

Soc 2761: Introduction to Criminology

Spring 2014 - Section 1

Credit Hours: 3

Blair 2165

Tues, Thurs 12:30 p.m. – 1:45 p.m.

Instructor: Katherine Bass

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Office Hours: Mon 10 a.m. – 12 p.m., Tues, Thurs 10:45 a.m. – 11:45 a.m., or by appt

Office: Blair 3148

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Required Text

Fuller, John Randolph. 2012. *Think Criminology*. New York: McGraw Hill.

Course Description

This course provides an overview of the field of Criminology. Students will be introduced to the various ways crime can be defined and measured, the relationship between crime and inequality, the major sociological/criminological theories that explain criminal behavior, and the types of crimes that pose threats to society and how we respond to those threats.

Prerequisites

Soc 1838G

Course Objectives

I have five major goals for students in this course:

1. To be able to explain the complexities of defining and measuring crime and use this knowledge to critically analyze crime data and public perception of crime.
2. To understand the relationship between crime and stratification.
3. To analyze and critique the major criminological theories by placing them in a socio-historical context, identifying their basic assumptions, and interpreting their policy implications.
4. To relate abstract criminological theories to current research on violent, property, white collar, and public order crimes.
5. To examine how the state of criminological knowledge informs the way the criminal justice system responds to crime.

Course Requirements

Students can earn up to 250 points in this class. The point distribution is:

2 Small Group Assignments (@ 40 points each)	80 points
2 Term Exams (@ 50 points each)	100 points
<u>Cumulative Final</u>	<u>70 points</u>
Total	250 points

Readings: All readings in each section are to be completed prior to the first class in which they are covered. An overview of the readings will help you better understand the material presented in class.

Small Group Assignments: Each student will be expected to complete a writing assignment and lead discussion in a small group on two occasions. Groups will be assigned during the second week of classes. Each group will decide who will lead discussion on which days. On the day you lead discussion for your group you are expected to:

- 1) Download the appropriate assignment from the course Desire2Learn page.
- 2) Complete the writing assignment for that day.

- 3) Write two open-ended discussion questions related to the assignment for your group to discuss.
- 4) Bring two copies of your writing assignment to class – one to turn in and one to use for your presentation.
- 5) Present your assignment to the group and facilitate a discussion on the topic.

Writing assignments are due at the beginning of class on the day you lead discussion (**If you are late for class, your paper grade will be reduced by 20%, and if you do not lead discussion your grade will be reduced 50%**). Writing assignments and discussion questions should be typed in one document approximately 2 to 3 pages in length. All writing assignments must be typed, double spaced, using 12 point Times New Roman font, and one inch margins. Make sure you ALWAYS cite your sources, including your course textbook (see citation examples under “Course Documents” on D2L). You must PROOFREAD your paper for grammar, punctuation, and spelling errors. I recommend you have someone else look over your paper or utilize EIU’s writing center (3110 Coleman Hall).

Late papers will be accepted up to 1 week after the due date, but they will be graded at *50% Credit*.

***If you are not the discussion leader for your group, you do not have to complete the writing assignment for that day. However, you are expected to participate in the small group discussion. These discussions will be a critical component of the exams.

Assignment and Title	Corresponding Chapter	Due Date
Assignment 1: Crime on Campus	Ch 2	Tuesday, Jan 28 th
Assignment 2: Victims’ Rights	Ch 3	Tuesday, Feb 4 th
Assignment 3: Postivist and Classical Criminology	Ch 4	Tuesday, Feb 11 th
Assignment 4: Subculture theory and the Code of the Streets	Ch 6	Tuesday, Feb 25 th
Assignment 5: Control Theories and Policy	Ch 6	Thursday, March 5 th
Assignment 6: Restorative Justice	Ch 8	Tuesday, March 25 th
Assignment 7: Crime in the News	Ch 9 & 10	Thursday, April 10 th
Assignment 8: White Collar Crime	Ch 11	Tuesday, April 22 nd

Term Exams: Term exams will be a mixture of multiple choice, true/false, and short answer questions. Students are expected to take the exam on the date scheduled. If you know you cannot take the exam on the scheduled date because of a University conflict, you are expected to contact me to make up the exam BEFORE the scheduled date. If you miss an exam due to unforeseen circumstances, you must contact me within 24 hours of the original exam date to discuss a make-up. Students who do not contact me within 24 hours will automatically receive a zero. All make ups will be Friday, May 2nd at 4 p.m. in Blair 3103.

Final Exam: The final exam is cumulative and will be worth 70 points. The final will be a mixture of multiple choice, true/false and essay.

