Criminology

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Course Content

The objective of this course is to explore crime, its context, and its causes. The course is divided into four major sections: a foundation in criminology, theory of crime causation, typology of crime, and crime prevention efforts. Specifically, students will be introduced to the nature and extent of crime, the criminal justice system, various theories explaining why crime occurs, different types of crimes, and recent efforts to deal with and prevent crime. Attention will be directed at including issues relating to race, class, and gender due to the historical exclusion of these issues in criminological discussion.

Course Goal

Students, after completing this course, should be able to recognize, understand, and think critically about the major issues in criminology. Additionally, students should be able to apply concepts covered in the course to their encounters with crime and criminology (via the media, through personal experience, and so on).

Required Readings

- Siegel, Larry *Criminology: The Core* Belmont, CA: Wadsworth
- Gonnerman, Jennifer *Life on the Outside: The Prison Odyssey of Elaine Bartlett*
- Articles on reserve

Course Requirements and Grading

Students will be required to complete the following: four exams, a term paper, and in-class reaction papers. Given that this is a large, lecture course attendance will not be taken. However, a considerable portion of each exam will be devoted to in class lectures and the in-class reaction papers can only be done in class on the day they are assigned.

The grading scale and grading components are as follows:

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grade</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>93-100%</td>
<td>A</td>
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<tr>
<td>90-93%</td>
<td>A-</td>
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<tr>
<td>87-90</td>
<td>B+</td>
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<tr>
<td>83-87</td>
<td>B</td>
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<tr>
<td>80-83</td>
<td>B-</td>
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<td>D</td>
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<tr>
<td>60-63</td>
<td>D-</td>
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<td>&lt;60</td>
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Exams 60%
Term Paper 15%
Application Assignments 10%
In-Class Reaction Papers 10%
In-Class Presentation 5%
Total 100%
Course Requirements Descriptions

Exams: There will be 4 exams. Each exam will cover readings, lectures, videos, and presentations from one of the four specific sections of the class (e.g., Foundation, Theory, Typologies, or Prevention). The exams will not be cumulative. Exams will consist of multiple choice, fill-in-blank, and short answer questions. Students will be tested on how well they comprehend and are able to apply the concepts covered in the course. Illegible handwriting on exams will result in zero points for that particular question. **Exams are worth 20% each (a total of 60%). The lowest of the four exam scores will be dropped.**

**THERE WILL BE NO MAKE-UP EXAMS, QUIZZES, OR ASSIGNMENTS.**

Term Paper: The term paper will be due on July 28th. No late papers will be accepted. Students will be expected to complete a well-written, well-researched 6 to 10 page research paper on a topic to be assigned. Students should use at least five recent academic journal articles or books to research the assigned topic. Papers should be double-spaced and typed in 12 point font or less with 1” margins on all sides. Students will be graded on how well they researched the topic, answered the given question(s), and technical aspects of the paper (grammar, punctuation, citations, writing, etc…). More information regarding the term paper will be discussed in class. **The paper is worth 15%.**

Enrichment/Application Assignments: Each Friday will be set aside for application of the course materials to the real world. You will be expected to turn in 4 application assignments throughout the term. You will need to find some article in the newspaper or online, provide a summary overview of that article, and then apply it to what we have been discussing in class that week (recent weeks). Papers should be at least 2 pages, double-spaced and typed in 12 point font or less with 1” margins on all sides. **Application assignments are worth 2.5% each (a total of 10%).**

In-Class Reaction Papers: Periodically, students will be asked to write in-class reaction papers to issues discussed in class on that particular day. The purpose of these assignments is to think critically and thoughtfully about issues in criminology. These assignments can only be completed in class on the day they are assigned. No make-up assignments will be accepted. **In-class reaction papers are worth a total of 10%.**

In-Class Presentation: Each student will be required to do one 5-minute presentation in front of the class. The first 10 minutes of each class session will be set aside for student presentations and reactions to the assigned reading for that class (students will have an opportunity to sign up for their presentations in advance). The first 5 minutes will be given to a student who will provide a brief summary of the main themes and take-away points in the assigned reading for that day. The second 5 minutes will be given to a second student to provide a reaction to the reading materials, including a critique of at least one or more of the key areas in the reading. If a third student presents on that day, they will provide brief additional summary on previously omitted information and additional critique of the assigned reading, as well as provide a real-life application. All students scheduled to present on a given day must be prepared to present in all three capacities, as their presentation roles will be chosen at random the day of the presentation. **The in-class presentation is worth 5%.**

