


RUTGERS School of Criminal Justice

Criminology
47: 202: 102
3 Credits
Fall 2018

Mondays (2:30 – 3:50 PM)
Wednesdays (1:00 – 2:20 PM)
Center for Urban & Public Service (CPS) - Room 105

I. Course Information

Instructor Information:

Instructor: **Vijay Chillar, M.A.**

Email: **vc316@scarletmail.rutgers.edu**

Office Hours: **Wednesday (9:00 AM – 12:00 PM), Room 571**

Course Overview:

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. **Required Course – B.S.**

Prerequisite:

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:

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 Readings:

Akers, R. L., & Sellers, C. S. (2000). *Criminological Theories: Introduction, Evaluation and Application.*, (6th Edition) [ISBN: 9780199844487] : **Referred to in Syllabus as AS**

Brown, S. E., Esbensen, F. A., & Geis, G. (2012). *Criminology: Explaining crime and its context.* Routledge. (7th Edition) [ISBN: 9781422463321] : **Referred to in Syllabus as BEG**

**** Both texts are available on Amazon for a reasonable price (~ \$40); please feel free to buy used copies of both!**

Supplementary Text (Not Required, but helpful)

Cullen, F. T., & Agnew, R. (2003). *Criminological theory. Past to present* (4th Edition) [ISBN: 0195389557] : **Referred to in Syllabus as CA**

- **I will provide PDFs of select readings from this text throughout the semester.**

Course Requirements:

Students are required to read assigned readings and participate in classroom discussion in a manner that reflects familiarity with the readings and previous class sessions. Students are required to access the course website regularly to stay informed about any changes in lecture topics, assigned readings and other course announcements. **Blackboard** will be used for several purposes during the semester, so please check it regularly. The syllabus and any additional readings will be posed on Blackboard.

Course Structure:

The course will incorporate diverse learning activities including lectures, PowerPoint presentations, and group discussions. Classroom learning is a group activity that depends upon everyone's full participation in order to succeed. I expect students to: be prepared to begin class on time, silence or turn off and put away cell phones and other electronic devices, read and be prepared to discuss homework, submit assignments on time, and assist your classmates. You can expect that I will: be on time and prepared for every class, be available via email and appointments to answer questions, make every class engaging and valuable, and respect your contributions to class.

A lack of preparation on your part will not constitute an emergency on mine!

II. Course Schedule

Class	Date	Class Topic	Readings & Assignments	Page Count
1	9/5	Course Introduction / Defining Crime	BEG: Ch 1	20
2	9/10	Measuring Crime	BEG: 27-34; 47-54; Ch 3	50
NOTE: 9/11/18 is the last day to drop this course.				
The Classical School				
3	9/12	What is Theory? Rational Choice Theories	AS: 1-4; 23-27 BEG: 171-172; 177-183 CA: 21-25	25
4	9/17	Deterrence	BEG: 135-171 AS: 14-23; 27-30 CA: 26-28	50
Individual Theories				
5	9/19	Biosocial and Psychological Theories	BEG: Ch 6 AS: 59-62; 72-76 CA: 29-39; 59-77 (Supp)	45
Social Structure Theories / The Chicago School				
6	9/24	Social Disorganization Theories	AS: Ch 8 <i>The Chicago School: The City, Social Disorganization, and Crime (CA: 89-95)</i>	20
7	9/26	Social Ecology	BEG: 258-266 WEB Dubois: <i>The Philadelphia Negro</i> (Excerpt: 58-62) Park and Burgess: <i>The City</i> (Excerpt: 63-79)	30
8	10/1	Anomie and Strain Theories	BEG: 235-258 AS: 192-196 CA: 155-160; 165-172	40
9	10/3	Film: <i>Trading Places</i> (1 st Half)		
10	10/8	Film: <i>Trading Places</i> (2 nd Half)		
Social Process Theories				
11	10/10	Differential Association & Social Learning	BEG: 273-284; AS: 78-91; 100-110 CA: 118-129; 130-142	55
12	10/15	Cultural and Subcultural Theories	AS: 243-245 BEG: 284-299 AS: 143-154; 173-177	40
13	10/17	Social Control	AS: 112-122; 131-134 BEG: 300-304 CA: 215-223	30
Short Answer DUE				

