



Criminology
47:202:102 ; Sections 2, 3, and 4
3 Credits
Fall, 2018

Lectures:
Tuesday & Thursday
10:00am – 11:20pm
Ackerson Hall – Room 123
Recitations, see below

I. Course Information

Lectures:

Lecturer: Mercer Sullivan, Ph.D.

Lecture Time: Tuesday and Thursday, 10:00AM-11:20PM

Location: Ackerson Hall, Room 123

Mercer Sullivan's contact information:

Office Location: Room 557, Center for Law & Justice, 123 Washington St.

Office Hours: Tuesday and Thursday, 11AM-12PM or by appointment

Phone: 973-353-5931

Email: mercerv.sullivan@rutgers.edu

Recitation Sections

Section 02: Wednesday, 1PM-2PM, Conklin 352. Leader: Ihsan Al-Zouabi

Section 03: Tuesday, 1PM-2PM, Bradley 410. Leader: Kateryna Kaplun

Section 04: Wednesday, 1PM-2PM, Hill 204. Leader: Sofia Flores

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. The course offers an overview of the scientific study of crime. Topics include the history of criminology, definition and measurement of crime, time trends, various theoretical approaches to the study of crime, and the characteristics of different types of crime.
- **Required Course – B.S.**

Prerequisites: None

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:

Students will learn how crime is defined and measured; the major theories explaining criminal behavior and the principal research findings associated with each major theory; and the characteristics of different types of crime, including recent time trends and characteristics of victims, offenders, and crime events. More generally, students will learn basic principles of social science research, as applied to crime; how to reason from evidence; and how to articulate their reasoning in class discussions. Students will learn to:

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.

II. Course Requirements:

Textbook/Readings:

- All readings for the course are either on Blackboard or contained in the required published anthology:
 - Required textbook: *Criminological Theory: Past to Present*, Sixth Edition, edited by Francis T. Cullen, Robert Agnew, and Pamela Wilcox, published by Oxford University Press, ISBN: 9780190639341. Available from the bookstore or by mail order
- These readings may be updated at any point during the term. Any changes will be made at least one week in advance of the scheduled class
- You are expected to read all assignments before coming to class. Failure to do so will make it difficult to do well on the examinations and impossible to participate competently in the recitation sections.

Blackboard

- Will be used for several purposes in this course, so please check it regularly. The syllabus and many reading assignments will be posted on Blackboard. Additional assignments may occur as the semester proceeds and will be announced in class and posted on Blackboard.
- You are responsible for everything posted on Blackboard, whether or not it is mentioned in class.

Preparation:

- Preparation for class is important and will affect your grade. In either lecture or recitation sessions, if you ask questions appropriately and offer comments that show that you have read and thought about the assignments, this will have a positive effect on your grade.
- If you talk inappropriately during class without being recognized by the instructor, this will adversely affect your grade.
- Other discourteous behavior such as talking on cellphones, texting (sending or receiving) and the like will also have an adverse effect. The only appropriate use of electronic communication devices in the classroom is to receive emergency communications; if this happens, step out of the room quickly and explain to the instructor afterward. Everyone is expected to respect others in the class by not distracting from the business at hand.
- Active participation in class discussions is not required in lecture session, although it is encouraged and can have a positive effect on your grade.
- In recitation sections, active participation is expected and required. Lack of active and appropriate participation in recitation effects will have a negative effect on your grade.

- Class participation grades are posted and updated constantly on Blackboard and you are advised to check regularly. They can be plus or minus. If you notice a minus number, you may want to speak to one of us so that we can work with you to correct the situation.

III. Course Structure and Schedule

Course Structure:

- The course content is divided into 2 basic sections:
 - I. Criminological Theory
 - II. Crime Typologies
- Course-time content is arranged into discussion-based lectures and occasionally documentary viewing.
 - Students attend both lectures and their recitation meeting, weekly.
- Two exams will cover the course material:
 - Mid-Term Exam will cover section I. Criminological Theory
 - Final Exam will cover section II. Crime Typologies

Calendar:

** The following chart lists the topics to be covered in each lecture. Many of the readings for the first part of the course are contained in the Cullen and Agnew edited volume. This list is subject to change at the Professor's discretion.**

	Date	Class Topic
1	Tuesday, January 16	Course Introduction
2	Thursday, January 18	Defining and Measuring Crime
3	Tuesday, January 23	Classical Theories
4	Thursday, January 25	Biosocial Theories
5	Tuesday, January 30	Social Disorganization Theories
6	Thursday, February 1	Anomie and Strain Theories
7	Tuesday, February 6	Subcultural Theories

