CRIMINOLOGY
SOCIOLOGY 215
DePauw University
Spring 2013
MWF 8:10-9:10 a.m.

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COURSE DESCRIPTION

Why do we fear strangers when we are more likely to be harmed by someone we know? What is crime and who gets to decide? How do the motives of the movie theater killer, Bernie Madoff, and the neighborhood burglar differ? Is plea bargaining a good bargain? Why is the U.S. prison population a sea of black and brown faces? What is restorative justice and is it worth our attention?

This course explores theoretical explanations of criminal behavior, empirical research on crime in diverse contexts, and policy debates on crime control and punishment. Our intent will be to raise critical questions and challenge commonly-held views about the nature of crime and punishment in the United States today. We will operate under the assumption that crime and punishment are social phenomena; they can only be understood by analyzing their relationship to broader social, political, economic and cultural contexts. The class is organized around crime and crime policy in three social contexts: the street, the workplace and intimate/family relations. Within each of these settings we will ask how the intersection of race, social class and gender influence crime and our responses to it.

COURSE GOALS

The goals for the course are as follows: 1) Dispel popular misconceptions about crime and the criminal justice system; 2) Understand the crime problem sociologically, using race, social class and gender as analytic lenses; 3) Recognize the complexity of social behavior, groups, organizations and institutions and how that influences our explanations for, and solutions to, crime. 4) Acquire and fine-tune the skills of comparison, critique and application of theoretical concepts to the real world. 5) Improve critical thinking, discussion and writing skills.

REQUIRED READINGS

The following books are available on-line and at the university bookstore:

1. Cromwell, Paul. 2010. *In Their Own Words: Criminals on Crime*, **5th edition**. NY: Oxford. ISBN: 9780195383195
2. Glassner, Barry. 2010. *The Culture of Fear: Why Americans are Afraid of the Wrong Things*. NY: Basic. (**10th anniversary edition**.) ISBN: 9780465003365
3. Sanday, Peggy Reeves. 2007. *Fraternity Gang Rape: Sex, Brotherhood, and Privilege on Campus*, **2nd edition**. NY: NYU Press. ISBN 9780814740385
4. King, Joyce. 2003. *Hate Crime: The Story of a Dragging in Jasper, Texas.* NY: Anchor. ISBN: 978385721950
5. Bach, Amy. 2009. *Ordinary Injustice: How America Holds Court*. NY: Henry Holt and Co. ISBN: 9780805092271
6. Mohamed, A. Rafik and Erik D. Fritsvold. 2010. *Dorm Room Dealers: Drugs and the Privileges of Race and Class*. Boulder: Lynne Rienner. ISBN: 9781588268167

Additional required readings are available on Moodle.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

Papers. You will be assigned 3 papers. Paper 1 (2 pages) is due February 1, Paper 2 (5-6 pages) is due February 18, and Paper 3 (5-6 pages) is due April 12.

Examinations. There will be a mid-term and final examination. The mid-term will be March 22. The final exam is scheduled for December 15 (8:30-11:30 a.m.) during final exam week.

Class participation. Everyone is expected to come to class having completed, thought about and prepared to discuss the assigned readings. Class participation will be assessed in terms of the quality and regularity of your participation. Even though this is a relatively large class, discussion is central to its design. Those of you who do not like to speak in large or small groups should reconsider taking this class.

COURSE POLICIES

How grades are calculated. Grades will be determined using the following point and percentage systems. In order to pass the course, students must complete all of the assignments.

Paper 1	read, but not graded
Paper 2	100 points
Paper 3	100 points
Midterm exam	100 points
Final exam	100 points
Class participation	50 points
Total	450 points

Final grade: 90% and above = A-, A
80-89% = B-, B, B+
70-79% = C-, C, C+
60-69% = D
59% and below = F

What the Grades Mean.

A = Work that goes beyond the requirements of the assignment by adding new insight, creativity and/or particularly thoughtful analysis. Demonstrates a comprehensive command of the course material, an exceptional ability to apply concepts to the real world, and a superior ability to organize and express ideas.

B = Work that adequately meets the requirements of the assignment. Demonstrates a solid command of the course material, an ability to apply concepts to the real world with only minor problems, and good organization and expression of ideas.

C = Work that partially meets the requirements of the assignment. Demonstrates acceptable command of the course material, a basic ability to apply concepts to the real world with some gaps and problems, and moderate skill in the organization and expression of ideas.

D = Work that marginally meets the requirements of the assignment. Demonstrates little command of the course material, minimal attempt to apply concepts to the real world, and limited ability to organize and express ideas.

F = Work that does not meet the requirements of the assignment. Demonstrates no command of the course material, unable to appropriately or consistently apply concepts to the real world, and insufficiently organizes and expresses ideas.