14	10/22	Self-Control	AS: 122-131;134-135 BEG: 304-311 CA: 224-236	35
15	10/24	MID-TERM REVIEW		
16	10/29	MIDTERM		
Social Reaction Theories				
17	10/31	Labeling Theory & Restorative Justice	AS: 137-151 BEG: 319-336 CA: 239-252	
Opportunity Theories				
18	11/5	Situational and Environmental Theories	CA: 400-416; 428-448 <i>The Law of Crime Concentration at Places: Editors' Introduction</i>	40
19	11/7	Routine Activities	AS: 30-39 BEG: 172-177 CA: 417-423	20
20	11/12	Practical Application: Guest Speaker Video: <i>The Importance of Place in Crime</i>		
21	11/14	NO CLASS		
Recent Developments				
22	11/19	Developmental and Life-Course Theories	AS: 291-300 BEG: 376-382 CA: 451-462	30
23	11/21	NO CLASS		
24	11/26	Feminist Theories Practical Application: Guest Speaker	AS: 255-271 CA: 320-328 <i>Up It Up: Gender and The Accomplishment of Street Robbery</i>	50
25	11/28	Critical Theories	BEG: 335-351 CA: 270-276	25
Major Crime Typologies				
26	12/3	Violent Crime	BEG: Ch 11	30
27	12/5	Economic Crime Bernie Madoff: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=AO4CIPuaTJ4	BEG: Ch 12	25
28	12/10	Consensual Crimes (Drug Use / Prostitution) Drug Decriminalization Video: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PbWpXYOg4OQ	BEG: Ch 13	25
29	12/12	FINAL EXAMINATION REVIEW		

III. Course Assessment and Grading

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

<i>Assignment Description</i>	<i>Linked to SLO</i>	<i>% of Course Grade</i>
<i>Assignment #1 5 Critical Thinking Exercises</i>	<i>SLO #1 - 4</i>	<i>10%</i>
<i>Assignment #2 Midterm Examination</i>	<i>SLO #1, 2, & 4</i>	<i>35%</i>
<i>Assignment #3 Trading Places (Film): Short Answer</i>	<i>SLO #2 & 3</i>	<i>10%</i>
<i>Assignment #4 Final Examination</i>	<i>SLO #1 - 4</i>	<i>35%</i>
<i>Assignment #5 Attendance/Participation</i>	<i>SLO #1 - 4</i>	<i>10%</i>

ASSIGNMENT 1: 5 Critical Thinking Exercises (10%): Unannounced Critical Thinking Exercises will be given throughout the course. A Critical Thinking Exercise is possible during any class session at any time. Critical Thinking Exercises will cover basic concepts from the book and will be given in a short answer format and/or multiple-choice format. They are intended to test you on the readings and your basic comprehension of the materials to be presented during the current or past class session. These exercises will also count as a check for attendance throughout the semester as each will count for 2% of the overall 10% allocated towards your final course grade. If you walk in late, leave early, or are absent – and miss the Critical Thinking Exercise – you will be assigned a zero (0) for both the assignment and for attendance that day. There are NO MAKEUPS without formal documentation of exigent circumstances.

ASSIGNMENT 2: Midterm Examination (35%): The mid-term exam will be graded on a 100-point scale. This assignment is worth 35% of the final grade. Examinations are designed to measure your understanding of the major concepts presented in class. There are NO MAKEUPS without formal documentation of exigent circumstances.

ASSIGNMENT 3: Trading Places (Film) Short Answer (10%): After viewing the film *Trading Places* in class and taking notes, you will be required to write a short answer essay (2-3 pages), size 12 font, Times New Roman, in APA format. You are expected to make connections between the film and theories covered during class to explain relevant situations that occur. There will be NO LATE ASSIGNMENTS ACCEPTED without formal documentation of exigent circumstances.

ASSIGNMENT 4: Final Examination (35%): The final exam will be graded on a 100-point scale. This assignment is worth 35% of the final grade. Examinations are designed to measure your understanding of the major concepts presented in class. There are NO MAKEUPS without formal documentation of exigent circumstances.

ATTENDANCE and PARTICIPATION (10%): The frequency and quality of your participation in class discussions will be noted, as will your constructive critical feedback and support offered to other classmates throughout the semester. As previously noted, you will accrue attendance points by completing unannounced Critical Thinking Exercises.

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:

Attendance is very important and will count toward your final grade. You will be more successful if you attend. If an emergency arises and you must miss class, it is your responsibility to notify the instructor about the reason for your absence as early as possible. If you miss class, you are still responsible for anything assigned for the next class or classes, including obtaining any handouts given in the class you missed. It is YOUR RESPONSIBILITY to catch up.

Examinations: Examinations are to be taken during their scheduled times. Students who fail to take examinations on the prescribed dates WILL NOT be permitted to take the examinations unless extenuating circumstances exist. Proper documentation for the circumstance MUST be provided before the student is able to take a make-up examination.

IMPORTANT: Every grade will be posted on Blackboard. Any issues regarding an assigned grade must be brought to my attention before the date of the final examination. Do not wait until the last minute! You will know exactly what your final term grade should be before it is assigned because you will know the grades of every assignment/examination/etc. This syllabus also states the value of each assignment towards your final term grade. Absolutely **NO CONSIDERATION FOR GRADE CHANGES** will be made on or after the date of the final examination. Grades are assigned objectively. You will get the grade that you earn.

IV. Course Policies

Classroom Rules

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.

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
Robeson Campus Center, Suite 352
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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/>

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