

Criminology/Sociology 2761-001
Introduction to Criminology

Spring 2020
Credit Hours: 3
Blair Hall, Room 1165
TTH, 9:30 a.m. – 10:45 a.m.

Instructor: Dr. Stevens

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Office Location: Blair 3148

Phone: 217-581-3123 (Department Office)

Office Hours: Mondays, 10:00 a.m. – 11:00 a.m.; Tuesdays and Thursdays, 12:15 p.m. – 1:45 p.m.; By appointment

Required Texts:

Siegel, Larry J. 2019. *Criminology: The Core*. 7th ed. Belmont, CA: Wadsworth.

Book for book review:

- *Gang Leader for a Day* by Sudhir Venkatesh or
- *Closet Full of Coke: Confessions of a Teenage Drug Queen* by Indra Sena

Other readings will be posted to D2L.

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.

Learning Objectives:

- Explain the complexities of defining and measuring crime and use this knowledge to critically analyze crime data and public perception of crime.
- Describe the relationship between crime and stratification.
- Analyze and critique the major criminological theories by placing them in a socio-historical context, identifying their basic assumptions, and interpreting their policy implications.
- Relate abstract criminological theories to current research on violent, property, white collar, and public order crimes.
- Examine how the state of criminological knowledge informs the way the criminal justice system responds to crime.

***Students are expected to read this document in its entirety. If students ask the instructor any questions that can be answered by this document, they will be referred back to the syllabus. Read this document thoroughly.**

Course Expectations:

Students are expected to come to every class period prepared and ready to participate. Respect for the instructor and other classmates should be demonstrated at all times. Cell phones, laptops, and other electronic devices (including smart watches) should be turned off or silenced (not on vibrate) and put away prior to the beginning of each class. Students should remove headphones prior to class as well. No photos or recordings should be taken during class without the instructor's permission. Failure to follow the electronics policy could result in being asked to leave the class or to make a class presentation. Students who are repeatedly late to class or otherwise disrupt the class will be referred to the Office of Student Standards. It is the student's responsibility to be on time for class, which is defined by the official time on the course computer. Being on time includes being in your seat, ready to participate by the time that class begins. Students who are repeatedly late to class (defined as not being in their seat ready to participate when the instructor begins class) will have points deducted from their course engagement score. In these cases, students may or may not be informed in class that they will be losing points.

Students who are unable to attend a class session should contact another student to obtain a copy of the notes they missed. While I believe it is important for you to catch up on any information that you miss, other students' notes should not be used to complete any activities or assignments that were assigned during the class period that was missed. For example, if you miss class on a day when a guest speaker visits, you should get the notes from a classmate, but you should not use those notes to complete an activity or assignment related to the guest speaker. Students are responsible for any announcements that they miss in class. *If you miss a class, ask another student what you missed before approaching the instructor. Do not ask the instructor if you missed "anything important." If it weren't important, it wouldn't be part of the class.*

This class is meant to be a largely discussion based class. This only works if you come to class prepared and ready to actively participate. Make sure you have read all assignments prior to the class for which they are assigned.

College classes are similar to many other pursuits in life in that you will get out as much as you put into it. The classes you take at EIU are important elements of your degree. Take responsibility for your own engagement and success in these courses. It's *your* responsibility to know due dates, course policies, and assignment requirements. If you require a grade report for a team or organization, please contact the instructor via email at least 24 hours in advance. If you would like to request a letter of recommendation, please ask me at least two weeks in advance. I will also ask you to provide a current resume and a short description of what you are applying for and why you are applying. If I do not think I can provide you a strong letter, I may encourage you to contact another professor. Please do not list me as a reference without first asking.

Course Communication:

Email is the best method for reaching me. Please include the course and section number in the subject line of the email (SOC/CRM 2761-001). Provide some context for your email. Do not just write things like, “Hey, what did I miss in class?” I have many students and multiple classes, so be as specific as possible. Also, emails should follow professional standards of communication – including addressing emails to me as Dr. Stevens (see tips here: <https://www.insidehighered.com/views/2015/04/16/advice-students-so-they-dont-sound-silly-emails-essay>). If an emergency arises and you do not have access to email, please call the sociology office and leave a message. If I need to contact you regarding the course, I will use your EIU email account. Please make sure to check that account regularly. I strive to answer all emails within 24 hours during the business week. If you have a question about an assignment, I strongly encourage you to email me at least 24 hours in advance of the due date during the week. Make sure that all emails are professional and include specific information about your request for assistance. Please email me through Panthermail and not D2L. This will ensure the fastest response.

