solutions

ISBN: 978-1-256-21632-2



Criminology Goes to the Movies: Crime Theory and Popular Culture (2011)

Written by Nicole Rafter and Michelle Brown

Publisher: New York University Press

ISBN: 978-0-8147-7652-0

Readings on D2L

Du Bois, W.E.B. 1899. *The Philadelphia Negro* (Chapters 13 and 14). New York: Lipincott.

Messerschmidt, James W. 2005. "Men, Masculinities, and Crime." Pages 196-212 in *Handbook of Studies on Men and Masculinities*, edited by Michael S. Kimmel, Jeff Hearn, and R.W. Connell. Thousand Oaks, CA: Sage Publications.

Unnever, James D., and Shaun L. Gabbidon. 2011. *A Theory of African American Offending: Race, Racism, and Crime* (Chapter 6). New York: Routledge.

COURSE WORK REQUIREMENTS

The course workload and percentage points are distributed as follows:

<i>Assignment</i>	<i>% Points</i>
Attendance and Participation	10
Student Information Survey and D2L Profile	1
Theory Application Assignments (n=13)	54
Pop Quizzes (n=TBD)	25
Group Presentation	10
	100

Attendance and Participation

Students are responsible for all material covered in class and listed on the *Class Schedule* (final page of this syllabus). Prior to each class, students are expected to read the assigned material and be prepared with questions or comments and ready to respond to questions about the readings.

Students are expected to attend every class. Students must attend the first two days of the semester to guarantee their place in this course. Missing the first two classes of the semester will cause a student to be administratively dropped from the course. Students who miss classes during the first few days of the semester because they were not enrolled in the class will *not* receive credit for the missed days.

Each student must have purchased an i>Clicker and have registered the clicker through the *myCUInfo* portal by 12:15pm, Tuesday, May 15, 2012. The frequency on the clicker must be set to that assigned to the classroom at the start of *each* class. The clicker is to be treated as one of the many “school supplies” used by students. Just as it is necessary to bring paper and writing utensils to every class (*no computers are allowed*), it is just as necessary to bring the clicker. Most class sessions will incorporate some form of questions that students must respond to by using their clickers. The questions will be based on the daily readings, current and previous lectures, and student opinions. The clicker should operate for 200 hours before the batteries need to be replaced, but students should carry an extra set of AAA batteries. No excuses will be accepted for failing to bring the clicker to class or for having a non-working clicker. It is the responsibility of the student to notify the professor immediately before class begins or immediately after class ends that the student failed to bring her or his clicker or if the student’s clicker is not working. Doing so will assure that said student will at least receive credit for having attended class. Student grades will not begin to be penalized for unexcused absences until after missing three clock hours of class.

For excused absences, documentation is to be submitted to the professor within three days of the absence. University 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 assignments or required attendance. During the first two days of the semester (i.e., by Wednesday, May 16, 2012), any student requesting to have an excused absence due to religious obligations must email the professor specifying the religious affiliation and the religious holiday. The following are some legitimate reasons, in addition to observance of a religious holiday, for missing a class, along with the corresponding required documentation:

<i>Legitimate Absence</i>	<i>Proof Needed for Legitimate Absence</i>
Illness	Note from a certified medical professional or recognized spiritual healer.
Death in the family	Note from a family member and funeral information.
Work (must be of an urgent nature)	Note from a supervisor.
Religious holiday	Note from student specifying religious affiliation and religious holiday (to be provided during the first two days of the semester).
NCAA or Collegiate Sports Club athletic meet	Note from a coach. Documentation for pre-scheduled meets must be provided during the first two days of the semester.
Mandated court appearance or jail detention	Legal paperwork documenting court appearance date and time, and/or note or email from attorney.

Students should confer with the professor outside of class sessions *after* an absence to find out if any handouts were provided or films were screened. Students are *not* to notify the professor of absences before the anticipated missed class. During the specified office hours or at a meeting time agreed upon between the student and the professor, the absentee student will be provided with any handouts (some handouts will also be available on *D2L*). The majority, if not all, of the videos to be shown in this course are owned by the professor, so students must meet with the professor to borrow the missed video.

The professor *will not* provide students who miss classes with notes or copies of PowerPoint presentations. Typically, the professor’s notes and PowerPoint presentations are heavily supplemented with oral lecture and are often insufficient without notes taken by class attendees. Therefore, it is strongly suggested that each student assemble class companions with whom to exchange lecture notes in the event a class is missed. Using the discussion tool or accessing profiles in *D2L* can also facilitate getting to know classmates.

Student Information Survey and D2L Profile

The *student information survey* provides the professor with additional information about each student. This survey can be found in *D2L* by clicking on the “Surveys” tab in the course menu. The information provided on this survey is confidential; only the professor will have access to the information provided in the survey.

