Criminology
3 Credits, Fall 2017

Instructor: Joanna Kubik
Email: jokubik@rutgers.edu
Office hours: By appointment only

Days: Tuesday
Time: 6-9pm
Location: CPS 104

Course Description
This course introduces an examination of the field of criminology. Major topics include definitions of, and the basic assumptions that are used to formulate, criminological theories. Causes of crime and crime rates, United States and international comparisons, and a review of the current direction of research within the study of crime are also discussed.

B.S., Criminal Justice Program Learning Goals
Upon completion of the B.S. in Criminal Justice at Rutgers University-Newark, students should be able to:

1. Describe the development and functions of major criminal justice institutions (e.g., police, courts, corrections, and juvenile justice), the activities of actors within these institutions, and how they relate to one another as well as the broader social, political, and economic world.
2. Describe the mechanisms, correlates, theoretical underpinnings, and situational contexts of crime, criminal behavior and opportunity, and techniques for prevention and treatment.
3. Apply and analyze theories related to the policies and practices of the criminal justice system and its major institutions.
4. Demonstrate the ability to gather, explain, and apply empirical research in the field of criminal justice.
5. Obtain a comprehensive knowledge about the process of conducting criminal justice research, and develop the skills to conduct criminal justice research with appropriate methodologies.

Course Learning Goals
1. Describe how crime is defined and measured.
2. Articulate the major theories that explain criminal behavior, and the principal research findings associated with each major theory.
3. Critically examine crime and deviance as social constructs and evaluate the effects that societal response to crime has on criminal behavior.
4. Recognize diverse methods of data collection and the challenges of researching crime and deviance.
Required Reading

Course Requirements

**Preparation/participation:** Students are expected to engage in a basic level of participation throughout this course. To facilitate participation and generate more interesting discussions, students are expected to complete the assigned reading prior to the class in which the topics are to be discussed. Additionally, if students are continually absent (see attendance policy), habitually arrive late or leave early, or are otherwise disruptive (e.g., chatting during class, texting, using laptops or other electronic devices for non-academic purposes, being disrespectful to fellow students), their participation grade will be negatively impacted. If a student is particularly disruptive during class, they may be asked to leave.

**Quizzes:** There will be 4 quizzes this semester; on average, students can expect quizzes to be administered on a bi-weekly basis. The quizzes will follow a multiple-choice format and will cover weekly lectures and readings. These quizzes are to ensure students understand the course material prior to the exam and will also serve as resources for their comprehensive Study Guide. Quizzes will not be cumulative and will be promptly returned.

**Study Guide:** Following the completion of lectures, students will be divided into groups and expected to become “experts” on a selection of the theories presented throughout the course. Group members will work together to create theory-specific Study Sheets (that adhere to content and formatting requirements as provided by the instructor) that will, prior to the Final Exam, be presented and disseminated to all classmates to create a complete Study Guide of all theories covered this semester. Each group will need to submit their Study Sheets via email to the instructor ahead of their presentation so that copies can be made in advance.

**Group Presentation:** Groups will be required to present their completed Study Sheets to the class in the final class sessions before the exam. The instructor will provide a grading rubric prior to the presentation so that both presenters and audience members understand how they will be evaluated. These presentations will serve as review for all students and as such, students will be expected to be present and complete provided review sheets for each theory.

**Final Exam:** The final exam will follow a multiple-choice format and will be based on a combination of the course lectures and assigned readings. The exam will be cumulative. Unless otherwise noted, students are responsible for all of the material covered in each section of this course. Thus, it is imperative to complete all assigned readings, take complete notes during lectures, and study for bi-weekly quizzes, as students will not be able to do well in this course without doing so. The class-created Study Guide should serve as a comprehensive tool to study for the final exam.

Course Assessment & Grading

**Grade Distribution:**
Preparation/participation 10%
Quizzes (4) 40%
Study Guide 15%
Group Presentation 10%
Final Exam 25%
Total 100%

**Grading Scale Percentages:**
- A 90-100%
- B+ 85-89%
- B 80-84%
- C+ 75-79%
- C 70-74%
- D 60-69%
- F 59% and below

**Course Policies & Expectations**

*Attendance:* It is impossible to do well in this course if students do not attend class regularly. Students **must** be present in class on quiz, presentation, and exam days in order to receive credit.

*Classroom Conduct:* It is the intention of the instructor to establish a class environment that is conducive to the exchange of ideas in a mutually respectful manner. Due to the nature of the material that will be discussed throughout this course, it is expected that there will be differing perspectives on the general issues of crime and crime control, which is both welcomed and encouraged. However, in the course of discussion, students are expected to be respectful of others’ opinions.

*Extra Credit:* There will be one opportunity for students to earn extra credit points towards their final grade. This extra credit will be a mini-quiz that will be administered on Blackboard (see course schedule).

*Make-up Quizzes and Late Assignments:* Unless a student has a documented emergency, make-up quizzes will not be offered and will result in a zero. Eligibility for make-up material will only be considered in extreme circumstances and at the discretion of the instructor.

