SCJ 104: Cutting Edge Criminology  
Fall 2017

Dr. Jody Miller  
555 Center for Law and Justice  
jody.miller@rutgers.edu

Class Schedule: 100 Engelhard, 2:30-5:20pm, Mondays  
Office Hours: 1:30-2:30pm Mondays or by appointment

Course Objectives: Criminology and criminal justice research addresses many of the most pressing social problems in the world today, including broken-windows policing, mass incarceration and prisoner reintegration, violence against women, gangs, and organized crime in the US and overseas. The faculty at the Rutgers School of Criminal Justice are among the leading thinkers in the field, driven by a passionate concern with solving problems of crime, public security, and social justice.

Cutting Edge Criminology is designed to provide students the opportunity to learn firsthand about our award-winning research—from its conceptualization to its real world impact. Each week will feature a faculty speaker from SCJ. They will tell the stories of their own research—inspiration, methods, findings—and discuss how they tackle important problems that affect people’s lives. Our job is to be at the leading edge of intellectual thought and action about crime and justice, and this class is designed to stimulate students’ thinking about how criminology can help do the work of justice.

Learning Goals: This course is designed to prepare you, upon completion, to:

1. Understand the goals and breadth of research in criminology and criminal justice  
2. Develop critical and creative thinking skills through an in-depth exploration of how criminologists evaluate arguments and information in order to create the foundations for their research  
3. Be conversant with the diverse modes of inquiry and methodological approaches employed by criminologists to understand crime and justice  
4. Read, appraise and evaluate criminological research

Required Readings:  
1. Articles posted on Blackboard  
2. One SCJ faculty monograph (see attached paper assignment for details)

Course Requirements: Students are required to read assigned articles, attend all classes and participate in class discussion in a manner that reflects familiarity with the readings and previous class sessions. Students are required to be present from the beginning to the end of all class sessions, and to access the course website regularly to stay informed about any changes in lecture topics, assigned readings and other course announcements. Changes in the course schedule may be necessary, and where possible, announced in prior classes and by posting on the course website.
The final grade will be assessed based upon performance on the following:

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<th>Component</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
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<tr>
<td>Exam 1</td>
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<td>Exam 2</td>
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<td>Attendance and Participation</td>
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**EXAMS** will include a combination of true/false, multiple choice, and/or short answer questions based on material presented in class and assigned readings. Exams will be distributed at the beginning of class only; no exams will be given to late arrivals. NO MAKEUP EXAMS WILL BE GIVEN unless the student presents a valid medical or catastrophic event excuse.

**ATTENDANCE** and **PARTICIPATION** will be assessed in the following ways: first, I will take attendance each week. Second, each of you is responsible, at least FIVE TIMES during the semester, for bringing in three questions for the guest speaker about the assigned reading(s) for that week. These will be evaluated based on their demonstration of your engagement with the reading(s). You should bring in two copies of these questions; one to turn in to me at the start of class, and one to keep on hand for asking the guest speaker during the Q&A portion of the class.

There is NO option for extra credit assignments in this course.

**Offensive or Sensitive Material**
In learning about crime and criminology, students may encounter language, depictions, or attitudes that they find disturbing or offensive. Please feel free to discuss with me any concerns you may have with course materials. At the same time, our topics for discussion may involve sensitive issues. If you would like to avoid participating in a particular class session, please see the professor before the class meeting.

**Classroom Demeanor**
All members of this class are required to conduct themselves in an appropriate and professional manner. This means: no tardiness, no early departures, no food, no cell phones, and no checking e-mail or other personal internet sites. Laptops are permitted only if disengaged from the internet and other electronic devices should be stored away unless you specifically seek the instructor's permission. In this class, we may have discussions that challenge our taken for granted assumptions about crime and justice. Students should be prepared to engage honestly and openly about this material and perhaps even examine their own beliefs about the issues. While I am hopeful that the course materials will spark interesting discussion, personal insults or other types of demeaning, disrespectful, or threatening comments toward other class members about their experiences, backgrounds, or statements will NOT be tolerated.

