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**RUTGERS** School of Criminal Justice

**Criminology**  
**47: 202: 102**  
**3 Credits**  
**Spring 2019**

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**Tuesdays (6:00 – 9:00 PM)**  
**Center for Urban & Public Service (CPS) - Room 104**

**I. Course Information**

**Instructor Information:**

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

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

Office Hours: **Tuesdays (4:00 – 5:30 PM), Room 550**

**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 (~ 75 pages per week):**

Akers, R. L., Sellers, C. S., Jennings, W. (2016). *Criminological Theories: Introduction. Evaluation and Application., (7<sup>th</sup> Edition)* [ISBN: 9780190455163]: **Referred to in Syllabus as ASJ**

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

**\*\* Both texts are available on Amazon for a reasonable price (~ \$80 for both); please feel free to buy used copies of both!**

### **Supplementary Text (Not Required, but helpful)**

Cullen, F. T., Agnew, R., & Wilcox, P. (2017). *Criminological theory. Past to present (6<sup>th</sup> Edition)* [ISBN: 9780190639341]: **Referred to in Syllabus as CAW**

- **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 posted 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	1/22	Course Introduction		
2	1/29	Defining Crime	<i>BEG</i> : Ch 1	~ 20
		Measuring Crime	<i>BEG</i> : 27-34; 47-54; Ch 3	~ 50
<b>NOTE: 1/29 is the last day to drop this course.</b>				
<b>The Classical School</b>				
3	2/5	What is Theory? Rational Choice Theories	<i>ASJ</i> : 1-4; 24-28 <i>BEG</i> : 177-183 <i>CAW</i> : 21-25; 359-362	~ 25
		Deterrence	<i>ASJ</i> : 14-23; 28-32 <i>BEG</i> : 135-171 <i>CAW</i> : 26-28; 353-359	~ 55
<b>Individual Theories</b>				
4	2/12	Biosocial and Psychological Theories	<i>ASJ</i> : CH 3 & 4 <i>BEG</i> : 193-206 <i>CAW</i> : 441-450	~ 55
<b>Social Structure Theories / The Chicago School</b>				
4	2/12	Social Disorganization Theories	<i>ASJ</i> : Ch 8 <i>The Chicago School: The City, Social Disorganization, and Crime (CA: 33-41)</i> <i>BEG</i> : 258-266	~ 22
5	2/19	Social Ecology	WEB Dubois: <i>The Philadelphia Negro</i> (Excerpt: 58-62) Park and Burgess: <i>The City</i> (Excerpt: 63-79)	~ 30
		Anomie and Strain Theories	<i>ASJ</i> : 182-185; 191-206 <i>BEG</i> : 235-258 <i>CAW</i> : 105-110	~ 45
6	2/26	Film: <i>Trading Places</i>		
		Cultural and Subcultural Theories	<i>ASJ</i> : 143-154; 173-177 <i>BEG</i> : 284-299 <i>CAW</i> : 93-104	~ 40
<b>Social Process Theory</b>				
7	3/5	<b>NO CLASS</b>	1) Read Article on Blackboard (TBD), 2) Leave comment within discussion thread, and 3) Respond to 2 others	
8	3/12	Social Bonding	<i>ASJ</i> : 118-128 <i>BEG</i> : 300-304 <i>CAW</i> : 169-177 <b>Short Answer DUE</b>	~ 25
		Self-Control	<i>ASJ</i> : 128-142 <i>BEG</i> : 304-311 <i>CAW</i> : 178-190	~ 35
9	3/19	<b>NO CLASS</b>	<b>SPRING BREAK</b>	

