

SOCI 4432: CRIMINOLOGY

KENNESAW STATE UNIVERSITY/FALL 2015

F 8:00 AM - 10:45 AM/SO 2025

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OFFICE HOURS: MW 1:00 - 3:00 PM, F 10:45 - 11:45, and by appointment

SYLLABUS

This course emphasizes the need to understand the social causes of criminal behavior in order to be able to significantly reduce crime. The three main components of the course are criminal behavior, explaining crime (which is the definition of criminology), and preventing crime through research-based policies.

The prevailing “get tough on crime” policies in the U.S. since the Seventies have led to a prison boom and a prison population of 2.3 million. But incarceration is a poor way to reduce crime considering that most prisoners will one day be returned to their communities. Will they have improved skills for employment? Will their prison terms prepare them with improved attitudes and behaviors? Far better to understand the causes of crime and use that knowledge to promote policies that will prevent crime in the first place, rather than simply punish it after the fact.

Sociology is the study of human social interaction. Criminology is a subset of sociology that focuses on criminal social interaction. Criminal justice majors planning for careers in the criminal justice system will benefit from gaining an understanding of the causes of crime in order to play a positive role in preventing crime as opposed to simply punishing crime.

Course Objectives:

Upon completion of the course you should:

- 1) have a basic understanding of the main theories (explanations) of crime, and
- 2) be able to think critically, communicate effectively, and demonstrate skills in evaluating crime policies in light of the research testing these theories.

REQUIRED TEXT

Criminology: A Sociological Understanding, 5E

Steven E. Barkan (2012) Prentice Hall

FILMS

TBA – We may interrupt the regular schedule of lectures and discussions to watch documentaries at some point.

SCHEDULE (subject to change)

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| | FRIDAY |
| WEEK 1 | August 21 Introduction - Chapter 1 |
| WEEK 2 | August 28 Chapters 2 and 3 |
| WEEK 3 | September 4 Chapters 3 and 4 |
| WEEK 4 | September 11 EXAM ONE (IN-CLASS) - ESSAYS ONE DUE Chapters 5 and 6 |
| WEEK 5 | September 18 Chapter 7 |
| WEEK 6 | September 25 Chapter 8 |
| WEEK 7 | October 2 Chapter 9 |
| WEEK 8 | October 9 EXAM TWO (IN-CLASS) - ESSAYS TWO DUE Chapter 10 |
| WEEK 9 | October 16 Chapters 10 and 11 |
| WEEK 10 | October 23 Chapters 12 and 13 |
| WEEK 11 | October 30 Chapters 13 and 14 |
| WEEK 12 | November 6 EXAM THREE (IN-CLASS) Chapter 15 |

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| WEEK 13 | November 13 Chapter 16 |
| WEEK 14 | November 20 Chapter 17 |
| WEEK 15 | November 27 FALL BREAK - NO CLASS |
| WEEK 16 | December 4 <i>Chapter 18 -- ONLINE ASSIGNMENT</i> |
| FINAL EXAM | DECEMBER 11 (10:30 - 12:30 AM) IN CLASS FINAL ESSAY EXAM FOUR FINAL ESSAYS DUE |

EVALUATION

Your grade will be based on:

- 1) Four in-class, open-book/open-notes, multiple-choice exams, and
- 2) Three take-home essay exams.

You will receive a handout with the questions and the format for each set of essays, along with Turnitin.com instructions.

Exam One will be worth 100 points (50 points each M.C. and essay).

Exam Three will be worth 100 points (M.C.).

Exams Two and Four will be worth 150 points each (100 points M.C. and 50 points essay).

CLASS TOTAL: 500 points

The grading scale is:

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

POLICIES

1) ATTENDANCE

If you ever have to miss class, make sure to get the notes for the lecture you missed from a fellow student. If you have a university-sanctioned reason to miss an exam, such as an athletic event, you must notify me in advance in order to make-up the exam, preferably prior to the regularly scheduled time. **If you are sick, you must let me know the day of the exam, assignment, or exercise in order to qualify for making up the work.**

2) PERSONAL ELECTRONIC DEVICES

There is no use of cell phones for texting while in class. Phones should be turned off. You must discuss with me any reason you need to keep your phone on vibrate to receive a call, otherwise it will be considered a violation. Laptops may be used ONLY for note-taking. This will be monitored.

3) INTEGRITY

It is your responsibility to maintain academic integrity as specified in the KSU Student Code of Conduct. Do not cheat or plagiarize, and do not aid and abet others in cheating or plagiarizing. My policy for a first offense is that if you are caught cheating or helping a fellow student cheat your grade for that assignment may be a ZERO. Any subsequent infractions may result in your expulsion from the course with an F, and a referral to the University Administration for further sanctions.

4) ACCOMMODATIONS

Any student requiring accommodations or services due to a disability must contact Disabled Student Support Services in the Student Development Center: 770-423-6443, or e-mail Nastassia Sanabria at nsanabria@kennesaw.edu. The office is located in the Student Center, Building 5, Room 267. I will work with the student and the Center to make a reasonable accommodation for testing once verification has been provided to me by the office.

5) ADVISING

The College of Humanities and Social Sciences is pleased to offer academic advising to students in the Undergraduate Advising Center (UAC). The UAC is located in Willingham Hall, Room 223. Their hours are Monday - Friday 9 am - 6 pm. Students are strongly encouraged to make appointment by using the website, or by calling the Center during office hours at 770-794-7728. For more information, visit the UAC website: <http://www.kennesaw.edu/hssadvising/home.php>."