

Criminology
SOCIOLOGY 322
Spring 2019
Tuesday 5:30-8-15 pm
Room: Wimberly Hall 305
Professor: Dr. Peter Marina

Instructor: Dr. Peter Marina

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Office hours: 3:45 – 4:45 pm Thursday; or by appointment

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Course Description

This course provides an overview of the sociological study of crime in the United States, with a special emphasis on patterns of criminality, competing theoretical explanations of crime, and societal responses to crime. As part of the examination of crime in the U.S., the course explores the definitions, measurement, and patterns of various types of criminal behavior; theory and research on crime; the roles of the victim and offender and the implications of public policy. Specific crimes covered include homicide, hate/bias crime, assault, and white-collar crime. The first part of the semester covers the major sociological theories used to understand “crime” in contemporary society. This includes an analysis of the major theoretical perspectives, classical approaches, and past and present theories used to understand the concept of crime. The class moves on to offer a critique of the field that critically analyzes the nature and meaning of criminal and transgressive behavior in this late-modern world. This involves developing a sociological imagination to understand “crime.” The last part of the semester turns towards a criminological ethnography that applies and critiques various theories to understand the everyday lives of people labeled as criminal who live in the fringes of the inner city. At the end of the semester, students will write a paper showcasing their approach to understanding crime and present it to class.

Student Learning and Course Outcomes

1. Students will be able to define, describe and explain the social characteristics of different types of crime including interpersonal violence, property crime, and white-collar crime.
2. Students will be able to describe, explain, and apply terms and concepts related to the different sociological theories of crime. This is related to the Sociology Program Student
3. Students will develop the ability to think critically about and to evaluate competing theoretical perspectives of crime.
4. Students will be able to communicate in formal and informal writing and speaking, the sociological/social structural characteristics related to crime and criminality.

Required Books

Beirne, Piers and James Messerschmidt. 2014. *Criminology, 6th Edition*. Roxbury Publishing, Los Angeles, CA.

Jock Young. *The Criminological Imagination*. Polity Press. 2011.

Philippe Bourgois. *In Search of Respect: Selling Crack in El Barrio*. Cambridge University Press. 2002.

Outside Readings

Various outside scholarly articles and book excerpts may be included to compliment and elaborate on critical concepts offered in the main books and discussed in class.

Course Requirements, Evaluation, and Grading

Exam I (100 Points) - This exam includes multiple-choice, short answer, and/or essay questions. Tests cover class lectures and literature assigned in class.

Exam II (100 Points) - This is an out of class short-essay exam that covers class lectures and literature assigned in class.

Theory Application Paper (50 Points) - The paper discusses and compares various criminological theories discussed in class. This paper is part of the final paper.

Oral Presentation and Final Paper (150 Points) - Students will write a 10-15 page paper on an approved topic related to criminal and transgressive behavior that incorporates ideas learned in class lectures, discussions, and readings. Students will present their findings.

Grading

You may earn a total of 400 points for the class. Points are distributed as follows:

| Assignment/Activity | Points |
|-----------------------------------|--------|
| Exam I | 100 |
| Exam II | 100 |
| Theory application paper | 50 |
| Oral presentation and final paper | 150 |
| Total | 400 |

Final Grade Scale

| Grade | Total Points |
|-------|--------------|
| A | 372-400 |
| AB | 356-371 |
| B | 332-355 |
| BC | 316-331 |
| C | 280-315 |
| D | 240-279 |
| F | 239 or less |

Make-up Policy:

Students with an approved written excused absence may be allowed to take make-up exams but cannot make up writing assignments or oral presentations.

Other Course Requirements

Attendance: Please attend class. Excess lateness and absence may result in a grade reduction.

Reading Assignments: Read all required class literature prior on the date assigned. Class lectures and discussions are primarily designed around the scholarly literature assigned for the class.

Writing Assignments: All class writing assignments must have a 12-size regular font and double spaced paragraphs with your name, title, date, and page numbers.

Participation: Participation involves listening, asking questions, making comments, and so on.

Class Structure

The course structure involves lectures and discussions primarily related to the scholarly literature, current debates, and controversial issues relevant to the study of “crime” and transgression. Students may be selected on certain weeks to present course material or debate in class. At times during lectures, a modified version of the Socratic method is used to stimulate critical thinking.

