

Fall 2013
SOCI 4432: CRIMINOLOGY
T/TH 11:00-12:15
Room 370, Burruss Building

Professor: Dr. Jennifer McMahon-Howard

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Office Hours: T/TH 9:30-10:30 or by appointment.

Prerequisite: CRJU 1101 or SOCI 2201

Course Description:

This course provides an overview of theory and practice, the nature and cause of crime, and the etiology of criminal offenses and offenders. First, we will focus on the nature and extent of crime. We will start by establishing a definition of crime and exploring different methods of studying and measuring crime. Then, we will examine different types of crime (i.e., violent crime, property crime, etc.) in more depth. During the second part of the course, we will explore different theoretical perspectives on the causes of crime. To critically evaluate each of the theories of crime, we will review empirical tests of the theories and apply the theories to current situations and events. Then, we will spend the last week of class examining how the criminal justice system responds to crime.

Course Objectives:

- (1) To provide students with a basic understanding of the study of crime (i.e., how crime is defined, classified, and measured) and the characteristics of specific offenses, criminals, and victims.
- (2) To explore and critique different theoretical perspectives on the causes of crime and to apply these theoretical perspectives to real-life events.
- (3) To enhance the students' ability to think critically about criminological issues and to communicate their knowledge and assessment to others.

Required Readings: Criminology: The Core (4th edition) by Larry Siegel.
Course Reserve (CR) Articles (see course outline)
**Note: Since we will be reading articles based on qualitative interviews with criminal offenders, some of these articles may contain offensive language.*

Course Materials: All students are expected to purchase the textbook assigned for this class, Criminology: The Core (4th edition) by Larry Siegel. The textbook is available for purchase at the university bookstore. All other assigned readings will be available electronically through the library's course reserves. To locate the course reserves, go to <https://kennesaw.ares.atlas-sys.com/>. Then, login with your NetID and password. You may have to create an ares account if you have not done so already. Click on "search classes" and you can search by instructor or course. To access the articles for this class, you will have to enter the following class password: **MJS8QKPRU**.

Other course material (i.e., the syllabus, assignments, etc.) can be found on the **D2L** page for this course. In addition to using D2L to receive such assignments and announcements, you should use D2L to communicate with me and/or your classmates by posting comments and questions on discussion boards.

Class Format: The format for each class will consist of a mixture of lecture, discussion, and group activities. Although the lectures will correspond with the assigned readings, students should not rely solely on the lectures to teach all of the material covered in the readings. Students should come to class prepared to ask questions about the readings and to participate in all discussions and activities.

Course Requirements:

(1) **Attendance:** Class attendance is required and will affect your final grade in the following way:

0 - 1 days missed = 2 points added to final grade
2 - 3 days missed = no grade change
4 days missed = 2 points subtracted from final grade
5 or more days missed = 4 points subtracted from final grade

Attendance will be taken every day by passing around an attendance sheet. It is your responsibility to make sure you sign the attendance sheet. If you will miss class due to a scheduled University Sponsored Event, let me know during the first week of class (documentation may be required). For all other excused absences (i.e., death of an immediate family member, serious illness, etc.), you must provide documentation (i.e., a doctor's note regarding illness) on the day that you return to class.

(2) **Class Participation (10%):** Students are expected to come to each class fully prepared to discuss the assigned readings and complete in-class activities/assignments/quizzes. Therefore, students should complete all assigned readings *prior* to class. Active participation in class discussions is assessed during each class - see the class discussions grading rubric (0-100 points) on D2L for a detailed explanation for the assessment of participation in class discussions. Since we will be discussing and debating a number of controversial issues in criminology, it is important to point out that students are expected to treat each other with respect at all times. All students should feel comfortable to express their thoughts and to question and critique arguments brought up by others. Students will not be penalized for disagreeing with or questioning points brought up by the professor; however, all arguments and critiques must be based on empirical evidence and logical reasoning (i.e., make sure to base your comments off of the readings assigned for the class). **In addition to class discussions, class participation will be assessed by completion of in-class assignments (10 points each) and (if necessary) by performance on pop quizzes (10 points each).** There will be no make-ups for in-class assignments and quizzes, unless you contact the professor prior to class and you provide documentation for an excused absence on the day that you return to class. Thus, **your grade for class participation will be determined by the total points earned for class discussion and all in-class assignments and quizzes, divided by the total possible points for discussion and assignments/quizzes.**

(3) Assignments (15% each): Students must complete **two** assignments for this class.

