I. Course Information

Instructor: Kwabena A. Nuamah, Ph.D
Email: 
Phone: (302) 981-2640

Course Overview:

47:202:324 Violent Crime (3 credits)
This course provides an in-depth analysis of the relationship between violence and criminal behavior. It assesses the theoretical basis of violence by investigating its anthropological, biological, and sociological explanations and roots. Students that take this course will be involved in investigations of how and why violence occurs within the contexts of individuals, groups, and societies.

Prerequisite:

* See student catalogue for details

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 Objectives:

Learning Goals for Introduction to Criminal Justice
1. Explain the structure and functioning of the basic components of the criminal justice system including the police, courts, corrections, and the juvenile justice system.
2. Articulate how the criminal justice system is a dynamic and interdisciplinary system made up of many different people and agencies.
3. Describe the relationships among all parts and players of the criminal justice system as well as their relationships to other social systems and relevant stakeholders.
4. Critically analyze about how policies and practices of criminal justice agencies may directly or indirectly affect other criminal justice agencies, social systems, and/or key stakeholders.

Learning Goals for Introduction to Criminology
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.

Learning Goals for Criminal Justice Research Methods
1. Describe common methods of social science inquiry.
2. Understand the linkage between research questions and research design.
3. Explore major debates about research methods, social science, and ethics in research.
4. Critically evaluate social scientific evidence and research.
5. Become better-informed consumers of new reports, political rhetoric, and public discussion about the social world and social scientific research.

Learning Goals for Data Analysis in Criminal Justice
1. Define the main characteristics of research designs.
2. Distinguish the levels of measurements and types of variables.
3. Choose, apply, and correctly interpret summary measures.
4. Visualize distributions of continuous and categorical variables.
5. Calculate and interpret measures of association.
6. Explain the principles of statistical inference.
7. Test hypotheses using bivariate analytic techniques.
8. Conduct basic statistical analyses by hand and using computer software.

Required Readings:

Course Requirements:

Attendance & Participation
1) Participation and attendance are required and mandatory, as they count toward your grade. Students are expected to attend all classes; if you expect to miss one or two classes, please use the University absence reporting website //https://sims.rutgers.edu/ssra// to indicate the date and reason for your absence. An e-mail is automatically sent to me. You are expected to have the material read for the respective class. Students are encouraged to take an active part in all classroom discussion and will be called on regularly. Please remember that participation will be graded accordingly.

2) Reading Material  Reading assignments are given for every class.

3) Film review/reflection papers/News Articles
A part of your grade will be Film reviews or Reflection papers. Throughout the course we will view some documentaries that relate to the subject matter being discussed that week. A one-page Reflection paper will be required the next time the class meets.

4) Chapter Quizzes
There will be several chapter quizzes on covered topics in assigned readings. The chapters will be lectured on and quizzes given which cover the material presented.

Course Structure:
This course will be delivered in a series of Lectures, Presentations and Discussions. There will be (two) debates of relevant topic in the news.

II. Course Schedule

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Class Topic</th>
<th>Readings &amp; Assignments Due</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Week 1 09/06</td>
<td>Introduction, Defining Violence, measuring violence, violence in US society – choose your “study partner”</td>
<td>Chapter 10 of text – “As American as Apple Pie”</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Week 2 09/13</td>
<td>Explaining Violence- Ethnological and Biological, Sociological</td>
<td>Chapter 2 of text – “Explaining Violence”</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Week 3 09/20</td>
<td>Aiding and Abetting Violence – guns, alcohol and illicit drugs</td>
<td>Chapter 3 of text – “Aiding and Abetting Violence”</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Week 4 09/27</td>
<td>Assault and Murder - Defining assault and homicide,</td>
<td>Chapter 4 of text—“Assault and Murder: A continuum”</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Week 5 10/04</td>
<td>First Quiz</td>
<td>Chapters 1, 2, 3, &amp; 4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Week 6</td>
<td>Violence in Home – Intimate partner</td>
<td>Chapter 5 of text – “Violence in Home”</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Date</td>
<td>Topic</td>
<td>Chapter/Video</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>----------</td>
<td>----------------------------------------------------------------------</td>
<td>------------------------------------------------------------------------------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10/11</td>
<td>including LGBT, Risks factors, Child Abuse and elder abuse.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Week 7</td>
<td>10/18</td>
<td>Rape and Sexual Assault – what are the real numbers?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Chapter 6 of text – “Rape and Sexual Assault”</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Week 8</td>
<td>10/25</td>
<td>Stranger Danger – Robbery, Hate Crimes, Street Gangs - how safe are our streets?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Chapter 7 of text – “Stranger Danger and Violence in the Street”</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Week 9</td>
<td>11/1</td>
<td>Second quiz -</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Chapters 5, 6, &amp; 7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Week 10</td>
<td>11/8</td>
<td>Crowd Violence – Mobs and Mob Mentality, Riots Race Riots and Lynching</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Chapter 8 of text – “Crowd Violence”; Watch “Eyes on the Prize”</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Week 11</td>
<td>11/15</td>
<td>Crowd Violence Continued</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Reflection paper on video.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Week 12</td>
<td>11/22</td>
<td>Defining Terrorism, History, types and weapons, ISIS, Iraq and Failed states</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Chapter 9 of text, and other printouts</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Week 13</td>
<td>12/06</td>
<td>Defining Genocide – Perpetrators, Victims and Bystanders, genocide in the 20th Century</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Chapter 10 of text. Review Chapters 8, 9, &amp; 10 for final</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Week 14</td>
<td>12/13</td>
<td>Final Examinations</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### III Course Assessment and Grading

The final grade will be assessed based upon your performance on the following:

- **First Quiz** 15%
- **Midterm** 20%
- **Second Quiz** 15%
- **Reflection Paper** 10%
- **Final Exam** 35%
- **Attendance & Participation** 5%

**Total 100%**

The following grading scale will be used for this course:

- A  90–100%
- B+ 85–89%
- B  80–84%
- C+ 75–79%
- C  70–74%
- D  60–69%
- F  <60%

**Late or Missing Assignment Policy:**
No make-up exams or late assignments will be permitted unless you contact me PRIOR TO THE EXAM OR THE DUE DATE.

IV. Course Policies

Classroom Rules
Your cellphone MUST be turned OFF and placed in your pocket or pocketbook during all quizzes and examinations.
All members of this class are required to conduct themselves in an appropriate and professional manner. 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 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

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/ or contact the representative for the Newark Campus.

Allen Sheffield
Director of ADA Services and Academic Support
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 ([http://www.counseling.newark.rutgers.edu](http://www.counseling.newark.rutgers.edu); 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.

If you are interested in finding out more about
- Accelerated Master's Program (B.S. /M.A.)
- 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/)

Follow us, to stay up to date! @SCJ apps