Late Work/Make-up Work. All papers are due in class and all exams will be taken in class on the dates indicated on the syllabus, unless I receive in advance an official notification that you will be off campus on university business (e.g., athletic event) or a message that you are gravely ill. Unexcused late papers will be penalized one-half letter grade for every 24 hour period in which they are late. Make-up exams will not be given in cases of unexcused absences. Out of fairness to the entire class, no exceptions will be made (this includes minor illness, job interviews, weddings, delayed planes, etc.). For both excused and unexcused absences from class, it is your responsibility to find out what you missed from your peers. **[Note: Our midterm exam is on the Friday before Spring Break. Make your travel plans accordingly.]**

Extra Credit. None. No exceptions.

Security Measures. I ask that you keep copies (hard-copies and on disk) of your work before handing it in. If you are turning in something late, do not put it in my mailbox or under my office door. It is your responsibility to contact me and make arrangements to give me your late work in person.

Honor Code. As with all courses at DePauw University, you are bound by the policy on academic integrity. I highly encourage you to reread the policy if you have not reread it this semester: http://www.depauw.edu/handbooks/student/acadlife/app/aip/dishonesty/
Academic dishonesty includes the following: cheating, fabrication, facilitating academic dishonesty, plagiarism, multiple submissions, abuse of academic material, deception and misrepresentation, electronic dishonesty, and carelessness. Each of these violations is described in detail in the Student Handbook. See me if you have any questions about your obligation to uphold this policy.

Special Accommodations. According to Pamela Roberts, Coordinator of Academic Success and Student Disability Services, "DePauw University is committed to providing equal access to academic programs and University administered activities and reasonable accommodations to students with disabilities, in compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act and Amendments (ADAAA). Accommodations are determined on a case by case basis. Any student who feels she or he may need an accommodation based on the impact of a disability or learning challenge is strongly encouraged to contact Pamela Roberts, Coordinator of Academic Success and Student Disability Services for further information on how to receive accommodations and support. Academic Success and Student Disability Services is located at 101 E. Seminary St., 765-658-6267. It is the responsibility of the student to share the letter of accommodation with faculty and staff members. Accommodations will not be implemented until the faculty or staff member has received the official letter. Accommodations are not retroactive. It is the responsibility of the student to discuss implementation of accommodations with each faculty and staff member receiving the letter."

Laptops. No laptops in class for note-taking or exam-taking, unless arranged through the ADA Coordinator. This means that you will need to make hardcopies of the readings posted on Moodle and/or bring in notes from the reading.

COURSE SCHEDULE

Readings are identified by the authors' last names. I have placed in brackets the location of each assignment (i.e., Moodle, Book, or Cromwell reader).

DATE	ASSIGNMENT
WEEK 1 January 28, 30, February 1	**Monday:** Introductions. (Get Paper 1 assignment.) **WHEN IS A WRONG A CRIME?** **Wednesday:** Lecture, "A Crime is a Crime is a Crime…Really?" Read Hagan, "Defining Crime: An Issue of Morality," pp. 5-12 [Moodle] **Friday:** Small group exercise: defining crime. Read Glassner, *The Culture of Fear*, pp. xi-xxxvi; 23-49. [Book] ***Paper 1 due.***
WEEK 2 February 4, 6, 8	**Monday:** Lecture, "Media (Mis)Representations of Crime." Read Glassner, *The Culture of Fear*, pp. 109-150. [Book] (Get paper 2 assignment.) **Wednesday:** Small group exercise: dissecting "Cops." Read Glassner, *The Culture of Fear*, pp. 205-244. [Book] **HOW CRIME IS MEASURED** **Friday:** Lecture, "Social Scientific Numbers and Narrative: What do They Teach Us? Small group exercise: playing the role of an ethnographer. Read Lab et al., "Measuring Crime," pp. 9-13. [Moodle] Zimring, *Great American Crime Decline*, pp. 3-24; 195-209. [Moodle] Jacobs,"Researching Crack Dealers: Dilemmas and Contradictions," pp. 392-406. [Cromwell reader]

WEEK 3: February 11, 13, 15	**THEORETICAL EXPLANATIONS FOR CRIME** **Monday:** Lecture, "Conservatives are Fence Builders, Liberals are Fence Sitters and Radicals are Out in Left Field." Class exercise: matching lyrics to theories. Discuss reading. Read Williams, *Blue Rage, Black Redemption: A Memoir*, pp. 3-42. [Moodle] **Wednesday:** Finish lecture. Class exercise: four corners. Read Williams, *Blue Rage, Black Redemption: A Memoir*, pp. 42-75. [Moodle] **STREET CRIME: SERIAL KILLING** **Friday:** Lecture, "What do Ted, the Mad Biter and Giggling Grandma have in Common? Serial Murder in America." Read Fox, *The Will to Kill*, pp. 105-118. [Moodle] Hare, *Without Conscience*, pp.124-143. [Moodle]
WEEK 4: February 18, 20, 22	**Monday:** Film clip, "Murder by Number." ***Paper 2 due.*** **Wednesday:** Small group exercise: wrapping our minds around BTK. Read Magnus, 31 Years of the BTK Killer," pp. 1-18. [Moodle] **STREET CRIME: DRUGS** **Friday:** Film, "Breaking the Taboo." Read Mohamed and Fritsvold, *Dorm Room Dealers*, pp. 1-62. [Book]
WEEK 5: February 25, 27, March 1	**Monday:** Discuss first half of book. Read Mohamed and Frisvold, *Dorm Room Dealers*, pp. 63-98. [Book] **Wednesday:** Lecture, tba Read Mohamed and Frisvold, *Dorm Room Dealers*, pp. 123-167. [Book] **Friday:** Discuss second half of book. Read Mohamed and Frisvold, *Dorm Room Dealers*, pp. 169-184. [Book]

