

**Criminology
SOCI 4432
3 Credit Hours
Fall 2016
Kennesaw State University
M/W 5:00-6:15
Room 2025, Social Sciences Building
CRN: 80169**

Instructor: Kirstin Ralston-Coley

Office: SSB 4005

Office Hours: Monday 2:00-4:00 or by appt.

E-mail (**best method**): kralsto4@kennesaw.edu. If you have not heard a response from me in 24 hours, assume I have not received your e-mail and resend it!

Prerequisites: CRJU 1101 or SOCI 2201

*"Criminals do not die by the hands of the law. They die by the hands of other men."
-George Bernard Shaw*

Official KSU Course Description:

SOCI 4432 - Criminology

3 Class Hours 0 Laboratory Hours 3 Credit Hours

Prerequisite: CRJU 1101 or SOCI 1101.

An overview of theory and practice, the nature and cause of crime, and the etiology of criminal offenses and offenders.

Course Description:

Criminology is a very young discipline. Yet, in this short period of time (less than a century), it has become a valuable source for exploring crime and criminal behavior, and exploring the response by society to both. Yet, ideas about what exactly is considered crime and criminal behavior have been fluid, evolving, and often rooted in the structure of society itself. For instance, why are some things criminal today that were not criminal 100 years ago?

Our primary task will be to explore the answer to questions like this and the social process through which crime and criminal behavior is theorized, constructed, and studied. In this course

we will explore the central sociological concepts of crime, theories of crime, current methods to study crime, and what role social structures (and social problems) play in crime. In exploring crime, we will also look at how individuals and groups have the power to shape criminal definitions and then apply (or impose) these definitions onto others. We will also explore the consequences for those who are defined as criminal and how individuals may come to develop a criminal identity, both voluntarily and involuntarily. It is my hope that we will come to a greater understanding of crime and criminal behavior within a larger social context of power and social order and our place within this social context.

Course Objectives

- (1) To provide students with a basic understanding of the study of crime (i.e., how crime is defined, classified, and measured).
- (2) To explore (and critique) different theoretical perspectives on the causes of crime, the changing nature of crime, and the role of society in crime.
- (3) To enhance the students' ability to think critically about criminological issues and to communicate this critical thinking to others.

Enrollment Status Statement: Students are solely responsible for managing their enrollment status in a course; nonattendance does not constitute a withdrawal.

Textbook:

Beirne, P. and Messerschmidt, J. (2015) Criminology: A Sociological Approach. Oxford University Press.

Other required readings will be on **D2L**. See Course Outline for specific readings.

D2L and KSU Email:

Students are required to check their D2L email regularly. This is the electronic way that I am required to contact the students. I will occasionally send classroom announcements, assignments, and class updates to your D2L email accounts.

I will also use D2L to periodically post interesting articles for you to read and use for your writing assignments and/or any extra credit assignments.

D2L is where I will post grades. It is against KSU policy to send grades via email, so check D2L first. Please note, I do not use D2L to calculate grades. Be sure to make final calculations following the syllabus.

Students can expect grades to be posted within 10 days or less of receipt of graded assignments.

Components of Evaluation:

Exams (4): (25% each, lowest grade dropped) 75% total

Paper "Criminology in the News": 10%

Participation: 5%

Class Writing Assignments (3): (5% each, lowest grade dropped) 10% total

Exams: There will be 3 chapter exams in the course. The fourth exam during finals week is optional and will be cumulative. It will replace an exam grade (if higher) and may be skipped if you are happy with your other 3 exam grades. If you missed any of the first three exams, you must take the final exam. Each exam might consist of multiple choice, true/false, fill in the blank, and short answer. **75% total.** Make-up exam policy can be found below.

