

Sociology 372: Criminology **Fall 2011**

Class Information

Classroom: Applied Science & Arts 118
Tues, Thurs: 12:35 – 1:50

Instructor Information

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Office Hours:

Tuesday: 2:00pm – 6:00pm
Thursday: 2:00pm – 4:00pm
and by appointment only

I am unable to meet before 12pm any day of the week or on Fridays. The best way to contact me is via e-mail.

Overview:

In this mixed format class involving lectures, videos, small group work, and discussions, students will be introduced to the major concepts and ideas that sociologists and criminologists use as they study crime and the social world. By the end of the term, the students should be able to:

- a) Demonstrate knowledge of basic sociological concepts about social processes (e.g., socialization, deviance, social control, and stratifications by class, gender, and race) and social institutions (e.g., the family, religion, and the state)
- b) Summarize theoretical and explanatory arguments in criminology
- c) Apply these arguments to contemporary events
- d) Display knowledge of cultural, class, religious, and other differences within and between societies
- e) Develop a general understanding of methods that criminologists use to answer their research questions
- f) Understand how sociologists and criminologists study crime
- g) Know definitions and types of crime
- h) Become familiar with theories that attempt to explain crime, particularly crimes in the U.S.

Throughout this course, students will be asked to critically analyze historical, contemporary, biological, individual, and societal explanations of crime.

Students will gain their knowledge from lectures and through course readings, writing, group work, group presentations, practical applications using real data, and critical discussions. Students will develop key skills that they can apply and use outside of the class, become critical thinkers by learning to think outside the box, and become self-directed learners.

Required Course Materials:

Barkan, Steven. 2009. *Criminology: A Sociological Understanding 4th Edition*. Columbia, Ohio: Pearson Prentice Hall.

Blackboard: You may access Blackboard via SalukiNet or mycourses.siu.edu
Check blackboard for grades, assigned articles, and updates on the syllabus or anything pertaining to this class on a regular basis (e.g., class cancellation, homework). If you do not find this class under Blackboard, see the instructor ASAP.

Course Requirements:

Class Participation	=	250 points
Paper Topic	=	20 points
Research Paper	=	100 points
Exams (3)	=	300 points
TOTAL	=	670 points

Grading Scale:

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

Class Participation (250 pts)

Your class participation grade comes from answering questions, participating in discussions, in-class assignments, announced and unannounced quizzes, etc. In this class, (especially during class discussions and activities) you are expected to show respect for your fellow students. Although we may not always agree on the issue, we must listen and respond to others with politeness. Those who are unable to show respect for their fellow students and/or the Instructor WILL be asked to leave the class. Serious displays of disrespect to both students and the Instructor will be reported to the appropriate SIUC Administrators (e.g., Department Chair, SIUC University Police, and/or SIUC Judicial Affairs). In extreme cases of disrespect and potential harm to the students and/or the Instructor will result in telling the (disrespectful) student(s) to not return to class until the appropriate school officials have investigated and approved the (disrespectful) student(s)' return to class.

A major portion of your class participation comes from the group presentation, worth **100 points**. All the members of the group may or may not receive the same grade so it is up to the students to figure out what task each student will take on and how the presentation will be executed. In some cases, not all students will put in the same amount of work for the presentation, and if that is the case, please bring it to my attention ASAP so that everyone will be graded fairly. Before you start your presentation, provide me with all the students' names in your group and their tasks; only one per group. All the members of the group must speak during the presentation; those who do not speak during the presentation will lose points (one member of the group cannot do all or most of the speaking). For example:

Nisha wrote the summary for article one

James wrote the summary for article two

Lena put the power points together for both articles and she worked on what each of us will speak about during the presentation

Linda did not come to any of the group meetings and she did not contribute to the presentation

Luke showed up for the first group meeting but he did not contribute to putting the presentation together or the article summaries

Nisha, James, and Lena worked on the questions to ask the audience

I will assign the group members (2-4 per group). I suggest that you use power point but don't read off of the power point. Email me your abstract (150 words) which summarizes each of the articles or chapter, and make sure you are able to answer the following questions:

What is the article about? How does the article tie in with a particular chapter and/or concepts we learned in class? How is a particular theory illustrated in this article? Do you have any concerns about the article, such as with its validity or reliability? Do you think the researchers correctly measured their variables? Are the variables appropriate for their research question? What is the researchers' recommended future direction? What is it about the article that stood out to you and why? What are the limitations of the article? Ask the audience 3 to 4 critical thinking/ discussion questions (not questions that require a yes or a no answer or short answers).

Some students will present on chapters from the textbook. For these chapters, focus on: What is the chapter about? What are the main concepts? What are the data? What should we be getting out of this chapter? Ask the audience a few questions. What are the limitations? Do you agree or disagree with the information from the chapter and why? Be ready to answer questions about the reading from the audience.