Students must also fill in basic information on their *D2L* profile. Each student must upload a recent headshot and fill out any other information on the profile for which the student feels comfortable sharing with others.

The student information survey and profile are to be completed by 9:00am, Tuesday, May 15, 2012. No credit will be awarded for surveys and profiles completed after May 18, 2012. The survey and profile are worth 1% of the course grade.

Theory Application Assignments

In order to better comprehend the crime causation theories addressed in this course, students will apply the theories to case studies, which can be found on *D2L*. These assignments are worth 54% of the total grade. There are 16 assignments, but only 13 will count toward the final grade. (The three lowest scored assignments will be dropped.)

The assignments are to be submitted *only* via *D2L* (click on “Dropbox” tab on the course menu to directly access the submission site). No late assignments will be accepted. There is a zero-tolerance policy for plagiarism. A plagiarized assignment will result in a grade of *fail* (F) for that assignment, and possibly the course, and will be reported to university authorities.

Students are to follow these additional guidelines for each theory application:

- Except for the two assignments on readings that are provided in *D2L*, only the readings in the *Boundaries* book may be used for these assignments.
- Only the case studies provided by the professor may be used for these assignments. Only one case study can be referenced in each assignment.
- Each assignment must be between 400 and 500 words.
- “Professor Potter’s Paper Pet-Peeves” (available in *D2L*) must be reviewed and followed.
- Each assignment must be written and saved in a word processing document and submitted in *D2L*, and the text must also be included in the “Comments” box on the dropbox submission page. The only file types accepted in *D2L* are MS Word, Word Perfect, Post Script, Acrobat PDF, HTML, RTF, and plain text. Do not attempt to submit a document type that is not included in this list.

All students *must* complete and submit Theory Application Assignment 1, which is due by 9:00am, Tuesday, May 15, 2012. All other application assignments are due by 12:15pm on the specified due date (see Class Schedule on the final page of this syllabus for assignment due dates). In order to access the dropbox for assignment #1, “Professor Potter’s Paper Pet Peeves” must be read first. If assignment #1 is not completed, two points will be deducted from the first assignment the student does complete.

Assignment Number	Theory	Theorist	<i>Boundaries</i> Pages
1	Reconceptualization of deterrence	Stafford & Warr	17-31
2	Rational choice	Clarke & Cornish	33-65
3	Routine activities	Cohen & Felson	67-104
4	Strain	Merton	113-127
5	Social disorganization	Shaw & McKay	177-195
6	Differential association	Sutherland	245-249
7	Neutralization techniques	Sykes & Matza	265-276
8	Social bond/control	Hirschi	277-295
9	Self-control/general	Gottfredson & Hirschi	297-321
10	Life-course	Sampson & Laub	323-358
11	Code of the street	Anderson	379-394
12	Capitalism and crime	Quinney	407-427
13	Reintegrative shaming	Braithwaite	483-503
14	African American offending	Unnever & Gabbidon	See <i>D2L</i>
15	Pathways	Chesney-Lind	557-581
16	Masculinities/structured action	Messerschmidt	See <i>D2L</i>

Pop Quizzes

There will be an unspecified number of short tests given without prior notification. These *pop quizzes* will consist of multiple-choice and short-answer questions, and will be based on *any* material covered in the course.

Students may not leave the classroom during the quiz unless there is an extreme circumstance to which the student must tend. There is a zero-tolerance policy for cheating. A cheating student will receive a grade of *fail* (F) for the quiz on which she or he cheated, and possibly for the course, and will be reported to university authorities. The *only* students who will be accommodated with alternate quiz times will be those with certified documentation from Disability Services. Students with documentation from Disability Services must communicate with the professor by Tuesday, May 15, 2012, to discuss the procedure for alternative quiz administration.

There are no “make-up” quizzes. The lowest two quiz grades will be dropped from the final course grade.

Group Presentations: *Criminology Goes to the Movies*

Each student must participate in a group project that will be presented to the class. Each group will be assigned a theory (or set of theories). Each group must demonstrate how the assigned theory explains offending behavior with the use of a fiction-based movie or television show. The groups will be assembled during the first day of the class. Each group (comprising 3 to 4 students) will have 30 minutes to present the project during a class session. Any forms of media can be utilized to present the project to the class, but no more than a total of 15 minutes of video can be used.

Each group’s presentation documents (e.g., PowerPoint file) must be uploaded in the *D2L* dropbox by noon on the group’s presentation day. Within two days after a group’s presentation, each student must complete an evaluation of the group’s work, which will be available in *D2L* in the Surveys section. The group presentation and evaluation is worth 10 percentage points of the course grade.