Paper "Criminology in the News": Locate a newspaper article on a criminal event from one of the following sources only: the *New York Times*, the *Los Angeles Times*, the *Chicago Tribune*, the *Atlanta Journal Constitution*, or the *Washington Post*. The article must not be older than September 15th, 2016. Make certain the article is about a criminal event and not a summary of a previous criminal event. You may use the websites of the sources mentioned above, but you must attach a hard copy of the article to your paper. You must also turn in a hardcopy of your paper! Write a 4-page paper explaining the criminal event from each of the following theoretical perspectives: the classical school, the positivist school, the labeling theory, and the conflict theory. Be sure to include the principle points of each theory/perspective. Your paper should not exceed 1 page for each theory/perspective, so be concise. Do not include any "fluff." You will not need to use any other sources except the original article, your textbook, or your lecture notes.

The purpose of this assignment is to get you thinking critically about applying coursework material to your social, criminal, and legal world. Your grade will be based upon the accurate application of course concepts and theory and the coherence and organization of your paper. I will provide examples throughout the first months of class. In addition, a rubric for both options will be posted on D2L in September. Papers must be turned in on the due date. If you are unable to do this, for whatever reason, 15% will be deducted from your overall paper grade for each 24 hours it is late. **10 % of Overall Grade**

Participation: Participation is an essential aspect of developing communication skills. I know there are some people who are shy when it comes to speaking in public. However, it is an important skill to learn. We will have small group discussions and in-class writing assignments, sometimes, to help individuals who are less confident about speaking in front of the class as a whole. Any attempt at participation will be considered. Let it be said, too, that just because someone talks all the time, this does not mean they are contributing meaningful discussion to the topic at hand. Let's also remember the importance of respect and tolerance when we are participating in class discussions. A perfect participation grade will be given to those individuals who contribute meaningful and relevant discussion on a weekly basis, who

have completed all in-class writing assignments, who have attended all classes, and who actively listen when others are talking. **5 % total.**

In Class Writing Assignments: There will be a total of **three** in class writing assignments. **Only two will count** towards your writing assignment grade. These will mostly be writing assignments in which you will be required to answer specific questions about a documentary or film we will watch in class. These must be turned in the day they are assigned. If you miss class, you may still complete the assignment, but 15% will be deducted for any assignment turned in after class is over. **5 % each, 10% of your overall grade.**

Attendance: Attendance is **NOT** required. Studies show that students who attend class receive higher grades, but this course will not require you to attend class. That being said, the in class writing assignments cannot be made up without a 15% deduction and your participation grade will be severely impacted if you do not attend class. I will take attendance everyday as a way to give potential extra points at the end of the semester. *******If you miss 2 classes or less during the course of the semester, 2% will be added to your overall test grade.*******

Legal, religious, or school required absences will not count as a missed class.

Grading Scale:

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

Exam Make-up Policy:

Unless you have one of the above mentioned (**legal, religious, school required**) excused reasons or a significant personal reason for missing an exam, I will **not allow any** make-ups. Trying to juggle make-ups while continuing future material is too difficult and not fair to those students who are present. In the event that you have one of the above mentioned excusable absences for an exam, you must notify me as soon as possible. A make-up for a significant personal reason is entirely at my discretion and will only be offered in the most extreme circumstances. The dates for the exams are posted at the beginning of the semester. If you foresee a conflict, you must take the exam prior to the day the rest of the class takes it.

Late Assignment Policy:

Any in class writing assignments are due at the end of class on the day they are given. If you miss class, you may complete the writing assignments for partial credit. However, a hardcopy format is required (no emailing unless I have given you approval). It is essential that you turn your work in on time. This

allows me to give you feedback in advance of other assignments. Thus, unless you have an excused absence, as described in the attendance policy, late papers will only be accepted with a severe point deduction. For each 24-hour period it is late, 15% will be deducted. If you do have an excused absence, you must contact me as soon as possible to arrange a time to turn in your assignment.

Electronic Devices and Cell Phones:

A true learning environment requires attention and participation from everyone. Please do not text, Facebook, or be otherwise distracted by the electronic devices in your life. Photography and videotaping are absolutely not allowed, unless I give permission. I understand that there are times when an emergency might require a cell phone to be turned on in “silent” mode. Discuss this with me before class to seek special permission. But, for every other situation, please keep your outside conversations outside the classroom.

