

Criminology (SOC 322)
Spring 2019
Tuesday 12:40-2:05 pm
Room: Wimberly Hall 137

Professor: Dr. P. Marina
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Office hours: 3:45 – 5:45 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. 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 crime in the inner city. 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.

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 exam includes multiple-choice, short answer, and/or essay questions. Tests cover 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.

In-Class Reading Presentations (50 Points) – Students will be given reading assignments to present in class each week. Students should write a one-page outline of each reading presentation to submit the last day of class. Each student will present about 3-5 reading assignments throughout the semester.

Oral Presentation and Final Paper (100 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 (3/12)	100
Exam II (5/13)	100
Theory application paper (Due 4/9)	50
In-Class Reading Presentations (Throughout semester)	50
Oral presentation and final paper (Due 5/13)	100
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 Canvas.

Week One (1/28 & 1/30): Introduction to Criminology and the Sociological Study of Crime

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Week Two (2/4 & 2/6): Measuring Crime and Criminological Theory

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

Part Two: Inventing Criminology: Classicism, Positivism, and Beyond (Read Ch. 3)

Week Three (2/11 & 2/13): Criminological Theory – Anomie to Human Ecology

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

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

Other Possible Topics: Comparing British and American Police; War on Drugs; The War on Drugs as a Huge Failure? Addiction

Week Four (2/18 & 2/20): Criminological Theory – Subcultural Theory to Labeling

Part One: Delinquent Subcultures and Labeling Perspective (Read Ch. 5)

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

Police Accountability; Film Clip and Class Discussion

Prosecutors and Crime; Video and Discussion on Prosecutors

Week Five (2/25 & 2/27): TBA

Week Six (3/3 & 3/5): Social Learning Theory, Control, Conflict Theory

Part One: Social Learning Theory, Control, Conflict Theory (Read Ch. 6)

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

Do Not Resist - Militarized Police in Ferguson

Do Not Resist – Raid

Week Seven (3/10 & 3/12): Exam Review (Tuesday) and Exam (Thursday)

Week Eight (3/17 & 3/19): Spring Break

Week Nine (3/24 & 3/26): Inequality, Crime, and Victimization

Part One: Inequality, Crime, and Victimization (Read Ch. 7)

Part Two: Stop and Frisk and Asset Forfeiture; Stop and Frisk NYC; Civil Forfeiture: John Oliver

Week Ten (3/31 & 4/2): The Age of Mass Incarceration

A critical look at the age of mass incarceration in the United States

Week Eleven (4/7 & 4/9): TBA

* Theory Application Paper Due (4/9)

Week: Twelve (4/14 & 4/16): The Criminological Imagination

The Criminological Imagination

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

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

Ch8. Subcultures as Magic: Problems of Urban Ethnography

* Informal Presentation on Theory Application Paper

Week Thirteen (4/21 & 4/23): Ethnography of Crime in the City

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

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

Week Fourteen (4/28 & 4/30): Student Oral Presentations on Criminological Theory

Part I: Final Comments on *The Criminological Imagination* and *In Search of Respect*

Part II: Student Oral Presentations

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

Student Oral Presentations/Conclusion

Final Paper Due 5/13

Exam Two: Wednesday, May 13 at 12:15-2:15pm

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).

PRO-UWL (Progress Report Online via Navigate)

This class will be participating in the Navigate Progress Report Online early alert system 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 notification indicating that I have entered feedback. I encourage you to meet with me and/or utilize helpful campus resources listed 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/>

Student Course- and Faculty-Related Concerns, Complaints, and Grievances

Informal Complaints: If a student has a concern or a complaint about a faculty member or course, the general process for making informal complaints is outlined in steps 1-3 below. Students are welcome to bring a friend or a UWL staff member with them during the following steps. Students who report concerns/complaints/grievances, whether informally or formally, will be protected from retaliation and have the right to expect an investigation and the option to have regular updates on the investigation:

1. The student should speak directly to the instructor.
2. If the student is uncomfortable speaking with the instructor, or they are unsatisfied with the solution, they should go to the chair of the faculty member's home department.
3. If the student is uncomfortable speaking with the department chair, or the chair is the faculty member in question, or they are unsatisfied with the solution, the student should speak with their college dean.

Depending on the specifics of the student's concern, it may be helpful for them to reach out to additional offices:

- Complaints/concerns/grievances about grades, teaching performance, course requirements, course content, incivility, or professional ethics should follow the process outlined above. Students may also wish to seek support from the Student Life office.
- Complaints/concerns/grievances related to hate/bias and discrimination may follow the process outlined above, and in addition or instead students may contact the Campus Climate office and/or submit a hate/bias incident report.
- Complaints/concerns/grievances related to sexual misconduct may begin with the process outlined above, but will need to also involve the Equity & Affirmative Action and Violence Prevention offices, and/or the Title IX Team. Students should know that faculty members are mandatory reporters of sexual misconduct, but that confidential resources are available to them.

Formal Complaints: If the student is unsatisfied with the solution of their informal complaint, they have the right to file a formal institutional complaint with the Student Life office, as described in the Student Handbook.