

SOCI 4432: CRIMINOLOGY

Fall 2015

T/R 9:30-10:45

Room 2030, Social Sciences Building

Professor: Dr. Jennifer McMahon-Howard

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Office Hours: T/R 11:00-12:00 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 (5th 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 (5th edition) by Larry Siegel. The 5th edition has some new material that is not included in older editions so you will need to purchase this specific edition. 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: ----
Other course material (i.e., the syllabus, assignments, etc.) can be found on the **D2L** page for this course.

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. Quizzes will be taken online in D2L, but exams will be taken in the classroom.

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 = 1 point subtracted from final grade for each day missed

*Attendance will be taken regularly by passing around an attendance sheet. **It is your responsibility to make sure you sign the attendance sheet.** Signing another student in or asking another student to sign you in is an act of academic dishonesty. If you will have an excused absence due to a scheduled University Sponsored Event, let me know during the first week of class (documentation is required). Other excused absences are recognized only for the following: serious illness or hospitalization, death of a close relative, or a court appearance. Students must provide documentation to the professor on the first day the student returns to class for ALL excused absences.*

(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. Therefore, students should complete all assigned readings *prior* to class (for assigned readings see Course Calendar on pages 6-7). **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).** There will be no make-ups for in-class assignments, 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 class participation grade will be determined by the total points earned for class discussion and assignments divided by the total possible points for discussion and assignments.

- (3) **Weekly Quizzes (10%):** Students must complete online quizzes each week. The quizzes will include 20 multiple choice questions from the assigned readings. The assigned readings and the due dates for each quiz are posted on the Course Calendar (see pages 6-7 of the syllabus). The quizzes are due by 9:00 am on the due date. You can access each quiz by clicking on the D2L “Quizzes” folder at the top of the course page. You have 40 minutes to complete the quiz. You must complete the quiz independently (you should **not** discuss the quiz with your classmates, complete the quiz together, or share answers). You may use your book/readings when completing the quiz, but I strongly recommend that you take the quiz *after* you have completed all of the readings. If you try to look up the answer for each question (in the text and/or course reserve article(s)), you may run out of time. Also, since it is timed, make sure that you will not have any interruptions (i.e., friends, kids, work, etc.). Finally, ***there are no make-up quizzes***; however, I will drop your lowest quiz grade when calculating your quiz average.
- (4) **Debate (20%):** All students must write a 5 page position paper and participate in an in-class group 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 at the end of the semester. **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, write an independent 5 page position paper using recent peer-reviewed articles, meet with your team to prepare for the debate, and debate the issue (along with your teammates) in class.

Your grade for the debate will be based on your team’s performance in the debate (50% of the grade), your grade on your 5 page paper (30% of the grade), and your team members’ evaluation of your contributions to the preparation and participation in the debate (20% of the grade).

The five page paper is due by 9:00 am on 12/01 and the debates will take place in class on 12/03 and 12/08. Papers must be submitted in the Dropbox on D2L by 9am on the due date [Note: Dropbox includes a plagiarism detection program.] If the paper is not submitted by 9 am on the due date, there will be a 10-point penalty for a late submission (late papers will only be accepted 24 hours after the deadline). Also, ***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.*

- (5) **Exams (20% each):** There are **three exams** for this course (see course calendar for exam dates). Each exam makes up 20 percent of your final grade. Each exam may consist of multiple choice and/or 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%
Quizzes	10%
Debate	20%
Exams	60%
Total	100%
Attendance	+ 2, +1, 0, -2, etc.

Grading Scale:

A	90 and above
B	80 – 89
C	70 – 79
D	60 – 69
F	59 and below

A withdrawal after the midpoint withdrawal deadline (**October 7**) will result in a grade of WF.

Calculating Your Final Grade in the Course = [Participation Average x .10] + [Quiz Average (lowest grade excluded) x .10] + [Debate Grade x .20] + [Exam Average x .60]

Course Policies:

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 arrive/leave more than 10 minutes late/early will be marked absent for the day.

Electronic Devices: Students may use laptops, ipads, or other tablets for note-taking purposes only. 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 may not record classroom lectures/discussions or take videos or pictures during class without permission (permission will be granted to students who require such accommodation as noted by their documentation from the Office for disAbled Student Support Services). Any other use of electronic devices must be approved in advance by the instructor.

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.

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.

Note: This is my class policy. There is actually no formal process to dispute grades on individual assignments, exams, etc. You can only formally appeal your final course grade. For the formal grade appeal procedures, please see the Academic Policies in the current KSU Undergraduate Catalog.