Grade Postings/Concerns:

All grades will be posted on D2L. If a student has a concern about a grade or feels that there is a discrepancy between the posted grade and the grade awarded, the instructor must be contacted via email within one week of when the grade was posted. Grade concerns will not be considered after one week has passed.

Late Work:

For the written assignments (discussion leader/application and book review), a 10% deduction will be taken for each day that the paper is late, up to 72 hours (i.e. 1 min to 23 hours and 59 minutes late is a 10% deduction, 24 hours to 47 hours and 59 minutes late is a 20% deduction, etc.). The late period begins immediately after the deadline. This deduction will be taken off the grade you would have received had the paper been turned in by the deadline. Seventy-two hours after the due date has passed, papers will no longer be accepted. Since you can submit all written assignments via D2L, the 72 hours includes weekends and holidays. Assignments will not be accepted after the 72 hour cut off. Assignments will not be accepted in incorrect formats or via email. Assignments submitted incorrectly are considered late, including assignments that have corrupted files. Check your files before and after submitting!

Extensions for legal or medical emergencies (that can be documented) may be given at the discretion of the instructor. To clarify, legal emergencies may include jury duty, being subpoenaed, etc. *Extensions will be extremely rare.* If such an event occurs, please contact the instructor before an assignment is due to discuss the situation. Extensions after a due date has passed will rarely be granted.

If you miss an exam, you will only be allowed to make it up in the event of a documented medical or legal emergency. An emergency is an unforeseen, serious event. The documentation must excuse you for the day of the exam. In other words, going to the doctor and getting an excuse after the exam will not be counted. This documentation must be submitted within one business day of the absence. An alternate exam may be given at the instructor’s discretion. Students who miss an exam for a scheduled university event must present documentation at least

one class prior to the exam in order to schedule a makeup. All make-up exams will be given at the end of the semester in a time scheduled by the instructor. Make-up exams will not be given for travel plans, weddings, getting arrested, work schedules, leaving early for vacation, etc. Make-up exams will only be given for emergency situations or school-sponsored events at the discretion of the instructor. Please note that your second exam is the Thursday before spring break. It will not be given early or late to accommodate early departures for spring break.

Exam Etiquette:

In order to ensure fairness, students will not be able to enter an exam after the first student has completed the exam and left the room. Students should come prepared to the exam with pencils, IDs, and any other needed items, such as tissues, erasers, etc. Students will not be allowed to re-enter the classroom after leaving the exam. Cell phones should be turned off or silenced during the exam. If a cell phone rings or otherwise disrupts the exam, the student may receive a zero on the exam. Smart watches should be disabled or removed. Headphones should be removed prior to exams. Hats should not be worn to exams. If I see a student using an electronic device during an exam (including a smart watch), that will be considered cheating and a zero for the exam may be given.

Plagiarism and Academic Dishonesty:

Academic dishonesty in any form (plagiarism, cheating, lying, stealing, etc.) will **NOT** be tolerated in this course. Academic dishonesty includes signing in for students who are not present in class or including an absent classmate's name on an in-class assignment. Students who turn in the work of other students either past or present will be in violation of this policy. The regulations for academic conduct set forth in the Code of Conduct will be strictly enforced. If you are found to be violating these expectations, you could fail the assignment, fail the course, and/or be reported to the Office of Student Standards. All assignments will be submitted through TurnItIn to check for plagiarism. Not properly citing your work is a form of plagiarism and will be treated as such. Familiarize yourself with in-text citation and visit the Writing Center if you need assistance. The methods of acceptable citation in this class are ASA and APA Styles.

Assignments submitted for this class should be original. Students should not turn in assignments from other classes or from an earlier section of this course if this course is being repeated. Work that has been submitted before will receive a zero. Note: If you have taken this class before, you will need to inform the instructor of the week you were assigned to be discussion leader and the book that you reviewed. You will be assigned a different week to lead discussion and will be required to review the opposite book.