Class Paper and Oral Presentations

This class requires you to write a paper applying the theories discussed in class to demonstrate your understanding of criminal and transgressive behavior in contemporary society. All students are required to present their research during a scheduled class period (see class schedule below). The length of the presentation should be no more than seven minutes. Students should prepare and rehearse their presentation. Use an outline or note cards for your presentation. Do not prewrite your whole presentation and then read it.

The purpose of the oral presentation is to show that you can apply what you learned in class to develop your own original understanding of “crime” and transgression in modern society. For an effective presentation, you should prepare a one-page handout to be distributed to the class. It may contain an outline of your whole presentation or you can use it to communicate key concepts, findings, illustrations, and references. Remember that you only have seven minutes to present your work. Do not ramble; keep it succinct.

Class & Assignment Schedule (Subject to Modification)

All readings listed for a scheduled class should be read prior to attending that class. Exam review questions, lecture outlines and other helpful resources are available on the course D2L page.

Week One (1/29): Introduction to Criminology and the Sociological Study of Crime

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Week Two (2/5): Measuring Crime and Criminological Theory

Part One: The Problem of Crime (Read: Ch. 1 Beirne & Messerschmidt; Measurement of Crime (Read Ch 2 Beirne & Messerschmidt)

Part Two: Inventing Criminology: Classicism, Positivism, and Beyond; Read Ch. 3 Beirne & Messerschmidt

Week Three (2/12): Criminological Theory – Anomie to Human Ecology

Part One: Social Structure, Anomie, and Crime: Durkheim (Read Ch. 4 Beirne & Messerschmidt); General Strain Theory and Institutional Anomie Theory; Anomie and Property Crime (Read Ch. 10 Beirne & Messerschmidt)

Part Two: Discuss Theory Application Paper and Final Paper; Human Ecology and Crime

Comparing British and American Police

The Difference Between American Police and British Police

American Police vs British Police

Week Four (2/19): Criminological Theory – Subcultural Theory to Labeling

Part One: Delinquent Subcultures and Labeling Perspective; Read Ch. 5 Beirne & Messerschmidt;

Part Two: Video and Discussion - Gangs- “A Heart Broken in Half”

Week Five (2/26): Criminological Theory – Social Learning to Social Control Theory

Part One: Social Learning Theory and Social Control Theory (Ch. 6 Beirne & Messerschmidt);

Part Two: Lesson: Research Questions and the Militarization of American Police

Do Not Resist - Militarized Police in Ferguson

Do Not Resist – Raid

Week Six (3/5): Criminological Theory – Modern and Postmodern Subcultural Theory

Part One: Subcultures of Resistance

Part Two: Exam Review

Week Seven (3/12): Exam Week

Exam

Week Eight: Spring Break

Week Nine (3/26): Criminological Theory – Conflict Theory

Part One: The Conflict Tradition (Read: Ch. 7 Beirne & Messerschmidt)

Part Two: Stop and Frisk and Asset Forfeiture

Stop and Frisk NYC

Civil Forfeiture: John Oliver

Week Ten (4/2): Criminological Theory – Inequalities and Crime/Elite Crime

Part One: Inequality and Crime (Read: Ch. 7 Beirne & Messerschmidt); White-Collar and Political Crime (Read: Chapters 12 & 13 Beirne & Messerschmidt)

* Part Two: Theory Application Paper Due (4/2)- Informal Presentations

Week Eleven (4/9): The Criminological Imagination

Part One: *The Criminological Imagination and Measuring/Explaining Crime*

Introduction: The Legacy of C. Wright Mills

Ch1. Closing Down the Imagination

Ch2. Measurement and the Sexologists

Ch3. Amnesia and the Art

Ch4. The Bogus of Positivism

Ch5. The Loosening of the Moorings: The Emergence of Cultural Criminology

Ch6. Giuliani and the New York Miracle

Part Two: War on Drugs

Addiction

The War on Drugs As a Huge Failure?