WEEK 6: March 4, 6, 8	**STREET CRIME: SEX WORK** **Monday:** Lecture, "Tricky Business: The Social Organization of Sex Work." Read Petro, "Selling Sex: Women's Participation in the Sex Industry," pp. 155-169 [Moodle] **Wednesday:** Film, "Women in the Shadows." Class exercise: the choice between beige and gray. Read Kaye,"Sex and the Unspoken in Male Street Prostitution" pp. 85-116 [Moodle] **Friday:** Discuss readings for the week. Read Romenseko and Miller, "The Second Step in Double Jeopardy: Appropriating the Labor of Female Street Hustlers," pp. 283-297 [Cromwell reader]
WEEK 7: March 11, 13, 15	**WORKPLACE CRIME** **Monday:** Small group exercise: crime seriousness. Film clip, "A Dangerous Business." **Wednesday:** Lecture, "White Collar Offenders: Sick, Greedy or Pawns of Advanced Capitalist Society?" Read Coleman, *The Criminal Elite,* pp. 1-15. [Moodle] **Friday:** Discuss readings for the week. Read Shover, Coffey and Hobbs, "Crime on the Line: Telemarketing and the Changing Nature of Professional Crime," pp. 205-223 [Cromwell reader]; Dabney, "Neutralization and Deviance in the Workplace: Theft of Supplies and Medicines by Hospital Nurses," pp. 235-248 [Cromwell reader]
WEEK 8: March18, 20, 22	**Monday:** Film, "Hackers." Read Holt, "Becoming a Computer Hacker: Examining the Enculturation and Development of Computer Deviants," pp. 109-123 [Cromwell reader] **Wednesday:** Discuss readings for the week. Read Copes and Vieraitis, " Identity Theft: Assessing Offenders' Motivations and Strategies, " pp. 124-137 [Cromwell reader] **Friday:** ***Mid-term exam*** (Get Paper 3 assignment)

WEEK 9: March 25, 27, 29	Spring Break!
WEEK 10: April 1, 3, 5	**INTIMATE VIOLENCE: RAPE** **Monday:** Class exercise: three vignettes. Read Sanday, *Fraternity Gang Rape*, pp. 1-50 [Book] **Wednesday:** Lecture, "Rape: Definitions, Prevalence and Contexts" Read Sanday, *Fraternity Gang Rape*, pp. 53-82 [Book] **Friday: No Class (RB at Conference)**
WEEK 11: April 8, 10, 12	**Monday:** Discuss Sanday, part I Read Sanday, *Fraternity Gang Rape*, pp. 83-125 [Book] **Wednesday:** Lecture,"Rape from the Mouths of Rapists." Film, "Rape is…" Read Sanday, *Fraternity Gang Rape*, pp. 129-179 [Book] **Friday:** Discuss Sanday, part II Read Sanday, *Fraternity Gang Rape*, pp. 180-236 [Book] ***Paper 3 due***
WEEK 12: April 15, 17, 19	**INTIMATE VIOLENCE: HATE CRIME** **Monday:** Lecture, "When Hate Motivates Crime." Read King, *Hate Crime*, pp. 3-50 [Book] **Wednesday:** Discuss King, parts 1 and 2 Read King, *Hate Crime*, pp. 53-112 [Book] **Friday:** Film, "Killing Time." Read King, *Hate Crime*, pp. 115-166 [Book]

WEEK 13: April 22, 24, 26	**Monday:** Discuss King, part 3 Read King, *Hate Crime*, pp. 167-213 [Book] **CRIMINAL JUSTICE RESPONSES TO CRIME** **Wednesday:** Lecture, "Why and How We Punish in the U.S." Read Bach, *How America Holds Court*, pp. 1-9 [Book] **Friday:** Film, "The Plea" Read Bach, *How America Holds Court*, pp. 10-56 [Book]
WEEK 14: April 29, May 1, 3	**Monday:** Discuss first part of book. Read Bach, *How America Holds Court*, pp. 57-76 [Book] **Wednesday:** Lecture, "U.S. Prisons: Incubators and Exporters of Racism" Read Bach, *How America Holds Court*, pp. 77-129 [Book] **Friday:** Discuss second part of book. Read Bach, *How America Holds Court*, pp. 130-190 [Book]
WEEK 15: May 6, 8	**Monday:** Discuss last part of book. Read Bach, *How America Holds Court*, pp. 191-266 [Book] **Wednesday:** Final Reflections.

FINAL EXAM ON MAY 15, 8:30-11:30 A.M.