Attendance/Class Participation: This course is designed for discussion and participation from the students. Attendance and class participation are necessary to succeed.

Extra Credit: There will be no extra credit assignments in this course. Grades are non-negotiable.

Grading Scale

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

Classroom Guidelines

This course will be largely based on lecture and classroom discussions. In order to create a respectful and open learning environment, I ask that you:

- Come to class **on time** with reading and writing assignments completed.
- Engage in the ideas presented by thinking about them and participating in class discussions.
- Be present and attentive in the class and undistracted by other materials, students, or technology (including cell phones, iPads, laptops, etc.) Turn cell phones to silent/off when you enter the classroom.
- Be respectful of others' viewpoints. I encourage you to express your views in class, but always do so in a professional manner.
- Communicate any needs or concerns to me in a timely manner.

Academic Integrity

All University policies concerning plagiarism and cheating will be upheld in this course. Academic dishonesty will result in one or more of the following consequences: failure on the exam or writing assignment, failure in the course, and/or expulsion from the University.

Disabilities Statement

Students with documented disabilities are encouraged to contact the Office of Disability Services (581-6583) if they wish to discuss any necessary academic accommodations.

Medical Emergency Statement

For medical emergencies, go to the nearest phone and call 911. All faculty offices have telephones and during normal business hours (8-12 and 1-4:30), the Sociology Office (Blair 3170) is open. Be sure to state the floor and room number of the emergency to the 911 operator. If possible, someone should go to the central entrance of Blair Hall to direct EMS personnel to the medical emergency scene. If the medical emergency is on the second or third floor, someone else should hold the elevator on the first floor for EMS use.

Tornado Statement

In case of a tornado warning, proceed to the center of the hallway on the first floor, near the posted severe weather signs. Under no circumstances should you attempt to leave the building.

Building Fire Statement

In case of fire, activate the fire alarm and exit the building. When a fire alarm sounds, everyone must exit the building and cannot re-enter the building until allowed by the building coordinator or fire department official. Fire alarms are located at the north and south ends of the corridors just inside the fire doors. The closes exits for all classrooms in Blair are on the north and south ends of the building. Under no circumstance should the elevator be used. Group assembly areas for all classes in Blair are either on the patio area between Blair and Old Main or on the southeast corner of the North Quad. As you exit the building, continue moving well away from the exits so that you do not impede the egress of other students of the work of fire officials. Move a safe distance away from the building.

Tentative Course Schedule

Date/Assignment Due	Topic	Reading
Tues, Jan 14th	Introductions	
Thurs, Jan 16th	Defining Criminology	Ch 1
Tues, Jan 21st	Measuring Crime	Ch 2
Thurs, Jan 23rd	Measuring Crime	
Tues, Jan 28th • Small Group Assignment 1	Inequality and Crime	
Thurs, Jan 30th	Victimology	Ch 3
Tues, Feb 4th • Small Group Assignment 2	Victims' vs. Defendants' Rights	
Thurs, Feb 6th	Development of Criminology	Ch 4
Tues, Feb 11th • Small Group Assignment 3	Continuing Influence of Early Criminology	
Thurs, Feb 13th	Exam 1	
Tues, Feb 18th	Social Disorganization Theories	Ch 6: 116-122
Thurs, Feb 20th	Learning Theories	Ch 6: 122-127
Tues, Feb 25th • Small Group Assignment 4	Learning Theories: Subcultures	
Thurs, Feb 27th	Strain Theories	Ch 6: 127-133
Tues, March 3rd	Control Theories	Ch 6: 133-137
Thurs, March 5th • Small Group Assignment 5	Connecting Theories to Policy	
<i>March 10 – March 14</i>		<i>Spring Break</i>
Tues, March 18th	Lifecourse Theories	Ch 7: 138-152
Thurs, March 20th	Integrated Theories	Ch 7: 152-163
Tues, Marc 25th • Small Group Assignment 6	Labeling and Conflict Theories	Ch 8: 164-173
Thurs, March 27th	Critical Theories	Ch 8: 173-187
Tues, April 1st		Exam 2
Thurs, April 3rd	No Class	
Tues, April 8th	Property Crime	Ch 9
Thurs, April 10th • Small Group Assignment 7	Violent Crime	Ch 10
Tues, April 15th	Family Violence	
Thurs, April 17th	White Collar Crimes	Ch11
Tues, April 22nd • Small Group Assignment 8	White Collar and Organized Crime	
Thurs, April 24th	Public Order Crimes	Ch 12
Tues, April 29th	Public Order Crimes	
Thurs, May 1st	Catch up/Review for Final	
Wednesday, May 7th 8 a.m. to 10 a.m.		Final Exam