Accommodations Statement:

Students who wish to request accommodations for a disability may do so by registering with the Office of Disability Services. Students may only be accommodated upon issuance by the Office of Disability Services, of a signed Accommodation Plan and are responsible for providing a copy of that plan to instructors of all classes in which an accommodation is sought.

Midpoint of the Semester:

The semester midpoint, Wednesday, October 5th, 2016, is the last day to withdraw from a full semester class and receive a possible grade of W, except for hardship withdrawal. After the midpoint of the term, voluntary withdrawals cannot occur.

Academic Dishonesty:

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.

Additional KSU Campus Information

Academic Honesty/Integrity Statement

<http://scai.kennesaw.edu/codes.php>

Confidentiality and Privacy Statement (FERPA)

<http://enrollmentservices.kennesaw.edu/training/ferpa.php>

University – Student Rights Statement

<http://catalog.kennesaw.edu/content.php?catoid=27&navoid=2263>

Ethics Statement

<http://scai.kennesaw.edu/codes.php>

Sexual Harassment Statement

<http://scai.kennesaw.edu/codes.php>

Course Accessibility Statement (ADA statement)

<http://sss.kennesaw.edu/sds/institutional-policies.php>

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**Course Outline
Criminology
Fall 2016**

*******Material subject to change. Please read assignment BEFORE the day we will be covering it.*******

I. Introduction to Criminology

August 15th: **NO CLASS (Professor Ralston-Coley has Jury Duty)**

Students are to review the syllabus and Read Chapter 1

August 17th:

**Defining Criminology and The Problem of Crime
Read Chapter 1 and Article: "Doing Newsmaking Criminology" (D2L)**

August 22nd-24th:

**Measuring Criminal Behavior
Read Chapter 2
Examples of criminology datasets will be explored in class**

II. Criminological Theory

August 29th-31st:

**Inventing Criminology
Read Chapter 3**

September 5th: **No Class Labor Day Holiday**

September 7th:

**Social Structure, Anomie, and Crime
Read Chapter 4**

September 12th: Exam 1!!!

September 14th:

**Delinquent Subcultures, Subcultures of Delinquency, and the Labeling Perspective
Read Chapter 5**

September 19th-21st:

Social Learning Theory and Social Control Theory
Read Chapter 6 and Read Article: Social Learning, Reinforcement, and Crime (D2L)
Movie "Evolution of a Criminal"

September 26th-28th:

Conflict Tradition
Read Chapter 7 and Article: Doing Masculinities (D2L)

October 5th: Last Day to Withdraw with a W

October 3rd-5th:

Feminist and Critical Criminologies
Read Chapter 8

III. Inequalities and Crime

October 10th-12th:

Inequality, Crime, and Victimization; Property Crime
Read Chapters 9 and 10
Article: What Do We Deserve? (D2L)

October 17th:

Finish Chapter 10; Review, if time

October 19th: Exam 2!!!!

October 24th-26th:

Interpersonal Violence
Read Chapter 11 and Read Article: Riding the Bull at Gilley's (D2L) **Trigger**
Warning****
Movie: "Tricked"

October 31st:

No Class Meeting: Paper Writing Day. Papers Due on November 2nd!

November 2nd: Papers Due at the Beginning of Class. No exceptions. Hardcopy only!

November 2nd:

**White Collar Crime
Read Chapter 12
Videos on Corporate Dumping**

November 7th-9th:

**Political Crime
Read Chapter 13
Article: State-Corporate Crime in the Offshore Oil Industry (D2L)**

November 14th-16th:

Movie: "Enron: The Smartest Guys in the Room"

November 22nd-24th: No Class, Thanksgiving Break

Criminal Justice System and Solutions

November 28th-30th:

**Criminal Justice System
Read Article: One in 100: Behind Bars in America 2008 (D2L) and Article: The Myth of
Leniency (D2L)
Video Prisons-For-Profit**

**Solutions to Criminal Behavior
Read Article: Three Strikes, You're Out (D2L) and Article: Instant Replay: Three Strikes
Was the Right Call (D2L)**

Review, if time

December 5th: Exam 3!!!

December 7th, 6-8 pm: Cumulative Final Exam. Optional, if you have taken all exams and are happy with your grade.