Assignment 1 (15%): For the first assignment, students have the choice (1A or 1B) to write either a/an:

- A. Article Summary and Integration Paper (**Assignment 1A**): a 3-5 page paper summarizing one of the course reserve articles and integrating the article with information from the assigned textbook chapter; or
- B. Theory Application Paper (**Assignment 1B**): a 3-5 page paper that explains an assigned criminological theory and applies that theory to a documentary about a criminal offender.

Students must read and follow the detailed instructions for the Article Summary and Integration Paper (Assignment 1A) and the Theory Application Paper (Assignment 1B) that are posted on D2L in the Assignments folder. Also, students must select and sign up for an article or theory by the end of the first week of class. **The paper is due on the day of class when we will be discussing the particular article or theory (see dates on the course schedule). Papers must be submitted to the Dropbox on D2L by the beginning of class on the day that it is due.** If the paper is not submitted by the beginning of class, there will be a 10-point penalty for each day (24 hour period) that it is submitted late. NOTE: Dropbox includes a plagiarism detection program.

Assignment 2 (15%): Debate. For the second assignment, all students must participate in an in-class debate. **Students must read and follow the detailed debate instructions posted on D2L in the Assignments folder.** There will be 4 organized debates that will take place in-class on 12/03 and 12/05. **Each student must sign up to participate in one of these in-class debates (sign-ups will take place after the mid-point of the semester to make sure that we have even teams).** For each debate, there will be two debate teams. One team will serve as the Affirmative, arguing in favor of a particular policy or issue, and the other team will serve as the Negative, arguing in opposition to the policy or issue. Each student is expected to independently research both sides of the issue, participate in online discussions with your debate team, summarize one peer-reviewed article that supports your side of the debate, meet with your team to prepare the case, and debate the issue (along with your teammates) in front of the class. **Your grade for the debate will be based on your team's performance in the debate (50% of the grade), your team members' evaluation of your contributions to the preparation and participation in the debate (25% of the grade), and the professor's assessment of your postings in the online discussion board (25% of the grade).** Note: At least one of your posts in the online discussion board will be **a 3-5 paragraph summary of a peer-reviewed article, which is due by 11am on November 19 and you must submit your article summary in your group discussion board and in the Dropbox folder on D2L** [Dropbox includes a plagiarism detection program.] If the article summary is not submitted by 11am on the due date, there will be a 10-point penalty for each day (24 hour period) that it is submitted late. *Note: All students must be in class on both debate days. Those who are not debating serve as the debate audience and will vote on the debate winner. If you are not in class for all of the debates, 10 points will be deducted from your final debate grade.*

(4) Exams (20% each): There are **three exams** for this course. Each exam makes up 20 percent of your final grade. Each exam may consist of multiple choice and short answer questions from the readings and lectures preceding each exam. Make-up exams will be given at the discretion of the professor and only under certain circumstances (i.e., serious illness or family emergency). To be considered eligible for a make-up exam, students must contact the professor *prior to* the originally scheduled exam time and provide documentation for their excused absence on the day that they return to class. Note: Make-up exams may be essay exams.

Grades and Evaluation

Grades for the course will be based on the following items:

Participation	10%
Assignments	30%
Exams	60%
Total	100%
Attendance	+ 2, +1, 0, -2, -5

Grading Scale:

A	90 and above
B	80 – 89.9
C	70 – 79.9
D	60 – 69.9
F	59.9 and below

A withdrawal after the midpoint withdrawal deadline (**October 11**) will result in a grade of WF.