8	Thursday, February 8	Social Learning Theories
9	Tuesday, February 13	Labeling and Interactionist Theories
10	Thursday, February 15	Self-Control and Social Control Theories: Part 1
11	Tuesday, February 20	Self-Control and Social Control Theories: Part 2
12	Thursday, February 22	Developmental Theories
13	Tuesday, February 27	Situational and Environmental Theories
14	Thursday, March 1	Critical Theories: Race and Crime
15	Tuesday, March 6	Feminist Theories
16	Thursday, March 8	Mid-Term Exam
	Spring Break	March 10-18
17	Tuesday, March 20	Interpersonal Violence: Homicide and Assault
18	Thursday, March 22	Robbery
19	Tuesday, March 27	Film: <i>Moral Panic</i>
20	Thursday, March 29	Gang Crime
21	Tuesday, April 3	Violence Against Women
22	Thursday, April 5	Theft and Fraud
23	Tuesday, April 10	Consensual Crimes (Drug Use and Prostitution)
24	Thursday, April 12	Organized Crime
25	Tuesday, April 17	Film: <i>Enron: The Smartest Guys in the Room</i>
26	Thursday, April 19	White-Collar and Political Crime
27	Tuesday, April 24	Cybercrime
28	Thursday, April 26	Final Exam Review

IV. Grading

- The course grade will be the weighted average of exam grades and recitation section grades, adjusted for participation scores.
- The exam grades count for two-thirds of the weighted average and the recitation section grades count for one-third.
- Participation points are then added (for positive participation) or subtracted (for negative participation) from the weighted average.
- There are two grading periods, the first ending at the mid-term exam (P1), the second at the final exam (P2).
- The final course grade is an exact average of the grades for the two periods.
- You can check how you are doing at any time by going to the "My Grades" section of Blackboard.
- Attendance is recorded there but does not affect grades directly; attendance may affect grades indirectly in either a positive or negative direction by affecting the Participation points.

Grades represent the level of quality of a student's performance in this course. The following grading scale will be used for individual assignments, and for the final course grade:

A 89.5–100%

B+	84.5 - 89.49%
B	79.5 - 84.49%
C+	74.5 - 79.49%
C	69.5 - 74.49%
D	59.5 - 69.49%
F	0 – 59.49%

The final course grade will be assessed based upon performance on the following weighted components:

P1:

Participation	% points may be added or subtracted to P1 grade
Recitation	1/3 of P1 grade
Mid-Term Exam	2/3 of P1 grade

P2: 5%

Participation	% points may be added or subtracted to P2 grade
Recitation	1/3 of P2 grade
Final Exam	2/3 of P2 grade

Final Course Grade: Average of P1 and P2 grades

V. Assessments

ATTENDANCE and **PARTICIPATION**: A significant percentage of your grade is based on class participation and attendance.

Participation:

- Your participation grade will reflect your level of involvement in class discussion and in-class activities. A large portion of each class session will be devoted to discussing the assigned readings and applying what we have learned to different images and texts.
- All students are required and expected to participate.
 - Participation includes asking questions, making comments, completing in-class work and written assignments, etc.
- Active participation demonstrates that you are doing the assigned reading, and thinking critically about the issues raised in class.
- Participation can be a negative score due to absences, lack of participation, or disruptive or discourteous behavior – especially phone use.
- Laptops and tablets are permitted for note taking and referring to readings during class, and is strictly monitored.
- Computer or phone use outside course matters is disruptive and discourteous, and will not be tolerated.
- Note: Attendance alone does not constitute participation.

Attendance:

- Attendance is expected and required. Attendance will be taken at each session.

- The attendance requirement applies equally to lecture and recitation sections.
- Notification of absences should be emailed to Course Administrator Estee Marchi.

EXAMS (MID-TERM AND FINAL) (2/3 OF WEIGHTED COURSE AVERAGE):

- The Mid-Term Exam will be delivered during class session (Thursday, March 8th) and is closed to books and other materials.
 - The Mid-Term Exam will cover material presented in the first part of the course.
- The Final Exam will be delivered during exam week and is closed to books and other materials.
 - The Final Exam will cover material presented in the second half of the course, and is non-cumulative.

Late or Missing Exam Policy:

- Make-ups are only rarely permitted.
 - And then only with proper documentation, and at the convenience of the *instructor*.

WRITTEN ASSESSMENTS (RECITATION)

- Written assignments may occasionally (and unannounced beforehand) be given in recitation, to be completed through Blackboard.

Late or Missing Assignment Policy:

- Late recitation assignments are accepted up to 24 hours after the due date, and are then closed permanently – no exceptions.
- All late recitation assignments are penalized 20 points – no exceptions.

VI. Course Policies**Classroom Rules**

- All members of this class are required to conduct themselves in an appropriate and professional manner.
 - Comportment in class should be professional: no cell phone use, no disruptive or discourteous conduct.
- 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.
- **Texting or phone use in class is strictly prohibited.** Phones should be stored away for the duration of the course meeting. Infractions will directly impact your Participation grade.
 - Repeat infractions are considered disruptions as per the Rutgers Code of Student Conduct, and will be referred to the Office of Student Affairs.
- In this class, we may have discussions that challenge our taken for granted assumptions about crime and justice, as well as race, gender, sexuality, morality and culture. 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, are considered disruptions, and will be referred to the Office of Student Affairs.

VII. General Information

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 immediate and appropriate action.

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.

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/>

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>; 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/>