Academic Integrity:

Students are expected to maintain principles of academic integrity and conduct as defined in EIU's Code of Conduct (<http://www.eiu.edu/judicial/studentconductcode.php>). Violations will be reported to the Office of Student Standards.

Students with Disabilities:

If you are a student with a documented disability in need of accommodations to fully participate in this class, please contact the Office of Student Disability Services (OSDS). All accommodations must be approved through OSDS. Please stop by Ninth Street Hall, Room 2006, or call 217-581-6583 to make an appointment.

The Student Success Center:

Students who are having difficulty achieving their academic goals are encouraged to contact the Student Success Center (www.eiu.edu/~success) for assistance with time management, test taking, note taking, avoiding procrastination, setting goals, and other skills to support academic achievement. The Student Success Center provides individualized consultations. To make an appointment, call 217-581-6696, or go to 9th Street Hall, Room 1302.

Assignment Submission:

All assignments completed outside of class must be submitted in Microsoft Word documents via D2L. Microsoft Word is the only acceptable format for submitting assignments (not Microsoft Works, Pages, or PDFs). If assignments are not submitted in Microsoft Word, they will be considered late. Do not wait until the last minute to submit assignments as this is when problems are most likely to occur. Back up your work and have a “Plan B” if your computer malfunctions. Computer labs are located throughout campus if you need Microsoft Word or have issues with your personal computer.

If you submit a paper to an assignment dropbox, I will assume that this is your final paper and is ready to be graded. I may grade a paper prior to the deadline if it is submitted early, so make sure to submit your final version the first time. If you submit multiple versions of the same paper to a dropbox before I grade it, I will assume that the most recent version is the one that you would like to be graded.

For in-class assignment submissions, the student must write his/her name in the upper right hand corner or designated name space in order to receive credit. Failure to put both first and last name on the assignments will result in the loss of points or a zero on the assignment.

Course Requirements:

Grades will be assigned based on the following requirements.

Exams

Three exams will be given to allow students to demonstrate their knowledge of the course content. All readings, videos, speakers, and any material covered in class will be fair game for the tests. These exams will be a combination of multiple choice, matching, true false, short answer, and/or essay. The exams are not cumulative. Exam 3 will be held during finals week and is not cumulative. Exam 2 is scheduled for the Thursday before spring break. It will not be rescheduled to accommodate spring break travel plans.

Course Engagement

Your course engagement score will be based on class activities and quizzes. Throughout the semester, students will complete activities pertinent to the class information. These activities will

be announced in class. Some activities will be completed in class and some will be taken home and turned in prior to the following class. Any activities that are assigned to be completed out of class will be due on D2L at 9:30 a.m. on the due date unless otherwise indicated. Email submissions will not be accepted. Late submissions will not be accepted. *You may not make up any activities that you miss unless you have a documented university excuse.* If you have a documented university excuse, you must contact the instructor within one business day to make up the assignment. The assignment cannot be made up by students who are excused if they do not contact the instructor within one business day to complete it. The lowest two activity grades will be dropped at the end of the semester. Students who are late to class or who leave early will not be eligible to receive full points on the assignments.

At times, there may also be “pop quizzes”/trivia questions or written essays about the readings and preparation for class. If a student is not on time, not prepared, or not present, he/she will not receive points for these questions, no exceptions.

Quizzes

Students are required to take weekly D2L quizzes over the readings. These quizzes are due on Tuesdays at 9:30 a.m. (before class). Each quiz will cover the upcoming week’s readings, so make sure to read the assigned readings prior to taking the quiz. You may not make up any quizzes and they cannot be submitted late. If needed, pop quizzes may be given in class as well. The lowest two quiz grades will be dropped at the end of the semester. The syllabus quiz will not be dropped. Online quizzes will not be given during exam weeks.

News Article Application/Discussion Leader Assignment

For this assignment, each student will be assigned a specific week of the course in which he/she will serve as a discussion leader. Discussion leaders will help me lead the class in discussion and move the conversation forward. Discussion leaders are encouraged to submit information that might be interesting to incorporate into the discussion prior to the course. Discussion leaders will be graded on submitted materials as well as participation during their assigned weeks.