Grade Disputes / Student Complaints:

Grades are earned, not given, in this class. Therefore, I do not negotiate grades. If a student wishes to dispute a grade or raise a complaint about the class, they must follow the steps listed below (in order):

1. Write an explanation of the grade dispute or complaint – include what you are disputing/complaining about, why, and what you think needs to be done to remedy the situation. Please write in complete sentences, use proper grammar, type this explanation, and give it directly to your professor.
2. After your professor has reviewed your dispute/complaint, you must meet with your professor to try to come to a mutual agreement about what (if anything) needs to be done.
3. If you and the professor cannot come to a mutual agreement, then the professor will set up an appointment for you and the professor to meet with the Chair of the Department of Sociology and Criminal Justice to try to reach a resolution.

Course Policies:

Electronic Devices: Students may use laptops, ipads, or other tablets for note-taking purposes only. Any other use of electronic devices must be approved in advance by the instructor. Please note, however, that the instructor reserves the right to periodically check the note-taking progress of the students who opt to take notes electronically. Also, if other classmates complain that you are using your device for other purposes (i.e., reading/writing emails, surfing the web, facebook, twitter, etc.), then you will no longer be allowed to use your device in class as this can be very distracting to your classmates. Cell phone use is not permitted in the classroom and texting in class will not be tolerated – students who text in class will be asked to leave immediately.

Arriving Late / Leaving Early: Students who arrive to class late and/or leave class early often cause a disruption to the class. Therefore, students who are more than 10 minutes late to class are not permitted to enter the class (you will be instructed to leave if you do). Also, students who leave class more than 10 minutes early will be counted as absent. This policy, however, is not meant to provide students with permission to arrive or leave 10 minutes early/late. Students who arrive late and/or leave early more than 3 times will earn an absence.

Extra Credit: The professor may provide extra credit opportunities throughout the semester *for the entire class*. There will be no extra credit assignments offered to individual students.

Disabilities:

Students with a documented disability should meet with the instructor during the first week of class to discuss any special classroom or testing accommodations needed. Also, a number of services are available to help students with disabilities with their academic work. In order to make arrangements for special services, students must visit the Office for disAbled Student Support Services and make an appointment to arrange an individual assistance plan. In most cases, certification of disability is required.

Academic Integrity Statement

Every KSU student is responsible for upholding the provisions of the Student Code of Conduct, as published in the Undergraduate and Graduate Catalogs. Section II of the Student Code of Conduct addresses the University's policy on academic honesty, including provisions regarding plagiarism and cheating, unauthorized access to University materials, misrepresentation/falsification of University records or academic work, malicious removal, retention, or destruction of library materials, malicious/intentional misuse of computer facilities and/or services, and misuse of student identification cards. Incidents of alleged academic misconduct will be handled through the established procedures of the University Judiciary Program, which includes either an "informal" resolution by a faculty member, resulting in a grade adjustment, or a formal hearing procedure, which may subject a student to the Code of Conduct's minimum one semester suspension requirement.

Disruption of Campus Life Statement

It is the purpose of the institution to provide a campus environment, which encourages academic accomplishment, personal growth, and a spirit of understanding and cooperation. An important part of maintaining such an environment is the commitment to protect the health and safety of every member of the campus community. Belligerent, abusive, profane, threatening and/ or inappropriate behavior on the part of students is a violation of the Kennesaw State University Student Conduct Regulations. Students who are found guilty of such misconduct may be subject to immediate dismissal from the institution. In addition, these violations of state law may also be subject to criminal action beyond the University disciplinary process.

Tentative Course Outline

The purpose of the course outline is to assist you in preparing for each class. The schedule and content of the course outline may change as deemed necessary by the instructor. Deviations from the schedule will be announced in class and students are responsible for keeping up with all schedule changes.