**Academic Conduct Policy**
Please do your own work. Students caught plagiarizing in a paper or cheating on an exam will receive a zero on the assignment, and the case will be forwarded to the University's academic misconduct board. Plagiarism includes direct verbatim quotations lifted from written sources without citation, as well as paraphrasing quotes without citations. If you are using the ideas of an author, give the author credit for her or his work. For more details, see the document *Avoiding Plagiarism* posted on the course Blackboard site.
**Disability Services:** Students who believe that they may need accommodations in this class are encouraged to contact the Office of Disability Services for Students (973-353-5300) as soon as possible to ensure that such accommodations are arranged in a timely fashion.

**PLEASE NOTE:** I will make every attempt to stick to the syllabus as written, but scheduling conflicts may come up that require us to make minor adjustments.

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**Course Schedule & Assigned Readings**

9/11 **Introduction and Course Overview**

**READING:** “Avoiding Plagiarism” (Blackboard)

ICPRS, “How to Read (and Understand) a Social Science Journal Article” (Blackboard)

Wacquant and Page, “Practical Tips for Reading Sociology”

**OPTIONAL READING:** Rutgers School of Criminal Justice, *40 Years Looking Back and Forward* (Blackboard)

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**Section I: Criminal Justice Processes and Consequences**

9/18 **Labor Markets, Crime and Criminal Justice**

*Guest Speaker: Professor Robert Apel*

**READING:** Apel and Sweeten, “The Impact of Incarceration on Employment during the Transition to Adulthood” (Blackboard)

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9/25 **Parental Incarceration and Inequality**

*Guest Speaker: Professor Sara Wakefield*

**READING:** Sara Wakefield and Christopher Uggen, “Incarceration and Stratification” (Blackboard)

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**Section II: Technology, Crime and Justice**

10/2 **Digital Punishment**

*Guest Speaker: Professor Sarah Lageson*

**READING:** Sarah Esther Lageson, “Crime Data, the Internet, and Free Speech: An Evolving Legal Consciousness” (Blackboard)

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10/9 **Risk Terrain Modeling for Crime Prevention and Risk Reduction**

*Guest Speaker: Professor Joel Caplan*

**READINGS:** Joel Caplan and Leslie Kennedy, “Explaining the Contexts of Crime” (Blackboard)


10/16  ReportedPD: Using Mobile Technology to Understand Police/Citizen Encounters
Guest Speaker: Dr. Madeleine Novich
READING: Madeleine Novich and Geoffrey Hunt, “‘Get Off Me’: Perceptions of Disrespectful Police Behavior among Ethnic Minority Youth Gang Members” (Blackboard)

10/23  EXAM 1

Section III: Contexts of Crime

10/30  Youth Crime in Community Contexts
Guest Speaker: Professor Mercer Sullivan
READING: Mercer Sullivan, “Maybe We Shouldn’t Study ‘Gangs’: Does Reification Obscure Youth Violence?” (Blackboard)

11/6  Crime and Criminal Justice in Croatia
Guest Speaker: Professor Valerio Bacak
READING: Anna-Marie Getoš Kalac and Reana Bezić, “Criminology, Crime and Criminal Justice in Croatia” (Blackboard)

11/13  Gender, Crime and Inequality
Speaker: Professor Jody Miller
READING: Jody Miller, “Grounding the Analysis of Gender and Crime: Accomplishing and Interpreting Qualitative Interview Research” (Blackboard)

11/20  NO CLASS: HAPPY THANKSGIVING!!
PAPER ASSIGNMENT DUE – via email by 9pm to: jody.miller@rutgers.edu

Section IV: Neighborhood and Community Contexts

11/27  Partnerships for Community Safety and Risk-Intervention
Guest Speaker: Professor Bernadette Hohl
READINGS: Alice Hausman, Bernadette Hohl, et al., “Translating Community-Specified Indicators of Program Success into Measureable Outcomes” (Blackboard)
Michelle Kondo, Bernadette Hohl, et al., “Effects of Greening and Community Reuse of Vacant Lots on Crime” (Blackboard)
Neighborhoods, Space and Crime

Guest Speaker: Professor Elizabeth Griffiths

READING: Elizabeth Griffiths, “Race, Space, and the Spread of Violence across the City” (Blackboard)

12/11 EXAM 2