

Kennesaw State University
Criminology
SOCI 4432 03 CRN 10090
Spring 2017

Classroom: SSB 2025
Class Hours: TR 11:00 – 12:15
Office Hours: TR 12:30 – 2:30 pm
Or by appointment

Instructor: Gail Markle, Ph.D
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Course Description: This course is an overview of theory and practice, the nature and causes of crime, and the etiology of criminal offenses and offenders.

Course Goals:

- Develop an understanding of the nature and extent of crime in the US
- Examine the ways in which crime is defined and measured
- Become familiar with the key theoretical approaches that have been used to explain criminal behavior
- Examine the ways in which social identities such as race/ethnicity, class, and gender relate to offending, victimization, and punishment
- Cultivate the ability to think critically
- Improve analytic reading and writing skills

Principal Texts:

Walsh, Anthony, and Lee Ellis. 2007. *Criminology: An Interdisciplinary Approach*. Thousand Oaks, CA: Sage. ISBN: 978-1-4129-3840-2

Leovy, Jill. 2015. *Ghettoside: A True Story of Murder in America*. New York: Spiegel and Grau. ISBN: 978-0-385-52999-0

Additional Readings: The following articles are available on Electronic Reserve or D2L. The password for electronic reserve is

Benson, Michael L. 2010. "Denying the Guilty Mind: Accounting for Involvement in White-Collar Crime." Pp. 224-234 in *In their Own Words: Criminals on Crime* edited by Paul Cromwell. NY: Oxford University Press.

Goldberg, Jeffrey. 2015. "A Matter of Black Lives." *Atlantic* 316(2): 70-80.

Klockars, Carl B. 1999. "Some Really Cheap Ways of Measuring What Really Matters." Pp. 195-214 in *Measuring What Matters: Proceedings from the Policing Research Institute Meetings*. Washington, DC: US Dept. of Justice.

Kruttschnitt, Candace, and Kristin Carbone-Lopez. 2006. "Moving Beyond the Stereotypes: Women's Subjective Accounts of their Violent Crimes." *Criminology* 44(2): 321-48.

Light, Michael T., and Jeffery T. Ulmer. 2016. "Explaining the Gaps in White, Black, and Hispanic Violence since 1990: Accounting for Immigration, Incarceration, and Inequality." *American Sociological Review* 81(2): 290-315.

Maume, Michael O., and Matthew R. Lee. 2003. "Social Institutions and Violence: A Sub-National Test of Institutional Anomie Theory." *Criminology* 41(4): 1137-1172.

- Mustaine, Elizabeth Ehrhardt, and Richard Tewksbury. 1999. "A Routine Activity Theory Explanation for Women's Stalking Victimization." *Violence Against Women* 5(1): 43-62.
- Sacco, Vincent F. 2006. "Media Constructions of Crime." Pp. 29-39 in *Constructing Crime: Perspectives on Making News and Social Problems* edited by Gary W. Potter and Victor E. Kappeler. Long Grove, IL: Waveland Press.
- Virgil, James Diego. 2003. "Urban Violence and Street Gangs." *Annual Review of Anthropology* 32: 225-242.

Class Format: Class meetings will include a mixture of lectures, films, and discussions.

Expectations: Please silence your cell phones and other electronic devices. **No laptops in class unless you have a documented need.** Students are expected to read assignments prior to the class period, to listen to class presentations, and to participate in class discussions. Critical thinking, a willingness to explore the ideas of others, and respect for other students are essential.

Attendance: Regular and punctual attendance in class is required. If you must be absent please be aware that you are responsible for all announcements, assignments, and material covered during class time. **Your attendance record will affect your grade.** For perfect attendance 2 points will be added to your final grade. For 1-2 absences 1 point will be added to your grade. Beginning with the 4th absence 1 point will be deducted from your final grade. For each successive absence an additional point will be deducted from your final grade. For example, five absences would result in a 2 point deduction from your final grade; six absences would result in a 3 point deduction, and so on. Absence for KSU business and mandatory court appearances may be excused with proper documentation. Attendance will be taken by sign-in sheet. Anyone signing in for someone else is guilty of academic dishonesty and will be dealt with appropriately.

Components of Evaluation:

Exams (3 @ 20%)	60%
Documentary Reflections (3)	10%
Critical Book Analysis	30%

Exams (60% - Three exams worth 20% each): There will be three non-cumulative exams in this course. Each exam will consist of multiple choice and essay questions. Exams may cover any material presented in class lectures, videos, discussions and reading assignments. Exams will be given on **February 7, March 14, and April 27**. Make-up exams will be given only for exceptional cases with appropriate documentation.

Documentary Reflections (10%): For each documentary shown in class students will write a brief reflection paper using questions provided at the beginning of class. These papers are in-class assignments and will not be accepted after the end of the class period in which the documentary is shown.