For this assignment, each student will submit three discussion questions related to the material for the day on D2L. A discussion question implies that critical thinking and analysis are involved. These types of question should stimulate discussion within the class. Questions that would be considered review for an exam (ie “What is Strain Theory?”) or end with a yes/no response are not appropriate. The student should also be prepared to offer additional insights during the class to move the discussion forward and should have a copy of his/her five questions available in class.

The student will also find an article about a criminal case or criminal issue from a credible news source (which means not Wikipedia or a blog – think CNN, MSNBC, *The New York Times*, etc.) and apply the information from the assigned readings for the week. *The news story must be about a criminal case/issue that occurred within the last five years in the United States that we have not discussed in the class.* The analysis should be 750-1,000 words, double-spaced with Times New Roman, 12 point font and 1” margins, in-text citations, and a reference page. APA or ASA style citation should be used and is required for this paper. The paper should answer the following questions:

1. What specific concepts/theories from the weekly readings can be applied to this story/case? How does this story relate to the readings? (This refers to the readings of your assigned week.)
2. How does this further your understanding of criminology?
3. Do the details of the story support the information from the readings? Are there any details that contradict what the book says?
4. If applicable, what was the reaction to this crime or issue? Based on what you've learned in the class, was it appropriate?

A link to the story should be included with the paper. Students may be called upon to give a short summary of their applications to the class. You do not need to cover EVERY topic in the given chapter. Choose those topics that are most relevant to your given story.

In summary, for this assignment students will turn in the application paper, the link to the story, and three discussion questions in one document. These elements will be due at 5:00 p.m. on D2L on the Friday prior to the student's week for being a discussion leader (unless otherwise noted by the instructor). The information should be submitted as a Microsoft Word document attachment. If you do not show up for class on the days that you have been assigned to be the discussion leader, you will forfeit the points for contributions to class discussion. If you do not submit a paper prior to the late penalty cutoff, you will receive no points for the assignment. Students are expected to participate frequently during their assigned week.

All papers in the class require ASA or APA style citation. If you are not familiar with citation, please visit the Writing Center prior to submitting your first paper.

This assignment will be graded using the following rubric:

Clear understanding and effective application of course concepts	Critical analysis of the criminal issues involved with the chosen case	Writing mechanics, citation, Ability to follow instructions	Thoughtful discussion questions and contributions to class discussion
30%	30%	20%	20%

Book Review

You will choose one of the following books:

- *Gang Leader for a Day* by Sudhir Venkatesh
- *Closet Full of Coke: Confessions of a Teenage Drug Queen* by Indra Sena

Throughout the course, we will explore several different theories to explain why crime happens. You will write an essay in which you analyze a specific book using information from the class. The essay should be a critical analysis and not merely a summary. Each essay will be

1,000 – 1,500 words (approximately 4-5 double-spaced pages), double-spaced, using Times New Roman, 12 point font with 1” margins. Appropriate citation (APA or ASA) should be used and a reference sheet should be attached in the same document (do not save the reference page in a separate document). Though I will give you guiding questions, your paper should be written in an essay format with an introduction, main points, and a conclusion.

Guiding questions:

- What are the main themes and recurrent messages of the text **related to crime and concepts we have learned during the course?***
- How would you specifically apply at least two of the theories from the class to the criminal activity in the book?*
- How do the sociological concepts of race, class, and gender play into the crime that takes place in the book?*
- What was the ultimate outcome of the individuals in the book (they continued in crime, they desisted, etc.)? How does that relate to the information from the text?
- Does the author offer any suggestions for preventing or dealing with crime? If so, are those claims valid based on what you’ve learned in the class?

*Required question

Grading Principles (adapted from Dr. Mangala Subramaniam):

You will be graded on the following:

- Clarity of organization and expression. Ability to pull out main themes and support with examples. Is your essay written clearly and in an organized fashion (with introduction, main points, and conclusion)?
- Extent of analysis and reflection. Are you covering a range of issues or repeating one point over and over? Are your ideas original and thoughtful?
- Relationship to the readings in the course. Do you explicitly use terms that were introduced in the course and course readings? Is there concrete evidence that you have done the readings and thought about them before critiquing the book?
- Writing mechanics. Is the paper well written in terms of grammar? Is citation used properly?