GRADING

Overall course grades will be assigned on the following scale:

<i>Grade</i>	<i>Overall %</i>	<i>Grade</i>	<i>Overall %</i>	<i>Grade</i>	<i>Overall %</i>	<i>Grade</i>	<i>Overall %</i>
A	93-100%	B	83-86.9%	C	73-76.9%	D	63-66.9%
A-	90-92.9%	B-	80-82.9%	C-	70-72.9%	D-	60-62.9%
B+	87-89.9%	C+	77-79.9%	D+	67-69.9%	F	0-59.9%

Students will be able to monitor their grades throughout the semester in *D2L*. Each student may consult with the professor throughout the semester to determine where he or she stands in the course. It is preferred that this be done during office hours. Detailed grade information *will not* be provided via e-mail or phone.

STUDENT DISABILITY SERVICES AND GUIDELINES

Disability Services determines accommodations based on documented disabilities. If a student qualifies for accommodations because of a disability, he or she must provide the professor with a letter from Disability Services. The Disability Services Office is located at Center for Community, room N200, 303-492-8671 (voice/TTY), DSinfo@colorado.edu. Additional information can be found at <http://www.colorado.edu/disabilityservices/>.

If a student has a temporary medical condition or injury, the University guidelines for accommodations can be reviewed at <http://www.colorado.edu/disabilityservices/go.cgi?select=temporary.html>.

STUDENT BEHAVIOR GUIDELINES

The CU-Boulder Honor Code

Academic dishonesty will not be tolerated. Students are encouraged to review the University of Colorado Honor Code booklet. The Honor Code mission reads as follows:

As citizens of an academic community of trust, CU-Boulder students do not lie or cheat whether they are on campus or acting as representatives of the university in surrounding communities. Neither should they suffer by the dishonest acts of others. Honor is about academic integrity, moral and ethical conduct, and pride of membership in a community that values academic achievement and individual responsibility. Cultivating honor lays the foundation for lifelong integrity, developing in each of us the courage and insight to make difficult choices and accept responsibility for actions and their consequences, even at personal cost.

Respect

Respect of others is not only expected, but also required. This includes valuing others' opinions, no matter how wrong some may believe those views to be, and allowing others to speak without interruption. Naturally, racial or sexual harassment or other forms of harassment will not be tolerated and will be dealt with authoritatively. Class rosters are provided to the professor with the students' legal names. The professor will gladly honor a student's request to address the student by an alternate name or gender pronoun. Please advise the professor of this preference early in the semester so that the professor may make appropriate changes to the course records.

Any student who believes she or he has been the subject of discrimination or harassment based upon race, ethnicity, color, national origin, sex, gender, sexual orientation, age, physical ability, religion, or military 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 and the campus resources available to assist individuals regarding discrimination or harassment can be obtained at <http://www.colorado.edu/odh>.

The University of Colorado 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. See policies at <http://www.colorado.edu/policies/classbehavior.html>.

Punctuality

Students should make every effort to attend all classes on time. In order to not disrupt class, students shall utilize the restroom and take care of other personal matters prior to or after class sessions, or during class breaks. If a student needs to leave class early, he or she is to notify the professor of such before the start of class.

Wireless/Remote Communications and Use of Computers

Laptop or tablet computers are *not* allowed to be used in this course. All other electronic communication devices must be turned off or silenced upon entering the classroom and are not to be used inside the classroom while class is in session. Texting, speaking, or engaging in other activities on mobile phones and other electronic devices is *not* allowed. *Repeated warnings to the student(s) breaking this guideline will result in the student(s) being told to leave the class for the day. Any use of wireless devices or other information technology during a quiz will result in a zero for the quiz.*

Side Conversations

Side conversations between small groups of students make it difficult for others to actively listen and learn, and difficult for the professor to administer the course. *Repeated warnings to any student(s) engaging in side conversations will result in the disruptive student(s) being directed to leave the class session for the day.*

Sleeping and Other Forms of Inattention

Falling asleep in class is not considered appropriate student behavior. Likewise, resting one's head on the desk is disrespectful to the professor. Students should make the mature decision to either force themselves to stay awake and alert in class or to go elsewhere and get some sleep. Reading books or materials without being assigned to do so by the professor or studying for other courses during class time is also not considered appropriate student behavior. Overall, students should make every effort to pay attention, which will assist students with mastering the material.

Class Visitors

Family and friends of enrolled students are welcome to periodically attend a class session. Please notify the professor of class guests prior to the start of the class. Unfortunately, class visitors are limited to people/humans; animals/non-humans are not to be brought to class, unless they are used as aids for students with disabilities and these students have secured assistance from Disability Services.