Critical Book Analysis (30%): Students will prepare an 8-10 page (double spaced, 12 point font, 1 inch margins) critical analysis of the book, *Ghettoside: A True Story of Murder in America*. You **must use course content**, applying the theories and concepts covered in class to support

your review. In addition to citing course material you must also cite at least six additional academic sources (journal articles and/or scholarly books) and these should be appropriately cited and referenced using ASA or APA style. Detailed instructions and a grading rubric will be provided in D2L.

No e-mailed papers will be accepted. You must submit your analysis by **April 25** through the Critical Book Analysis Assignment Submission Folder (previously Dropbox) in D2L where it will be subjected to plagiarism detection software. You must also turn in a hard copy to me by the end of class on **April 25**. Failure to submit your paper through D2L or to provide me a hard copy by the due date will result in a zero for the paper grade. If *any* portion of your paper is plagiarized you will receive a 0 for the assignment and disciplinary action will be taken.

Grading Scale: 100-90 = A; 89-80 = B; 79-70 = C; 69-60 = D; 59 and below = F

Earning Grades: Grades are “earned” and are not arbitrarily “granted” in this class. Thus, unless I make an error in calculation, I will not change your grade at the end of the semester for HOPE eligibility, graduation requirements, or any other reason.

Strategies for Success: Students are encouraged to consult with the KSU Writing Center at <http://writingcenter.kennesaw.edu/>

Academic Honesty: Students are required to adhere to the tenets of the Kennesaw State University Policy on Academic Honesty. This policy can be found at: <http://scai.kennesaw.edu/codes.php>

Accommodations: This course will be conducted in accordance with the Americans with Disabilities Act and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act. If you are a student with a disability and anticipate needing any type of accommodation, please inform me at the beginning of the semester and make the appropriate arrangements with Disabled Student Support Services located in Suite 267 of the Carmichael Student Center Addition, 770-423-6443.

<http://kennesaw.edu/sds/insitutionalpolices.php>

Other Important Policies: Please familiarize yourself with the following important KSU policies: Confidentiality and privacy (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>; and Disruption of Campus Life Policy

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

SCHEDULE OF TOPICS AND ASSIGNMENTS

Date	Topic	Reading Assignment
January 10	Introduction	
January 12	Crime and Criminology	Walsh and Ellis Ch 1
January 17	Media Representations of Crime	<i>Media Constructions of Crime</i> , eRes
January 19	Measuring Crime	Walsh and Ellis Ch 2
January 24	Measuring Crime	<i>Some Really Cheap Ways of Measuring What Really Matters</i> , eRes
January 26	Gender and Crime	<i>Moving Beyond the Stereotypes: Women's Accounts of their Crimes</i> , eRes
January 31	Victimology	Walsh and Ellis Ch 16 <i>A Routine Activity Theory Explanation for Women's Stalking Victimization</i> , eRes
February 2	The Early Schools of Criminology	Walsh and Ellis Ch 3
February 7	Exam 1	
February 9	Social Structural Theories	Walsh and Ellis Ch 4
February 14	Social Structural Theories	<i>Social Institutions and Violence</i> , eRes
February 16	"Crips and Bloods: Made in America"	Documentary Reflection
February 21	Social Structural Theories	<i>Urban Violence and Street Gangs</i> , eRes
February 23	Process Theories	Walsh and Ellis Ch 5
February 28	Process Theories	
March 1	Last day to withdraw and receive a W	
March 2	Critical Theories	Walsh and Ellis Ch 6
March 7	Psychosocial and Biosocial Theories	Walsh and Ellis Ch 7 and 8
March 9	Developmental Theories	Walsh and Ellis Ch 9
March 14	Exam 2	
March 16	Drugs and Alcohol	Walsh and Ellis Ch 10
March 21	"The House I Live In"	Documentary Reflection
March 23	Terrorism and Political Crime	Walsh and Ellis Ch 13
March 28	Property Crime	Walsh and Ellis Ch 14
March 30	No Class SSS Conference	

April 4	No Class Spring Break	
April 6	No Class Spring Break	
April 11	Violent Crime	Walsh and Ellis Ch 11
April 13	Violent Crime	<i>Explaining the Gaps in White, Black, and Hispanic Violence since 1990</i> , eRes <i>A Matter of Black Lives</i> , D2L
April 18	White Collar Crime	Walsh and Ellis Ch 15 <i>Denying the Guilty Mind</i> , eRes
April 20	“The Smartest Guys in the Room”	Documentary Reflection
April 25	Class Discussion <i>Ghettoside</i>	Critical Book Analysis Due
April 27	Exam 3	

* The course syllabus provides a general plan for the course; deviations may be necessary *