*Grade Progress:* If students have questions or concerns about their performance in this course, they are to e-mail the instructor and set up an appointment to discuss their progress.

**Course Structure**
The course will largely be delivered by lecture with audio and visual supplements. Students will have ample opportunity for discussion and interaction with the instructor and amongst themselves.

**Course Schedule**
This schedule is tentative in nature and is subject to change at the discretion of the instructor. Students will be notified of schedule changes via Blackboard and in class.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Week</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Class Topic/Activity</th>
<th>Assignment</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Jan. 16</td>
<td>Course Introduction</td>
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<td>2</td>
<td>Jan. 23</td>
<td>Origins of Modern Criminology</td>
<td>Read pages 21-33</td>
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<td>Biosocial Theories</td>
<td>Read pages 34-58</td>
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<td>3</td>
<td>Jan. 30</td>
<td>Biological/Trait Theories</td>
<td>Read pages 76-94</td>
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<td>4</td>
<td>Feb. 6</td>
<td>Quiz #1</td>
<td>Study for quiz</td>
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<td>Social Disorganization Theory</td>
<td>Read pages 97-126</td>
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<td>5</td>
<td>Feb. 13</td>
<td>Anomie/Strain Theories</td>
<td>Read pages 166-211</td>
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<td>6</td>
<td>Feb. 20</td>
<td>Quiz #2</td>
<td>Study for quiz</td>
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<td>Differential Association Theory</td>
<td>Read pages 127-139</td>
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<td>7</td>
<td>Feb. 27</td>
<td>Social Learning Theory</td>
<td>Read pages 140-153</td>
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<td>Subcultural Theory</td>
<td>Read pages 154-165; 186-190</td>
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<td>8</td>
<td>March 6</td>
<td>Quiz #3</td>
<td>Study for quiz</td>
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<td>Control Theories</td>
<td>Read pages 212-220; 238-250</td>
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<td>9</td>
<td>March 13</td>
<td><strong>NO CLASS- SPRING BREAK</strong></td>
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<td>10</td>
<td>March 20</td>
<td>Deterrence Theory</td>
<td>Read pages 417-436</td>
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<td>Rational Choice Theory</td>
<td>Read pages 437-453</td>
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<td>11</td>
<td>March 27</td>
<td>Quiz #4</td>
<td>Study for quiz</td>
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<td>Routine Activities Theory</td>
<td>Read pages 454-479</td>
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<td>12</td>
<td>April 3</td>
<td>No CLASS- Mini quiz #5</td>
<td>Quiz administered on Blackboard at 6pm</td>
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<td>Time devoted to group projects</td>
<td>Meet/work with group</td>
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<td>13</td>
<td>April 10</td>
<td>Group Projects – presentations</td>
<td>Completed review sheets</td>
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<td>14</td>
<td>April 17</td>
<td>Study guide feedback/Exam review</td>
<td>Come prepared with questions</td>
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<td>15</td>
<td>April 24</td>
<td>Final Exam</td>
<td>Study for exam!!</td>
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**Academic Integrity**
As a member of the Rutgers University community you are not to engage in any academic dishonesty. You are responsible for adhering to basic academic standards of honesty and integrity as outlined in the Rutgers University Policy on Academic Integrity for Undergraduate and Graduate Students: [http://studentconduct.rutgers.edu/academic-integrity](http://studentconduct.rutgers.edu/academic-integrity)

Your academic work should be the result of your own individual effort, you should not allow other students to use your work, and you are required to recognize and reference any material that is not your own. Violations of the university’s policy will result in appropriate action.

**Academic Resources**
**Students with Disabilities**
Rutgers University is committed to providing equal educational opportunity for persons with disabilities in accordance with the Nondiscrimination Policy of the University and in compliance with § 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 and with Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990. For additional information please visit the website [https://ods.rutgers.edu/](https://ods.rutgers.edu/) or contact the representative for the Newark Campus.

Kate Torres  
Coordinator of ADA Services and Academic Support  
Robeson Campus Center, Suite 352  
350 Martin Luther King Jr. Boulevard  
Newark, NJ 07102  
Phone: 973.353.5300  
Fax: 973.353.5666  
E-mail: kate.torres@rutgers.edu  
Website: [https://ods.rutgers.edu/](https://ods.rutgers.edu/)

**Psychological and Counseling Services**
If you experience psychological or other difficulties as a result of this course, or because of other issues that may interfere with your performance in the course, please contact the university’s psychological and counseling service center (973-353-5805), which is located in Blumenthal Hall, room 101. The center offers a variety of free, confidential services to part-time and full-time students who are enrolled at Rutgers. For more information visit [http://www.counseling.newark.rutgers.edu](http://www.counseling.newark.rutgers.edu)

**School of Criminal Justice**
If you are interested in finding out about our Accelerated Master's Program (B.S. /M.A) or the Criminal Justice National Honor Society (Alpha Phi Sigma) please refer to the School of Criminal Justice website [http://rscj.newark.rutgers.edu/](http://rscj.newark.rutgers.edu/)