Week: Twelve (4/16): Ethnography of Crime and Violence/ Subcultures as Magical Solutions

Part One: *The Criminological Imagination*

Ch7. Magic, Mayhem and Margaret Mead: Towards a Critical Ethnography

Ch8. Subcultures as Magic: Problems of Urban Ethnography

In Search of Respect

Introduction

Ch1. Violating apartheid in the United States

Ch2. A street history of El Barrio

Ch3. Crackhouse management: addiction, discipline, and dignity

Ch4. 'Goin' legit': disrespect and resistance at work

Part Two: Prosecutors and Crime

Video and Discussion on Prosecutors

Week Thirteen (4/23): Ethnography of Crime and Violence/Selling Crack in the City

Part One: *In Search of Respect*

Ch5. School days: learning to be a better criminal
Ch6. Redrawing the gender line on the street
Ch7. Families and children in pain
Ch8. Vulnerable fathers
Ch9. Conclusion

Part Two: Police Accountability
Film Clip and Class Discussion

Week Fourteen (4/30): Student Oral Presentations on Criminological Theory
Student Oral Presentations

Week Fifteen (5/7): Presentations Cont./Final thoughts on Crime in Contemporary Society
Student Oral Presentations/Conclusion

* Final Paper Due 5/14

Final Exam: Tuesday, May 14 at 7-9 p.m.

Enjoy Summer Break.

Other UWL Syllabus Related Policies

Academic Misconduct (Cheating and Plagiarism)

Academic misconduct is a violation of the ASA code of ethics and the student honor code (<http://catalog.uwlax.edu/undergraduate/academicpolicies/studentconduct/>). Plagiarism, including inadequate referencing or citation of other research is unacceptable. All work handed in for this class must be the students' own individual work. Plagiarism or cheating in any form may result in failure of the assignment or exam, failure of the course, and may include harsher sanctions. Academic misconduct is unacceptable. All work handed in for this class must be the students' own individual work. Plagiarism or cheating in any form may result in failure of the assignment or exam, failure of the course, and may include harsher sanctions. Refer to the Eagle Eye at <http://www.uwlax.edu/Student-Life/Student-handbook/#14.01> for a detailed definition of academic misconduct. For helpful information on how to avoid plagiarism, go to <http://www.uwlax.edu/catl/readiness/ethics.html>. You may also visit the Student Life Office if you have questions about plagiarism or cheating incidents. I encourage you to discuss any concerns regarding plagiarism or cheating with me directly and well before any assignments are handed in. Failure to understand what constitutes plagiarism or cheating is not a valid excuse for engaging in academic misconduct.

Communication about Class Interruptions

In the event of a campus incident that impacts the availability of teaching spaces, any changes or cancellations will be communicated to you via your university email. Depending on the incident, some or all of the information might be posted on the UWL home page.

Writing Center

The Writing Center, which is located in the Murphy Learning Center, provides trained peer tutors who can help you with any writing task (e.g., papers, proposals, research projects, summaries, reports, letters, application essays) at any stage of the process — understanding assignments, planning papers, organizing ideas, making revisions, improving sentences, using sources, etc. For current hours or to schedule an appointment, visit <http://www.uwlax.edu/writingcenter/>

Sociology as a Writing-in-the-Major Program

The Sociology major is a “writing-in-the-major” program (WIMP). The purpose behind the program is to insure that any undergraduate who completes a major in sociology has experienced sufficient informal and formal writing experiences so that graduates are proficient at communicating through a variety of formats. In all your sociology courses, you will be writing, and in each class, you may be asked to do a wide variety of types of writing. The department sees writing as an extremely important skill and as a mechanism to enhance student learning. In addition, you will learn the referencing and citation style used by archaeologists or sociologists. By completing the Sociology major, you will be completing the “writing emphasis” component of your general education requirements. The objectives of the writing-in-the-major program are available at <http://www.uwlax.edu/wimp/>. The student learning outcomes for Sociology major at UWL is available on the department webpage at <http://www.uwlax.edu/sociology/>.

Classroom Protocol

Coming to class late or leaving class early is disruptive and disrespectful. I expect students to be on time and ready for class. I expect that students will take care of personal needs such as getting a drink of water, going to the bathroom, etc. before or after class and not come and go while class is in session. On occasion, students must leave during a class, if you have to leave a class early, please let me know at the beginning of class and make a quiet exit. It is not necessary to inform me that you will not be attending a class unless arrangements need to be made to make up an assignment for that day.

All electronic devices should be silenced during class and put away. Phone calls, texting, email, internet use, MP3 players/iPod use, etc. are not acceptable within a classroom setting. Students who intentionally use prohibited electronics during class will be required to leave the classroom. Students who disrupt the classroom or other students' learning experience by talking or carrying on side conversations within the classroom will also be required to leave the classroom.