PROFESSOR RESPONSIBILITY STATEMENT

As the professor for this course, I am devoted to maintaining a safe place (figuratively and literally) for students to discuss issues related to this course. It is my goal that students will not only leave the course with a better and more critical understanding of the issues addressed in the course, but that they will feel I treated them fairly and with respect regarding discussions, handling of course topics, administration of the classroom, and grading. If students have any questions or concerns about any of my statements, omissions, grading decisions, etc., I strongly encourage them to come to me with their concerns at their earliest convenience.

Hillary Potter

CLASS SCHEDULE

Brief = *Criminology: A Brief Introduction* by Schmallegger

Boundaries = *Boundaries: Readings in Deviance, Crime and Criminal Justice* by Wright et al.

Movies = *Criminology Goes to the Movies: Crime Theory and Popular Culture* by Rafter and Brown

D2L = Reading located on *Desire2Learn* course website

Date	Topic	Sub-Topic	Readings ^a	Written Work ^b
M – May 14	What is Criminology?		◦ Syllabus ◦ <i>Brief</i>: pp. 1-17, 170-175 ◦ <i>Boundaries</i>: pp. 1-4 ◦ <i>Movies</i>: pp. 1-13	
T – May 15	Trait Theories	◦ Biological & Psychological Determinism	◦ <i>Brief</i>: pp. 46-91 ◦ <i>Movies</i>: pp. 28-66	◦ Student Info Survey ◦ <i>D2L</i> Profile ◦ Theory Application 1
W – May 16	Choice Theories	◦ Overview ◦ Deterrence ◦ Rational Choice ◦ Routine Activities	◦ <i>Brief</i>: pp. 20-45, 202-223 ◦ <i>Boundaries</i>: pp. 5-104 ◦ <i>Movies</i>: pp. 14-27	◦ Theory Applications 2 & 3
R – May 17	Structural-Cultural/Social Strain Theories	◦ Overview ◦ Anomie ◦ Strain ◦ General Strain ◦ Social Disorganization	◦ <i>Brief</i>: pp. 94-103, 109, 112-113, 248-267 ◦ <i>Boundaries</i>: pp. 105-111 ◦ <i>Movies</i>: 67-100	◦ Group Presentations ◦ Theory Applications 4 & 5
F – May 18				◦ Group Presentations
M – May 21	Cultural-Subcultural/Socialization Theories	◦ Overview ◦ Differential Association ◦ Social Learning/Differential Reinforcement ◦ Neutralization Techniques	◦ <i>Brief</i>: pp. 105-106, 116-117, 176-201 ◦ <i>Boundaries</i>: pp. 245-276 ◦ <i>Movies</i>: pp. 101-118	◦ Theory Applications 6 & 7
T – May 22		◦ Social Bond/Control ◦ Self-Control/General	◦ <i>Brief</i>: pp. 80-81, 119-121 ◦ <i>Boundaries</i>: pp. 277-321	◦ Theory Applications 8 & 9
W – May 23		◦ Life-Course	◦ <i>Brief</i>: pp. 126-139 ◦ <i>Boundaries</i>: pp. 323-358 ◦ <i>Movies</i>: pp. 167-183	◦ Group Presentations ◦ Theory Application 10
R – May 24		◦ Subculture of Violence ◦ Code of the Street	◦ <i>Brief</i>: pp. 106-111 ◦ <i>Boundaries</i>: pp. 359-394	◦ Theory Application 11
F – May 25	Critical/Social Conflict Theories	◦ Overview ◦ Critical Criminology	◦ <i>Brief</i>: pp. 144-151, 156-159, 162-166, 224-247 ◦ <i>Boundaries</i>: pp. 395-456 ◦ <i>Movies</i>: pp. 138-152	◦ Group Presentations ◦ Theory Application 12
M – May 28	(No Class – Memorial Day)			
T – May 29		◦ Labeling ◦ Reintegrative Shaming ◦ Peacemaking	◦ <i>Brief</i>: pp. 122-124, 152-153, 160-161 ◦ <i>Boundaries</i>: pp. 457-503 ◦ <i>Movies</i>: pp. 119-137	◦ Theory Application 13
W – May 30		◦ Progressive Race	◦ <i>Boundaries</i>: pp. 505-529 ◦ <i>D2L</i>: Du Bois; Unnever & Gabbidon	◦ Group Presentations ◦ Theory Application 14
R – May 31		◦ Feminist Criminology ◦ Masculinities/Structured Action	◦ <i>Brief</i>: pp. 154-155 ◦ <i>Boundaries</i>: pp. 531-581 ◦ <i>D2L</i>: Messerschmidt ◦ <i>Movies</i>: pp. 153-166	◦ Theory Applications 15 & 16
F – June 1	Conclusions		◦ <i>Movies</i>: pp. 184-186	◦ Group Presentations

^a Reading assignments are to be completed by the start of class on the specified day.

^b Except for the *first* theory application assignment, theory application assignments are due in *D2L* at 12:15pm on the specified day.