Date	Topic	Assigned Readings
8/20	Course Introduction	Syllabus, Participation in Class Discussion, and All Assignment Instructions (all are available on D2L)
8/22	Defining Crime	<u>Criminology</u> , Ch. 1
8/27	Measuring Crime / Crime Rates	<u>Criminology</u> , Ch. 2
8/29	Crime Rates (cont)	
9/03	Violent Crime	<u>Criminology</u> , Ch. 10 (254-265) CR: <i>Convicted Rapists' Vocabulary of Motive</i>
9/05	Violent Crime (cont)	<u>Criminology</u> , Ch. 10 (265-288); CR: <i>Serial Killers</i>
9/10	Property Crimes	<u>Criminology</u> , Ch. 11 (294-306) CR: <i>The Thrill of It All</i>
9/12	Property Crimes (cont)	<u>Criminology</u> , Ch. 11 (306-310) CR: <i>Decision Strategies of Residential Burglars</i>
9/17	Public Order Crimes	<u>Criminology</u> , Ch. 13 (350-365) CR: <i>The Second Step in Double Jeopardy: Appropriating the Labor of Female Street Hustlers</i>
9/19	Public Order Crimes (cont)	<u>Criminology</u> , Ch. 13 (365-378) CR: <i>The Drugs-Crime Connection Among Stable Addicts</i>
09/24	Exam 1	Chapters (1-2; 10, 11, 13) CR Articles
9/26	Enterprise Crime	<u>Criminology</u> , Ch. 12 (316-339) CR: <i>Denying the Guilty Mind: Accounting for Involvement in White Collar Crime</i>
10/01	Enterprise Crime (cont)	<u>Criminology</u> , Ch. 12 (339-345) CR: <i>The "Myth of Organization" of International Drug Smugglers</i>
10/03	Victims and Victimization	<u>Criminology</u> , Ch. 3 CR: <i>From Victims to Survivors to Offenders</i> CR: <i>Criminal Victimization During One's Life Course</i>
10/08	Victims and Victimization (cont)	
10/10	Choice Theory	<u>Criminology</u> , Ch. 4 CR: <i>A Descriptive Model of the Hunting Process of Serial Sex Offenders: A Rational Choice Perspective</i>

**** 10/11 Last Day to Withdraw Without Academic Penalty**

Date	Topic	Assigned Readings
10/15	Trait Theory - Biological	<u>Criminology</u> , Ch. 5 (108-119)
10/17	Trait Theory - Psychological	<u>Criminology</u> , Ch. 5 (119-132) CR: <i>Maternal Infanticide Associated with Mental Illness</i>
10/22	Exam 2	Siegel Chapters 12, 3, 4, and 5 CR Article
10/24	Social Structure Theories	<u>Criminology</u> , Ch. 6 (136-157)
10/29	Social Structure Theories (cont)	<u>Criminology</u> , Ch. 6 (157-163) CR: <i>Code of the Street: Campaigning for Respect</i>
10/31	Social Process Theories	<u>Criminology</u> , Ch. 7 (168-180) CR: <i>A Test of Social Learning and Intergenerational Transmission Among Batterers</i>
11/05	Social Process Theories (cont)	<u>Criminology</u> , Ch. 7 (180-194) CR: <i>An Examination of Differential Association and Social Control Theory</i>
11/07	VIDEO	
11/12	Developmental Theories	<u>Criminology</u> , Ch. 9 (226-236) CR: <i>Pathways Out of Crime</i>
11/14	Developmental Theories (cont)	<u>Criminology</u> , Ch. 9 (236-248) CR: <i>Self-Control, Violent Offending, and Homicide Victimization</i>
11/19	ARTICLE SUMMARY DUE Meet with your debate teams (no class)	<i>You must submit your article summary in your group discussion board AND in the Dropbox.</i> (Note: Dr. Howard will be attending the American Society of Criminology Conference)
11/21	Meet with your debate teams (no class)	(Note: Dr. Howard will be attending the American Society of Criminology Conference)
11/26	Exam 3	Siegel Chapters 6, 7, and 9 Course Reserve Articles
11/28	NO CLASS	Fall Break
12/03	DEBATES 1 & 2	
12/05	FINAL EXAM TIME: 10:30-12:30 DEBATES 3 & 4	Fall 2013 Final Exam Schedule: http://www.kennesaw.edu/registrar/documents/fall_2013_final_exams.pdf

COURSE SYLLABUS REVIEW STATEMENT AND SIGNATURE FORM

I have carefully read the syllabus for Criminology, Fall Semester 2013, and have had the opportunity to ask the professor any questions I may have about it. I understand its contents, including the course requirements and grading policy.

Print Name

Signature

Date