Extra Credit/Make-up Assignments: Observations/Field Trips
To help you gain an understanding of the criminal justice system, in addition to providing you opportunities to make up any missed work or increase your grade, the following extra credit assignments are available. You can do up to 2 different observation/field trip extra credit assignments, each worth a possible 2.5% of your overall final grade **(for a potential additional 5% increase in your overall grade):**

Observations/Field Trips: (1) Adult district court, (2) Drug Court, (3) Federal Court in Salt Lake City, and (4) Adult Probation and Parole ride along.
Students are responsible to contact the necessary individuals in order to set up a ride along or make a visit to a court. Each individual is required to write a brief two-page paper on each field trip and observation (including the place, day, time spent, and contact info for ride along), as well as proof of attendance (i.e. formal proof in the form of a signature of managing official, notes taken during observation, program/agenda of meeting, etc.) in order to receive credit.  

_Only one extra credit assignment can be turned in each week (meaning also that you can only turn in one the last week of class). Therefore, be sure to be working on extra credit throughout the semester._

**KEEP ALL RETURNED EXAMS AND PAPERS IN CASE OF A GRADE DISPUTE.**

**Course Organization**

This course will utilize both a lecture and discussion format. Students must complete the readings by the class period they are assigned (some of the in-class assignments may cover the readings). Due to the nature of the material we are discussing, there is likely to be some lively discussion and some disagreement. In addition, some people may feel uncomfortable, upset, or even shocked by some of the course material. This is OK and is even to be expected. I hope that this course will be challenging both intellectually and personally. The following ground rules must be followed:

1) Acknowledge that people in our culture have different experiences based on race, class, sex, age and sexuality. Think sociologically about these issues and critically analyze our opinions and beliefs.

2) Agree that our classroom should be a place where no one is made to feel embarrassed or ashamed. Disrespectful behavior will not be tolerated. This includes rude interruptions, yelling, insults, or personal attacks. We do not have to agree with one another, but we must be able to discuss our differences in a respectful manner.

3) Be aware that there are most likely students in the class who have experienced (or are close to someone who has experienced) sexual assault, domestic violence, or other forms of victimization. It is important that comments made in class are respectful of these experiences and the impact that these experiences may have had on people’s lives.

4) Refrain from engaging in behavior that is rude to the instructor, other students, or guests of the class. This includes coming in late, sleeping, talking, or reading outside materials in class.  

 **PLEASE TURN OFF CELL PHONES WHILE CLASS IS IN SESSION.**

5) Agree to follow the rules/standards of the student code. Any student who violates these is subject to the consequences as discussed in the student code/handbook.

**WebCT**

A modified version of each day’s lecture notes will be available on WebCT. If you miss class, it is your responsibility to either get the notes from WebCT and fill them out on your own or get the notes from a fellow classmate. To access WebCT, please go to [http://webct.utah.edu](http://webct.utah.edu) and follow the instructions.

Also, please explore the numerous resources available to you on the text book companion website: [http://www.wadsworth.com/cgi-wadsworth/course_products_wr.pl?fid=M20b&product_isbn_issn=0534629377&discipline_number=23](http://www.wadsworth.com/cgi-wadsworth/course_products_wr.pl?fid=M20b&product_isbn_issn=0534629377&discipline_number=23)
Course Calendar and Readings

Week 1:

Mon 1/12—Introduction to the course and syllabus; Overview of criminology
Siegel, Ch. 1

Part 1: Foundation in Criminology

Wed 1/14—The Criminal Justice System
Siegel, Ch. 14

Fri 1/16—CLASS ENRICHMENT ACTIVITIES

Week 2:

Mon 1/19—NO CLASS—Martin Luther King Jr. Day

Wed 1/21—Crime Statistics and Trends in Crime
Siegel, Ch. 2

Fri 1/23—CLASS ENRICHMENT ACTIVITIES

Week 3:

Mon 1/26—Race, Class, Gender and Crime

Wed 1/28—Catch-Up and Review
Application Assignment #1 Due

Fri 1/30—CLASS ENRICHMENT ACTIVITIES

Week 4:

Part 2: Theories of Crime Causation

Mon 2/2—FIRST EXAM

Wed 2/4—Theory Introduction/Psychological/Biological Theories
Siegel, Ch. 5

Fri 2/6—CLASS ENRICHMENT ACTIVITIES

Week 5:

