

Sociology 3561—090
Criminology Online
SPRING 2014



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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, 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).

Canvas: All lectures, assignments, exams, and discussions are to be completed on Canvas in this course. Students are expected to have computer proficiency and computer access to complete the above. If you have any problems with your Canvas account, please contact the campus help desk. Students are responsible for having access to Canvas before assignments, exams, or discussions are due. Announcements, clarifications, and adjustments to the course will be made periodically throughout the semester on Canvas—you are responsible for these announcements (i.e. you must check Canvas on a regular basis throughout the semester!) LATE ASSIGNMENTS AND DISCUSSIONS WILL BE PENALIZED AND THERE WILL BE NO MAKE UP EXAMS.

Course Requirements and Grading

Students will be required to complete the following: 2 exams, a term paper, class participation (via online discussions) and online assignments.

MODULES: The course is divided into 14 modules. Each module includes lectures, readings, possible discussions, and possible assignments. A modified version of the lecture notes will be available—please use this to take notes on the lectures you listen to or to use as a guide to the class. **NOTE THAT IT IS MODIFIED—YOU WILL MISS MOST OF THE CLASS (AND THUS NOT DO WELL ON EXAMS) IF YOU ONLY LOOK AT THIS WITHOUT LISTENING TO THE LECTURES! These modules can be found each week under “Learning Modules” on Canvas.**

A calendar and description of each module can be found later in this syllabus. Please note that additional readings, videos, video clips etc...may be part of any module—these will be assigned when the appropriate module is posted.

Exams: Each exam will cover readings, lectures, videos, and discussion from the portion of class prior to the exam of the class. The second exam will not be cumulative. Students will be tested on how well they comprehend and are able to apply the concepts covered in the course. **Exams are worth 30 points each and must be taken in the time period in which they are scheduled.**

Online discussions (i.e. class participation): Students will be required to participate in online discussion groups. Discussion topics will be assigned and then students will receive points based on responding as well as on the quality of their responses (1 point for the response and 1 point for the content of the response). Students may be required to watch a video, video clip, or read something in order to participate in the discussion (see the instructions for each specific discussion the week that module is posted). The success of the discussions is dependent upon the quality of your participation and hopefully this will be a very beneficial component of the course—feel free to post comments, replies, and questions as often as you like during the duration of that discussion topic. **There will be 10 discussions worth 2 points each for a total of 20 points. Your postings for the discussion are due by midnight of the last day of the module for which there is a discussion.**

Online assignments: Assignments may include polls, surveys, reactions to readings or videos, and so on. Assignments will be posted in the “learning modules” on Canvas and the syllabus includes which modules will have assignments attached to them (i.e. see Course Calendar and Readings). **There will be 5 assignments worth 2 points each for a total of 10 points and it will be due on by midnight of the last day of the module.**

Term Paper: Students will be expected to complete a well-written, well-researched 5 to 8 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 provided on Canvas. **The paper is worth 10 points.**

Exams: 60 points

Discussions/Participations: 20 points

Assignments: 10 points

Paper: 10 Points

Total: 100 points

Grading Scale:

100-93 points: A

92.9-90 points A-

89.9-87 points B+
86.9-83 points B
82.9-80 points B-
79.9-77 points C+
76.9-73 points C
72.9-70 points C-
69.9-67 points D+
66.9-63 points D
62.9-60 points D-
59.9 and below F

Course Organization and Ground rules

This course will be completed entirely online. 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 online classroom should be a place where no one is made to feel embarrassed or ashamed. Disrespectful behavior will not be tolerated. This includes inappropriate language, 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) 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.

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 Calendar, and Readings

PART 1: FOUNDATION IN CRIMINOLOGY

Module 1: 1/6-1/12

Topic: Introduction to the Course, Syllabus, and Overview of Criminology

Readings: Siegel Ch. 1

Module 2: 1/13-1/19

Topics: Introduction to Criminal Justice,

Readings: Siegel, Ch. 14

Discussion #1 See information on Canvas
Assignment 1: see Canvas for information

Module 3: 1/20-1/26

Topics: Crime Statistics and Trends and Race, Class, Gender, and Crime

Readings: Ch. 2 and Robinson, Matthew (2000). "The Construction and Reinforcement of Myths of Race and Crime"

VIDEO

Discussion #2: See information on Canvas

PART 2: THEORIES OF CRIME CAUSATION

Module 4: 1/27-2/2

Topics: Introduction to Theory; Psychological and Biological Theory, Choice/Deterrence Theory
Siegel, Ch. 5

Readings: Siegel, Ch. 4, 5

Module 5: 2/3-2/9

Topics: Social Structure Theories

Readings: Siegel, Ch. 6

Assignment 2: see Canvas for information

Module 6: 2/10-2/16

Topics: Social Process Theories

Readings: Siegel, Ch. 7

Discussion #3: See information on Canvas

FIRST EXAM: To be completed online sometime from 2/17-2/23

PART 3: TYPOLOGIES OF CRIME

Module 7: 2/24-3/2

Topics: Violent Crime—Homicide

Readings: Siegel, Ch. 10

Discussion #4: See information on Canvas

VIDEO

Module 8: 3/3-3/9

Topics: Violent Crime continued—Domestic Violence and Stalking

Readings:

Discussion #5: See information on Canvas

Assignment #3: see Canvas

SPRING BREAK NO MODULE: 3/10-3/16

Module 9: 3/17-3/23

Topics: Violent Crime Continued—Sexual Assault

Readings: Siegel, Ch. 10 and article: Frohmann, Lisa, “Discrediting Victims’ Allegations of Sexual Assault”

Discussion #6: See information on Canvas

Assignment #4: see Canvas for information

Module 10: 3/24-3/30

Topics: Property Crimes and White Collar Crime

Readings: Siegel, Ch. 11 and 12

Discussion #7: See information on Canvas

Module 11: 3/31--4/6

Topics: “Victimless” Crime: Substance Abuse and Sexual Morality Crimes

Siegel, Ch. 13

Readings: Siegel, Ch. 13 and Williamson and Folaron, “Understanding the Experiences of Street Level Prostitutes”

Discussion #8: See information on Canvas

VIDEO

PART 4: CRIME INTERVENTION AND PREVENTION

Module 12: 4/7-4/13

Topics: Changes in Police

TERM PAPER DUE

Module 13: 4/14-4/20

Topics: Criminal Justice Response to Crime

Readings: Gonnerman’s *Life on the Outside*

Discussion #9: See information on Canvas

Assignment #5: see information on Canvas

Module 14: 4/21-4/23

Topics: Death Penalty

Readings: article Radelet, Michael, “The Changing Nature of Death Penalty Debates”

Discussion #10: See information on Canvas

SECOND EXAM: Must be completed online from 4/24-5/1

***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."