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/Quizzes Due
8/18	Course Introduction	Syllabus, Participation in Class Discussion, and All Assignment Instructions (all are available on D2L)
8/20	Defining Crime	<u>Criminology</u> , Ch. 1 Quiz 1 Due
8/25	Measuring Crime / Crime Rates	<u>Criminology</u> , Ch. 2 Quiz 2 Due
8/27	Crime Rates (cont.)	
9/01	Violent Crime	<u>Criminology</u> , Ch. 10 Quiz 3 Due CR: <i>Convicted Rapists' Vocabulary of Motive</i> CR: <i>Serial Killers</i>
9/03	Violent Crime (cont.)	
9/08	Political Crime & Terrorism	<u>Criminology</u> , Ch. 11 Quiz 4 Due
9/10	Political Crime & Terrorism (cont.)	
9/15	Economic Crimes	<u>Criminology</u> , Ch. 12 Quiz 5 Due CR: <i>Decision Strategies of Residential Burglars</i> CR: <i>Denying the Guilty Mind: Accounting for Involvement in White Collar Crime</i>
9/17	Economic Crimes (cont.)	VIDEO
9/22	Exam 1	Siegel Chapters 1, 2, 10, 11, 12 CR Articles
9/24	Public Order Crimes	<u>Criminology</u> , Ch. 13 Quiz 6 Due CR: <i>The Second Step in Double Jeopardy: Appropriating the Labor of Female Street Hustlers</i> CR: <i>The Drugs-Crime Connection Among Stable Addicts</i>
9/29	Public Order Crimes (cont.)	
10/01	Cybercrime and Transnational Crime	<u>Criminology</u> , Ch.14 Quiz 7 Due CR: <i>The "Myth of Organization" of International Drug Smugglers</i>
10/06	Cybercrime and Transnational Crime (cont.)	

**** 10/07 Last Day to Withdraw Without Academic Penalty**

Date	Topic	Assigned Readings
10/08	Victims and Victimization	<u>Criminology</u> , Ch. 3 Quiz 8 Due CR: <i>From Victims to Survivors to Offenders</i> CR: <i>Criminal Victimization During One's Life Course</i>
10/13	Victims and Victimization	
10/15	Choice Theory	<u>Criminology</u> , Ch. 4 Quiz 9 Due D2L: <i>A Descriptive Model of the Hunting Process of Serial Sex Offenders: A Rational Choice Perspective</i>
10/20	Trait Theory	<u>Criminology</u> , Ch. 5 CR: <i>Maternal Infanticide Associated with Mental Illness</i>
10/22	Exam 2	Siegel Chapters 13, 14, 3, 4, and 5 CR and D2L Articles
10/27	Social Structure Theories	<u>Criminology</u> , Ch. 6 Quiz 10 Due CR: <i>Code of the Street: Campaigning for Respect</i>
10/29	Social Structure Theories (cont.)	
11/03	Social Process Theories	<u>Criminology</u> , Ch. 7 Quiz 11 Due CR: <i>A Test of Social Learning and Intergenerational Transmission Among Batterers</i> CR: <i>An Examination of Differential Association and Social Control Theory</i>
11/05	Social Process Theories (cont.)	VIDEO
11/10	Developmental Theories	<u>Criminology</u> , Ch. 9 Quiz 12 Due CR: <i>Pathways Out of Crime</i> CR: <i>Self-Control, Violent Offending, and Homicide Victimization</i>
11/12	Developmental Theories (cont.)	VIDEO
11/17	Exam 3	Siegel Chapters 6, 7, and 9 Course Reserve Articles
11/19	Meet with your debate team	Note: Dr. McMahon-Howard will be at the American Society of Criminology Conference in Washington, D.C.
11/24	Fall Break	
11/26	Fall Break	
12/01	Meet with your debate team	Debate Papers Due in the Dropbox by 9:00 am
12/03	DEBATES	
12/08	DEBATES	
	FINAL EXAM TIME: 10:30-12:30	Fall 2015 Final Exam Schedule: http://registrar.kennesaw.edu/calendars/final_exam_fall2015.php

COURSE SYLLABUS REVIEW STATEMENT AND SIGNATURE FORM

I have carefully read the syllabus for Criminology, Fall Semester 2015, 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. I understand that my grade for this course will be based on objective assessments of my attendance, participation (discussions, activities, and quizzes), exams, and papers. Therefore, I acknowledge that I am responsible for earning my grade in this course. By signing below, I am indicating my understanding of the course requirements and policies and my acknowledgment that the policies have been established to provide an optimal and fair learning experience for myself and my classmates.

Print Name

Signature

Date