10	3/26	Differential Association & Social Learning	<i>ASJ</i> : 83-94; 106-116 <i>BEG</i> : 273-284 <i>CAW</i> : 118-129; 130-142	~ 55
		<b>MID-TERM REVIEW</b>		
11	4/2	<b>MIDTERM EXAM</b>		
<b>Social Reaction Theories</b>				
12	4/9	Labeling Theory & Restorative Justice	<i>ASJ</i> : CH 7 <i>BEG</i> : 319-336 <i>CAW</i> : 193-201; 205-213	~ 50
<b>Opportunity Theories</b>				
12	4/9	Developmental and Life-Course Theories	<i>ASJ</i> : CH 14 <i>BEG</i> : 376-382 <i>CAW</i> : 487-499	~ 30
13	4/16	Routine Activities	<i>ASJ</i> : 32-42 <i>BEG</i> : 172-177 <i>CAW</i> : 402-412	~ 25
		Situational and Environmental Theories Guest Speaker: TBD	<i>CAW</i> : 390-398; 424-431; 664-671 <i>The Law of Crime Concentration at Places: Editors' Introduction</i> Video: <i>The Importance of Place in Crime</i>	~ 40
<b>Recent Developments</b>				
14	4/23	Critical Theories	<i>BEG</i> : 335-351 <i>CAW</i> : 228-236	~ 25
		Feminist Theories Guest Speaker: TBD	<i>ASJ</i> : CH 13 <i>CAW</i> : 269-279 <i>Up It Up: Gender and The Accomplishment of Street Robbery</i>	~ 50
<b>Major Crime Typologies</b>				
15	4/30	Violent Crime	<i>BEG</i> : Ch 11	~ 30
		Economic Crime	<i>BEG</i> : Ch 12 Bernie Madoff: <a href="https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=AO4CIPuaTJ4">https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=AO4CIPuaTJ4</a>	~ 25
		Consensual Crimes (Drug Use / Prostitution)	<i>BEG</i> : Ch 13 Drug Decriminalization Video: <a href="https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PbWpXYOg4OQ">https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PbWpXYOg4OQ</a>	~ 25
		<b>FINAL EXAM REVIEW</b>		

### III. Course Assessment and Grading

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

<i>Assignment Description</i>	<i>Due Date</i>	<i>Linked to SLO</i>	<i>% of Course Grade</i>
<i>Assignment #1 5 Critical Thinking Exercises</i>	<i>Random</i>	<i>SLO #1 - 4</i>	<i>10%</i>
<i>Assignment #2 Trading Places (Film): Short Answer</i>	<i>3/12</i>	<i>SLO #2 &amp; 3</i>	<i>10%</i>
<i>Assignment #3 Midterm Examination</i>	<i>4/2</i>	<i>SLO #1, 2, &amp; 4</i>	<i>30%</i>
<i>Assignment #4 Group Presentation / Discussion</i>	<i>TBD</i>	<i>SLO #1 - 5</i>	<i>10%</i>
<i>Assignment #5 Attendance/Participation</i>	<i>Random</i>	<i>SLO #1 - 4</i>	<i>10%</i>
<i>Assignment #6 Final Examination</i>	<i>TBD</i>	<i>SLO #1 - 4</i>	<i>30%</i>

**ASSIGNMENT 1: 5 Critical Thinking Exercises (10%):** There will be 5 **unannounced** Critical Thinking Exercises given throughout the course; each worth 2% of your final grade for a total of 10%. 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 towards 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: 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 3: Midterm Examination (30%):** The mid-term exam will be graded on a 100-point scale. This assignment is worth 30% of the final grade. Examinations are designed to measure your understanding of the major concepts presented in class. Additionally, the format may include multiple choice, true/false, short answer and/or essay questions. There are NO MAKEUPS without formal documentation of exigent circumstances.

**ASSIGNMENT 4: Group Presentation / Discussion (10%):** You will be randomly assigned to a group and given a week in which you and your team will be responsible for leading the discussion for part of class. You must find two relevant research articles and present them to the class in a format that facilitates a meaningful discussion regarding the findings and the way in which theory plays a role. As a team, you must submit the materials in one document that you will cover in class, at least one day prior for review.

**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 the five unannounced Critical Thinking Exercises (2% x 5 = 10%).

**ASSIGNMENT 6: Final Examination (30%):** The final exam will be graded on a 100-point scale. This assignment is worth 30% of the final grade. Examinations are designed to measure your understanding of the major concepts presented in class. Additionally, the format may include multiple choice, true/false, short answer and/or essay questions. There are NO MAKEUPS without formal documentation of exigent circumstances.

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.** If you require further clarification regarding your performance on an exam or an assignment, you are responsible for setting up an appointment with me. We will not discuss grades via email. Requests to review or reconsider any grade received must be made directly to me within 7 days of the return of the graded coursework. Requests for grade reassessment on exams or assignments must be accompanied by a written explanation detailing why you believe your grade should be higher. Please note that a request to re-grade means that the exam or assignment will be reassessed in its entirety and, in the event of an error in grading, the final grade may increase or decrease accordingly. This syllabus also states the value of each assignment towards your final term grade. Grades are assigned objectively and 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  
350 Martin Luther King Jr. Boulevard  
Newark, NJ 07102  
Phone: 973.353.5300  
Fax: 973.353.5666  
E-mail: [kate.torres@rutgers.edu](mailto: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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