Email the abstract of the article or the chapter to me at nvisagar@siu.edu by 6pm the day of your presentation (**20pts of the 100 pts**). Check for grammar and spelling before you turn in your abstracts. The presentation should last at least 30 minutes for each article and about 1 hour and 15 minutes for each chapter, so be thorough and clear with your presentation but don't read directly from the article or the chapter. Be ready to answer questions about the reading from the audience.

If you feel that you don't understand the material taught in class, please let the Instructor know ahead of time. I advise that you make an appointment with the Instructor so that you don't get behind in class.

Class Attendance

Class attendance is required! Although I do not provide a grade for class attendance, a student may NOT make up any in-class work (e.g., pop quizzes, group work, individual/group presentation, etc.) unless the student provides a university approved excuse with documentation. Excused absences require documentation of personal illness, family emergency, or other unforeseen circumstance, and left up to the discretion of the Instructor. If a student is absent due to school events (athletics, band, conference), it is the responsibility of the student to inform and provide proper documentation ahead of the event. If you have an excused absence on an exam day or a day when an assignment is due, contact the Instructor for make-up assignment or make-up exam. It is best to always let the Instructor know ahead of time when you will be absent and provide documentation for an excused absence. Furthermore, it is the student's responsibility to sign in on the attendance sheet to acquire any extra credit (seldom) offered in class. In cases where you "forgot" to sign in or you came in late and did not get a "chance" to sign in, you will NOT get the points. Students who leave early (i.e., right after a quiz, in the middle of the class, before class is dismissed) without the Instructor's consent will get an unexcused absence and will not receive credit for any work that was turned in that day (which includes extra credit). Your best bet is to come on time to class and leave when dismissed.

Paper Topic (20 points): Turn in a written copy of the topic on the due date at the beginning of class (see tentative schedule).

Research Paper (100 pts):

Each student is responsible for writing a 8-10 page research paper (APA format, double-spaced, Times New Roman font, 1 inch margins). First, decide on a topic in criminology you would like to study. Second, decide on a criminological theory that researchers used to test your research questions. Use one criminological theory as a framework to explain/test the research question. The topic must focus on a particular crime or a social problem related to crime, and the Instructor must approve the topic. Conduct a literature review on your topic. In other words, what are the findings for your topic from previous studies? What theory are you focusing on and how has theory been used to test the research questions? What are the findings? Provide a DISCUSSION of the findings; do you agree or disagree and why? Provide evidence to support your answer/discussion. What are the limitations? What are the implications? What questions do the researchers suggest that researchers should focus on in the future? The Instructor will provide a rubric on Blackboard by the middle of the semester.

Do not use too many quotations; instead, paraphrase and provide in-text citation. Students are required to attach a reference page that includes scholarly references. These sources should be appropriately cited within the body of the paper and in the bibliography using APA 6th Edition format. Make sure you use peer-reviewed journals; do NOT use Wikipedia. The paper will also be graded on grammar, punctuation, organization, spelling, APA format, and flow. I recommend that you go to the Writing Center to edit your paper. I will post a grading rubric on Blackboard closer to the due date. When you turn in your research paper, attach the grading rubric to the front of your paper with your first and last name.

Plagiarism is unacceptable and students who plagiarize will receive 0 points for the assignment. Additionally, plagiarism may result in the student's failure of this course and possible referral to the Student Judicial Board or other administrative officials. Do not use anyone else's words or work without giving proper credit to that source!

Examinations (300 pts):

Each examination will be worth 100 points toward your final grade. The first two exams will be given during class time, and the final exam will be given on the date and time determined by the university. The questions will consist of a combination of multiple choice, true/false, short and/or long answer essay questions. Material from your texts, in-class lectures, discussions, debates, media, and other assigned readings (e.g., articles posted on Blackboard) are fair game for the exam. The final exam will **NOT** be comprehensive.

PLEASE BRING TO MY ATTENTION ANY DIFFICULTIES YOU MAY HAVE REGARDING TEST-TAKING OR WRITING ABILITY. IF YOU REQUIRE THE AID OF *DSS* FOR TEST TAKING, PROPER DOCUMENTATION MUST BE PROVIDED BY THE FOURTH WEEK OF THE FALL SEMESTER (2009).

Tentative Schedule

Complete the scheduled readings prior to class. Students will present on readings that are *italicized*.

