

**Sociological Analysis of Crime and the
Criminal Justice System 3770**

Fall 2012

Instructor: Dr. Wm. Reed Benedict

Class Times: MWF 1:00-1:50

Office: Blair Hall 3149

Phone #: Off: 581-2726 Hm: 345-5299

Office Hours: Monday, Wednesday, Friday. 7:00-8:00, 10:00-11:00, 2:00- 3:00 or by appointment

COURSE DESCRIPTION:

This course is designed to help the student develop an understanding of the various institutions within the American Criminal Justice System and the philosophies behind these organizations. The criminal justice system involves the entire system of criminal prevention, detection, apprehension, adjudication, and punishment. It includes all those agencies such as the police, corrections, courts, and legislatures that are responsible for enforcing criminal laws.

COURSE OBJECTIVES:

- 1) My primary goal is to equip you with an understanding of the criminal justice system as it refers to the structure, function, and decision processes of agencies that deal with the management and control of crime and criminal offenders--- police, courts, and correctional systems.
- 2) The second goal is to improve your ability to sort out important facts, retain those facts, and be able to apply them appropriately in logical arguments.
- 3) The last goal is to further develop your analytic skills and writing abilities.

The first goal can be accomplished by regular class attendance and participation. The second and third goals can be accomplished by adequately meeting the class requirements/assignments.

TEXTS:

Monk, Richard C.

2001 TAKING SIDES: CLASHING VIEWS ON CONTROVERSIAL ISSUES IN CRIME AND CRIMINOLOGY. Guilford, Connecticut: Dushkin Publishing Group Inc.

GRADING SCALE FOR THIS CLASS IS:

90 - 100 = A
80 - 89 = B
70 - 79 = C
60 - 69 = D
0 - 59 = F

GRADING SYSTEM:

First Examination: 42%
Second Examination: 42%
Writing Assign.\Debates 16%

EXAMINATIONS:

Grading will be based upon two examinations. Each exam will consist of multiple choice and essay questions. The examinations will cover materials from both the readings and lectures. Please take note--it will be important to attend class and take notes as you will be responsible for material which is covered in lecture, but will not be found in the text.

MAKE-UP EXAMINATIONS:

All make-up exams, regardless of rationale, will be given at 7:00 a.m. on the last day of the semester and will consist of both multiple choice and essay questions. You must contact me within one week of the scheduled exam to indicate that you would like to take the make-up exam at the end of the semester. Please take this policy seriously as I will make no exceptions.

DEBATES/PARTICIPATION:

Three debates will be held during the semester. You will be expected to prepare for one side of an issue (e.g., gun control, legalization of drugs, white collar crime, juvenile violence, capital punishment, et. cetera) with a small group of others and present a well-reasoned argument for the class. You do not need to believe (or have a strong conviction for) the side you argue. In fact, you will probably learn more about the issue if you take the side opposite your normal tenet. Some information can be found in Monk's book, but you will need to spend additional time in the library to prepare for these assignments. Outside research is necessary because you will be required to produce three 3-5 page reaction papers throughout the course of the semester.

These assignments will be graded and weighted in accordance with the system listed above. If you would like to receive the graded copy you must provide me with a "clean" Xeroxed copy to replace the one I return back to you.

Any student who chooses to hand in a paper written by someone other than him/herself, or plagiarizes the assignment in any way (and gets caught) **will fail, not only the paper assignment, but the entire class.** Please take this policy seriously as I will make no exceptions.

CLASS DISCUSSION:

Even though I will be lecturing most of the time, everyone is expected to have read the assigned material prior to the day of class on which it will be covered and be prepared to discuss it. If you have a comment you would like to interject which is germane to the material being covered, make me aware of this fact in a polite fashion and by all means share your insights, experiences, and opinions with myself and your fellow students.

I will do what is in my power to communicate the course material clearly to you and provide you with the tools that are necessary to do well in this class. However, you are responsible for making a serious and concerted effort to understand the assigned material. I am not clairvoyant, if the readings or lecture are confusing to you, I expect you to seek clarification. Toward this end, you are responsible for asking questions during class or office hours.

STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES:

If you have a documented disability and need accommodations, please contact me as soon as possible.

CONSEQUENCES OF ACADEMIC DISHONESTY:

Plagiarism and cheating on examinations are serious offenses and will be punished by failure of the course and/or expulsion from the university. For more information refer to the guidelines "Academic Integrity standards at Eastern Illinois University" posted in the classroom.

CLASSROOM CONDUCT:

DO NOT Talk during class!

DO NOT Eat during class!

DO NOT Arrive Late or **Leave** during class! If you arrive more than five minutes after the class begins, then you will be asked to leave.

DO NOT Send or Receive text messages

TENTATIVE COURSE OUTLINE:

The tentative schedule provided below is just that--tentative--which means the student will be responsible for attending class and keeping up with the material and assignments each week. You will be given ample time (at least one week) advance notice of all tests and/or assignments which will affect your grade.

COURSE CONTENT:

Chpt. 1: C.J. in the U.S.

Chpt. 3: Law and Criminal Law

Chpt. 4: Types of Crime: I

Chpt. 5: Types of Crime: White-Collar and "Other"/Review Exam I

Exam I

Chpt. 6: The Police: History and Development

Chpt. 7: The Police: Organization, Selection, and Training

Lecture The Police and the Rule of Law/Review Exam 2

Final Exam Tuesday 11th, 12:30- 2:30 (EVERY STUDENT
MUST TAKE THE FINAL on Dec. 11th....**NO EXCEPTIONS**)