Clarity of organization and expression. Ability to pull out main themes and support with examples.	Extent of analysis and reflection. Thoughtful and original analysis.	Relationship to the readings in the course.	Writing mechanics (grammar, citation, etc.). Ability to follow instructions.
30%	30%	25%	15%

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Extra Credit

Throughout the course, extra credit opportunities may arise. These will be announced in class. *Extra credit cannot be made up for any reason (including any excused absences mentioned above).* Extra credit assignments will be made available to the whole class. Any requests for individual extra credit will be denied to be fair to the entire class. Please note: Extra credit can help raise your grade, but it cannot be used to pass the class. In other words, extra credit will not be used to raise your grade from an F to a passing grade. Extra credit may be associated with attendance on randomly selected days.

Electronic Writing Portfolio

Any submissions for the Electronic Writing Portfolio must be submitted prior to the last exam. Submissions submitted after this time will not be scored.

The final course grade will be composed of:

Three (3) Exams @15% each	= 45%
Application/Discussion Leader Paper Assignment	= 15%
Book Review	= 20%
Course Engagement	= 10%
Quizzes	= 10%


Grading Scale

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

Course Schedule*

Assignments (including reading) are due at the beginning of the course for which they are assigned unless otherwise noted.

Date	Topic(s)	Readings/Assignment(s) Due
Week 1 1/14, 1/16	Introduction	Siegel Chapter 1
Week 2 1/21, 1/23	Nature and Extent of Crime	Culture of Fear (D2L), Siegel Chapter 2 1/23: Syllabus Quiz due on D2L at 9:30 a.m.
Week 3 1/28, 1/30	Choice Theory	Siegel Chapter 4; Walker Chapter 6 (D2L); Citation readings (3 on D2L) 1/28: Choice Theory Reading Quiz due at 9:30 a.m.
Week 4 2/4, 2/6	Social Structure Theory	“Methland” (D2L); Siegel Chapter 6 2/4: Social Structure Reading Quiz due at 9:30 a.m.
Week 5 2/11, 2/13	Developmental Theories	Siegel Chapter 9; “Aging Out” (D2L) 2/13: Exam 1
Week 6 2/18, 2/20	Social Process Theory	Siegel Chapter 7 2/18: Social Process Theory Reading Quiz due at 9:30 a.m.
Week 7 2/25, 2/27	Social Conflict and Critical Criminology	Siegel Chapter 8 2/25: Social Conflict Reading Quiz due at 9:30 a.m.
Week 8 3/3, 3/5	Violent Crime	Siegel Chapter 10 3/3: Violent Crime Reading Quiz due at 9:30 a.m.

Week 9 3/10, 3/12	Hate Crime	<p>“Victim Experiences in Hate Crime” & “Subtle, Pervasive, Harmful” (D2L)</p> <p>3/12: Exam 2 (will not be rescheduled for early spring break departures)</p>
Week 10 3/16 – 3/20		
Week 11 3/24, 3/26	Political Crimes and Terrorism	<p>Siegel Chapter 11</p> <p>3/24: Political Crimes Reading Quiz due at 9:30 a.m.</p>
Week 12 3/31, 4/2	Economic Crime	<p>Siegel Chapter 12</p> <p>3/31: Economic Crime Reading Quiz due at 9:30 a.m.</p>
Week 13 4/7, 4/9	Public Order	<p>Siegel Chapter 13; Read first half of book review book by Tuesday</p> <p>4/7: Public Order Reading Quiz due at 9:30 a.m.</p>
Week 14 4/14, 4/16	Reentry and Stigma	<p>“Marked” (D2L), Crime and Stigma (D2L)</p> <p>4/14: Reentry and Stigma Reading Quiz due at 9:30 a.m.</p>
Week 15 4/21, 4/23	Victims and Victimization	<p>Siegel Chapter 3, “Megan’s Law” (D2L)</p> <p>4/21: Victims Reading Quiz due at 9:30 a.m.</p>
Week 16 4/28, 4/30	Responses to Crime	<p>Reading TBA Finish book for review by 4/28</p> <p>4/30: Book Review Due at 5:00 p.m. on D2L</p>
Finals Week	Finals Week	Exam 3: Monday, May 4

5/4 – 5/8		10:15 a.m. – 12:15 p.m.
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*I reserve the right to make changes to this course outline as needed. Any changes made will be announced in class and posted on D2L.