August 23: Syllabus and introduction to criminology

August 25: Criminology and the Sociological Perspectives (Ch.1)

August 30: Criminology and the Sociological Perspectives (Ch. 1)

Read: "Sociological Perspectives and The Scientific Method - A Brief Intro"

September 1: Public Opinion, the News Media, and the Crime Problem (Ch. 2)

September 5: Labor Day

September 6: Public Opinion, the News Media, and the Crime Problem (Ch. 2)

September 8: The Measurement and Patterning of Criminal Behavior (Ch. 3)

September 13: Victims and Victimization (Ch. 4); **Research paper topic due (20 points)**

September 15: Victims and Victimization (Ch. 4)

September 20: *Read: Explaining Crime (Ch.5)*

September 22:

Read: "Classical and Positivist School in Crim"

Read: "The Born Criminal"

Read: "Essays on Crime and Punishment (Beccaria)"

Exam I review

September 27: Exam I (1- Ch. 1 - Ch. 5); Bring a #2 pencil.

September 29: Sociological Theories: Emphasis on Social Structure (Ch. 6)

Read: "Broken Windows"

October 4: Sociological Theories: Emphasis on Social Structure (Ch. 6)

Read: "Foundations for a General Strain Theory of Crime and Delinquency"

October 6: Sociological Theories: Emphasis on Social Process (Ch. 7)

Fall Break: Oct 8, 2011 – Oct 11, 2011

All Breaks begin officially at 10:00 p.m. the night before and end at 7:30 a.m. the morning after the respective beginning and ending dates listed, unless otherwise noted.

October 13: Sociological Theories: Critical Perspectives (Ch. 8)

Read: "Social Learning Theory"

Read: "Control Theory and The Life Course Perspectives"

October 18: Sociological Theories: Critical Perspectives (Ch. 8)

Read: "Reflected Appraisals, Parental Labeling, and Delinquency"

October 20: Violent Crimes: Homicide, Assault, and Robbery (Ch. 9)

Read: "Code of the Streets"

October 25: Violence against Women and Children (Ch. 10)

October 27: Bring a rough draft (printed copy) of your research paper to work on during class. Do not bring your laptop, notebook, or any other electronic devices to use during class. Peer review (30 points); a list of questions will be provided in class.

November 1: Violence against Women and Children (Ch. 10)

Read: "Convicted Rapists' Vocabulary of Motive: Excuses and Justification"

November 3: Feminist Criminology

November 8: Feminist Criminology

Read: "Feminism and Criminology"; Exam II Review

November 10: Exam II (Ch.6 – Feminist criminology); Bring a #2 pencil

November 11: Veterans Day

November 17: *Read: "Trends in Women's Crime"*

Read: "Doing Gender: Sorting out the Caste and Crime Conundrum"

Read: "Gender Strategies for Girls and Gangs"

November 22: Property crime: Economic crimes by the poor (Ch.11). **Research papers are due at the beginning of class** (late assignments will not be accepted regardless of any "technical difficulties" or other excuses. Do not email me your paper and you can always turn in your research paper prior to November 22);

November 23 – November 27: Thanksgiving Break

November 29: *Read: White-Collar and Organized Crime (Ch. 12)*

December 1: Consensual Crime (Ch. 14)

December 3: *Read: Policing: Dilemmas of Crime Control in a Democratic Society (Ch. 15)*

December 6: Prosecution and punishment (Ch.16)

December 8: Review for final exam; TBA

December 12 – December 17: Exam 3 is the final exam. Your final exam will be given on December 16, 2011 from 12:50pm to 2:50pm in the classroom. Students who come in late (i.e., after the first student has turned in his/her final exam) will receive a zero for the final exam. The final Exam is NOT comprehensive.

THIS COURSE SYLLABUS IS SUBJECT TO CHANGE – STUDENTS WILL BE GIVEN IN-CLASS NOTICE OF ANY SYLLABUS CHANGE (check Blackboard)

*No use of any electronic devices during class (these include but are **not limited to:** iPods, cell phones, laptops, iPads, cd/MP3 players, etc.). Turn off your cell phone or put it on silent when you enter class. If you are on call due to work, let the Instructor know at the beginning of the class. Do not read newspapers, magazines, materials/homework for other classes, etc. during class time. It is in your best interest to pay attention in class, take notes, read ahead, do not miss any quizzes, exams, or other assignments, and participate or ask questions to do well in this class.

Emergency Procedures:

Southern Illinois University Carbondale is committed to providing a safe and healthy environment for study and work. Because some health and safety circumstances are beyond our control, we ask that you become familiar with the SIUC Emergency Response Plan and Building Emergency Response Team (BERT) program. Emergency response information is available on posters in buildings on campus, available on the BERT's website at www.bert.siu.edu, Department of Public Safety's website www.dps.siu.edu (disaster drop down) and in the Emergency Response Guidelines pamphlet. Know how to respond to each type of emergency.

Instructors will provide guidance and direction to students in the classroom in the event of an emergency affecting your location. It is important that you follow these instructions and stay with your instructor during an evacuation or sheltering emergency. The Building Emergency Response Team will provide assistance to your instructor in evacuating the building or sheltering within the facility.