Mon 2/9—Choice/Deterrence Theory
Siegel, Ch. 4

Wed 2/11—Social Structure Theories
Siegel, Ch. 6

Fri 2/13—CLASS ENRICHMENT ACTIVITIES
Week 6:

Mon  2/16— NO CLASS—President’s Day

Wed  2/18— Social Process Theories
       Siegel, Ch. 7

Fri  2/20— CLASS ENRICHMENT ACTIVITIES

Week 7:

Mon  2/23— Catch-up/Review for Exam
     Application Assignment #2 Due

Wed  2/25— SECOND EXAM Available on WebCT/Take-home (Due Friday at 5pm)
       Final Paper Details/Topics (see file on WebCT)

Fri  2/27— CLASS ENRICHMENT ACTIVITIES

Week 8:

Part 3: Typologies of Crime

Mon  3/2— Domestic Violence
     Siegel, Ch. 10

Wed  3/4— Stalking

Fri  3/6— CLASS ENRICHMENT ACTIVITIES

Week 9:

Mon  3/9— Sexual Assault
     Siegel, Ch. 10 continued
     Article on Reserve: Frohmann, Lisa, “Discrediting Victims’ Allegations of Sexual Assault”

Wed  3/11— Violent Crime—Homicide (Video)
       Siegel, Ch. 10 revisited

Fri  3/13— CLASS ENRICHMENT ACTIVITIES

Week 10:—SPRING BREAK

Mon-Sat  3/16-21— NO CLASS—SPRING BREAK

Week 11:

Mon  3/23— Property Crimes
     Siegel, Ch. 11

Wed  3/25— White-collar crime
     Siegel, Ch. 12
**Week 12:**

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<tr>
<th>Day</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Activity</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Fri</td>
<td>3/27</td>
<td>CLASS ENRICHMENT ACTIVITIES</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mon</td>
<td>3/30</td>
<td>Substance Abuse/Sexual Morality Crimes</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
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<td>Siegel, Ch. 13</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wed</td>
<td>4/1</td>
<td>Catch-up/Review for Exam</td>
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<td>Application Assignment #3 Due</td>
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<tr>
<td>Fri</td>
<td>4/3</td>
<td>CLASS ENRICHMENT ACTIVITIES</td>
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**Week 13:**

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Day</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Activity</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Mon</td>
<td>4/6</td>
<td>THIRD EXAM</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wed</td>
<td>4/8</td>
<td>NO CLASS—OUT OF TOWN AT CONFERENCE</td>
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<tr>
<td>Fri</td>
<td>4/10</td>
<td>CLASS ENRICHMENT ACTIVITIES</td>
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**Week 14:**

**Part 4: Crime Prevention**

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Day</th>
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<th>Activity</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Mon</td>
<td>4/13</td>
<td>Policing</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wed</td>
<td>4/15</td>
<td>The Criminal Justice System Response to Crime</td>
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<tr>
<td>Fri</td>
<td>4/17</td>
<td>CLASS ENRICHMENT ACTIVITIES</td>
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**Week 15:**

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<th>Activity</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Mon</td>
<td>4/20</td>
<td>Life on the Outside: The Prison Odyssey of Elaine Bartlett</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Application Assignment #4 Due</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wed</td>
<td>4/22</td>
<td>The Death Penalty</td>
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<td>Article on Reserve: Radelet, Michael, “The Changing Nature of Death Penalty Debates”</td>
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<tr>
<td>Fri</td>
<td>4/24</td>
<td>CLASS ENRICHMENT ACTIVITIES</td>
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**Week 16:**

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<tr>
<th>Day</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Activity</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Mon</td>
<td>4/27</td>
<td>Catch-up/Review for Exam</td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>FINAL PAPER DUE, all extra credit due</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wed</td>
<td>4/29</td>
<td>FOURTH EXAM</td>
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*Note: The schedule is subject to change. Students will be notified.

**Americans With Disabilities Act (ADA)**

The University of Utah seeks to provide equal access to its programs, services and activities for people with disabilities. If you will need accommodations in this class, reasonable prior notice needs to be given to the instructor and to the Center for Disability Services, 162 Olpin Union Building, 581-5020 (V/TDD) to make arrangements for accommodations.
All printed information for this course can be made available in alternative format with prior notification to the Center for Disability Services."