Assignments, papers, and exams must be completed and handed in on the appointed dates. I will not accept late assignments unless I determine the circumstances to be beyond the student's control. The instructor determines the acceptability of student absences. Students with authorized absences will be allowed to make up exams or papers within a reasonable time-period. Students who are going to be absent for more than 3 days should contact the Student Life Office at 149 Graff Main Hall, 785-8062 and notify them of your absence so that the university and all instructors are informed of your absence (they do not authorize absences).

Eagle Alert System

This class will be participating in the Eagle Alert System <https://www.uwlax.edu/academic-advising-center/eagle-alert/student-resources/> through WINGS. The system is designed to promote student success. If I notice that you are experiencing difficulties early in the semester (e.g., low assignment scores or limited participation), I may note this information and you will receive an email indicating that I have entered feedback. I may also enter positive feedback encouraging you to consider additional learning opportunities. The link in the email will take you to WINGS where you can login to see the feedback. I encourage you to meet with me and/or refer to the helpful campus resources listed below under Academic Services and Resources and on UWL's Student Success page <https://www.uwlax.edu/info/student-success/>.

Inclusive Excellence

UWL's core values include "Diversity, equity, and the inclusion and engagement of all people in a safe campus climate that embraces and respects the innumerable different perspectives found within an increasingly integrated and culturally diverse global community" (<https://www.uwlax.edu/chancellor/mission/>). If you are not experiencing my class in this manner, please come talk to me about your experiences so I can try to adjust the course if possible.

Name/Pronouns

Please advise me of your preferred name or gender pronoun(s) early in the semester so that I may make appropriate changes to my records. Information on UWL's preferred name policy is available here <https://www.uwlax.edu/records/preferred-name/> and UWL's Pride Center is available for additional assistance.

Student Evaluation of Instruction (SEI)

UWL conducts student evaluations electronically. Approximately 2 weeks prior to the conclusion of a course, you will receive an email at your UWL email address directing you to complete an evaluation for each of your courses. In-class time will be provided for students to complete the evaluation in class. Electronic reminders will be sent if you do not complete the evaluation. The evaluation will include numerical ratings and, depending on the department, may provide options for comments. The university takes student feedback very seriously and the information gathered from student evaluations is more valuable when a larger percentage of students complete the evaluation. Please be especially mindful to complete the surveys.

Academic Services and Resources at UWL

Below are several student services available to students taking online courses:

- Academic Advising Center: <http://www.uwlax.edu/advising/>
- ACCESS Center (formerly Disability Resources): <http://www.uwlax.edu/access-center/>
- Career Services: <http://www.uwlax.edu/careerservices/>
- Counseling and Testing Center: <http://www.uwlax.edu/counseling/>
- Financial Information: Financial Aid Office <https://www.uwlax.edu/finaid/> and It Makes Cents <https://www.uwlax.edu/it-makes-cents/>
- Murphy Learning Center (Walk-in tutoring): <http://www.uwlax.edu/murphy-learning-center/>
- Murphy Library: <http://www.uwlax.edu/murphylibrary/>
- Multicultural Student Services: <http://www.uwlax.edu/mss/>
- Public Speaking Center: <https://www.uwlax.edu/murphy-learning-center/subject/public-speaking-center/>
- Records and Registration: <http://www.uwlax.edu/records/>
- Student Handbook: <https://www.uwlax.edu/student-life/student-resources/student-handbook/>
- Student Support Services: <https://www.uwlax.edu/student-support-services/>
- Veteran Services: <http://www.uwlax.edu/veteran-services/>
- Writing Center: <http://www.uwlax.edu/writingcenter/>

Technical Support

For tips and information about D2L visit the Information Technology Services (ITS) student support page, at <http://www.uwlax.edu/D2L/Help-for-students/>.

Need help making sure your computer is set up correctly for online coursework? D2L's System Check <https://community.desire2learn.com/d2l/systemCheck> ensures that your computer and web browser are configured to properly access their system.

You can also contact the ITS Support Center at (608) 785-8774 or email them at helpdesk@uwlax.edu for questions about D2L or any other technological difficulties. The hours for ITS are Monday through Thursday from 7:30 am to 6:30 pm, and Friday from 7:30 am to 4:30 pm, Central Time.

Our Legal Obligations to You

See the following link of statements that reflect UWL's legal obligations to students: <https://www.uwlax.edu/info/syllabus/>