CRIMINOLOGY
SOCIOLOGY 215

DePauw University
Fall 2014
MWF 8:00-9:00 a.m.

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COURSE DESCRIPTION

What is crime and who gets to decide? Why do we fear strangers when we are more likely to be harmed by someone we know? How do the motives of a rapist, a corporation violating environmental regulations, and the campus drug dealer differ? Is plea-bargaining a good thing? Why is the criminal justice system a sea of black and brown faces?

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 environments. The semester is organized around three types of crime--street crime, white-collar crime, and intimate crime--and we use the intersection of race, social class, and gender inequalities to understand why this distinction is important. We finish by considering how court actors "do justice."

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; and 5) Improve critical thinking, discussion and writing skills.

REQUIRED READINGS

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

Glassner, Barry. 2010. *The Culture of Fear: Why Americans are Afraid of the Wrong Things*. NY: Basic. (**10th anniversary edition**.) ISBN: 9780465003365

Sanday, Peggy Reeves. 2007. *Fraternity Gang Rape: Sex, Brotherhood, and Privilege on Campus*, **2nd edition**. NY: NYU Press. ISBN 9780814740385

King, Joyce. 2003. *Hate Crime: The Story of a Dragging in Jasper, Texas.* NY: Anchor. ISBN: 978385721950

Bach, Amy. 2009. *Ordinary Injustice: How America Holds Court*. NY: Henry Holt and Co. ISBN: 9780805092271

Mohamed, A. Rafik and Erik D. Fritsvold. 2010. *Dorm Room Dealers: Drugs and the Privileges of Race and Class*. Boulder: Lynne Rienner. ISBN: 9781588268167

B. Additional required readings are available in Course Reserves.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

Papers. You will write three papers. Paper 1 (2 pages) is due August 29. Paper 2 (5-6 pages) is due September 15. Paper 3 (5-6 pages) is due November 24. Specific instructions will be handed out in class.

Examinations. There will be three exams: October 3, November 7, and December 17.

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. If you do not like to speak in large or small groups, please reconsider taking this class.

COURSE POLICIES

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

Class participation (1st half)	25 points
Class participation (2nd half)	25 points
Paper 1	required, but not graded
Paper 2	100 points
Paper 3	100 points
Exam 1	100 points
Exam 2	100 points
Exam 3	100 points
Total	550 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 Letter 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 meets the requirements of the assignment. Demonstrates a solid command of the course material, an ability to apply concepts to the real world, 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 assignments are due in class on the dates indicated on the syllabus. Exceptions will be made if I receive in advance an official notification that you will be off campus on university business (e.g., athletic event) or a call from you prior to the due date indicating that you are gravely ill. Out of fairness to the entire class, no exceptions will be made (this includes minor illness, job interviews, weddings, delayed planes, etc.) Unexcused late assignments will be penalized 5 points for every 24-hour period in which they are late. For both excused and unexcused absences from class, it is your responsibility to find out what you missed from your peers.

Extra Credit. None. No exceptions.

Security Measures. Due to past experience, I ask that you keep copies of your assignments before handing them in. In addition, if you are turning in your work 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. 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. While I encourage you to work together in small groups and discuss the course material among yourselves outside of class, papers and exams should be written without collaboration and should reflect your independent ideas.

Special Accommodations. DePauw University is committed to providing equal access to academic programs and university administered activities with reasonable accommodations to students with disabilities, in compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act and Amendments (ADAAA). 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 Student Disability Services for further information on how to receive accommodations and support. Student Disability Services is located in the Union Building, 765-658-6267.

No Cell Phones or Laptops. No cell phones or texting during class. No laptops unless arranged through the ADA Coordinator. This means you will need to print the readings posted on Course Reserves and/or bring in notes from the readings so you can refer to them during our discussions.

COURSE SCHEDULE

Readings should be completed before coming to class on the date specified. Readings are identified by the authors' last names. I have placed in brackets the location of each assigned reading (i.e., Book or Course Reserves).

WEEK 1 August 27, 29	**I. When is a Wrong a Crime?** **W:** Introductions. **Get Paper 1 assignment**. **F:** Hagan, "Defining Crime: An Issue of Morality," pp. 5-12. [Course Reserves] **Paper 1 due.**

WEEK 2 September 1, 3, 5	**M:** Glassner, *The Culture of Fear*, pp. xi-xxxvi; 23-49. [Book] **Get Paper 2 assignment.** **W:** Glassner, *The Culture of Fear*, pp. 109-150. [Book] **F:** Glassner, *The Culture of Fear*, pp. 205-244. [Book]

WEEK 3 September 8, 10, 12	**II. How is Crime Measured?** **M:** Lab et al., "Measuring Crime," pp. 9-13. [Course Reserves] Jacobs, "Researching Crack Dealers: Dilemmas and Contradictions," pp. 392-406. [Course Reserves] **III. Theoretical Explanations for Crime** **W:** Williams, *Blue Rage, Black Redemption: A Memoir*, pp. 3-42. [Course Reserves] **F:** Williams, *Blue Rage, Black Redemption: A Memoir*, pp. 42-75. [Course Reserves]

WEEK 4 September 15, 17, 19	**IV. Street Crime: Serial Killing and Homicide** **M:** Fox, *The Will to Kill*, pp. 105-118. [Course Reserves] Hare, *Without Conscience*, pp. 124-143. [Course Reserves] **Paper 2 due.** **W:** Magnus, 31 Years of the BTK Killer," pp. 1-18. [Course Reserves] **F:** Brookman, "Accounting for Homicide and Sublethal Violence," pp. 175-192. [Course Reserves] Seigal et al., "The Relationship Between Gun Ownership and Firearm Homicide Rates in the United States, 1981-2010" pp. 2098-2105. [Course Reserves]

WEEK 5 September 22, 24, 26	**Drug Trafficking and Drug Sales/Use** **M:** Jenner, "International Drug Trafficking: A Global Problem with a Domestic Solution," pp. 901-927. [Course Reserves] Shukla et al., "An Evolving Problem: Methamphetamine Production and Trafficking in the United States," pp.426-435. [Course Reserves] **W:** Mohamed and Fritsvold, *Dorm Room Dealers*, pp. 1-62. [Book] **F:** Mohamed and Fritsvold, *Dorm Room Dealers*, pp. 63-98. [Book]

WEEK 6 September 29, October 1, 3	**M:** Mohamed and Fritsvold, *Dorm Room Dealers*, pp. 123-167. [Book] **W:** Mohamed and Fritsvold, *Dorm Room Dealers*, pp. 169-184. [Book] **F: Exam 1**

WEEK 7 October 6, 8, 10	**Hate Crime** **M:** King, *Hate Crime*, pp. 1-50 [Book] **W:** King, *Hate Crime*, pp.53-112. [Book] **F:** King, *Hate Crime*, pp.115-166. [Book]

WEEK 8 October 13, 15, 17	**M:** King, *Hate Crime*, pp. 167-213. [Book] Film, "Killing Time." **W:** Herek, "Hate Crimes and Stigma-Related Experiences Among Sexual Minority Adults in the U.S." pp. 54-74. [Course Reserves] **F:** Duncan and Hatzenbuehler, "Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender Hate Crimes and Suicidality Among a Population-Based Sample of Sexual-Minority Adolescents in Boston," pp. 272-278. [Course Reserves]

WEEK 9 October 20, 22, 24	**Fall break**

WEEK 10 October 27, 29, 31	**V. White Collar Crime: Environmental Crime** **M:** Coleman, *The Criminal Elite*, pp. 1-15. [Course reserves] **W:** Simon, "Corporate Environmental Crimes and Social Inequality: New Directions for Environmental Justice Research," pp. 103-115. [Course Reserves] Iversen, "The Dirty Secrets of Rocky Flats," pp. 23-26. [Course Reserves] **F:** Palmer, et al., "Mountaintop Mining Consequences," pp. 148-149. [Course Reserves] Stokstad, "The Mountaintop Witness," pp. 592-595. [Course Reserves]

WEEK 11 November 3, 5, 7	**Environmental Racism** **M:** Mohai and Saha, "Racial Inequality in the Distribution of Hazardous Waste: A National-level Reassessment," pp. 343-370. [Course Reserves] Film, "Shelter in Place." **W:** Brook, " Environmental Genocide: Native Americans and Toxic Waste," pp. 105-113. [Course Reserves] **F: Exam 2**

WEEK 12 November 10, 12, 14	**VI. Intimate Crime: Rape** **M:** No new reading. **Get Paper 3 assignment.** **W:** Sanday, *Fraternity Gang Rape*, pp. 1-50. [Book] **F:** Sanday, *Fraternity Gang Rape*, pp. 53-107. [Book]

WEEK 13 November 17, 19, 21	**M:** Sanday, *Fraternity Gang Rape*, pp. 108-147. [Book] **W:** Sanday, *Fraternity Gang Rape*, pp. 148-197. [Book] **F:** Sanday, *Fraternity Gang Rape*, pp. 198-236. [Book]

WEEK 14 November 24	**VII. Criminal Justice Responses** **M:** Film, "The Plea, Part 1" **Paper 3 due.** **W: No class** **F: No class**

WEEK 15 December 1, 3, 5	**M:** Film, "The Plea, Part 2" Bach, *Ordinary Injustice*, pp. 1-9. [Book] **W:** Bach, *Ordinary Injustice*, pp.11-76. [Book] **F:** Bach, *Ordinary Injustice*, pp.77-129. [Book]

WEEK 16 **December 8, 10, 12**	**M:** Bach, *Ordinary Injustice*, pp.130-190. [Book] **W:** Bach, *Ordinary Injustice*, pp.191-266. [Book] **F:** End of semester wrap-up.

Final Exam Week	**Exam 3, Wednesday, December 17, 8:30-11:30 a.m.**