



47:202:220:01 Reducing Local Crime

3 Credits

Fall 2018

Tuesday & Friday

1:00pm – 2:20pm

Hill Hall – Room 210

I. Course Information

Instructor Information:

Instructor: **Beth Adubato, Ph.D.**

Email: badubato@scj.rutgers.edu

Office Hours: By appointment only – please email

Course Overview:

Course Catalog description: When urban governments and quasi-governmental activities do their jobs well, they can greatly reduce various types of crime. This course relates urban design and management to crime and crime reduction. Specific topics include public violence, abandonment, littering, public drunkenness, environmental degradation, safe parks, secure streets and campuses, robberies, teen hangouts, outdoor drug markets, and more. The course is presented through the critical lens of problem oriented policing, routine activity analysis, and situational crimeprevention to reducing local crime.

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.

Student Learning Objectives:

Upon completion of this course, students should be able to:

- 1) Learn to critically analyze and discuss public policy issues related to crime reduction, planning, and public health at the local level.

- 2) Describe and appraise the different theoretical perspectives of retribution, rehabilitation, community control, and environmental approaches towards addressing and reducing local crime.
- 3) Demonstrate the ability to differentiate different types of specific crime issues that affect communities, and to evaluate the responses to those issues at the local level.
- 4) Discuss the importance of situational and environmental factors in explaining crime events and in guiding prevention and control strategies at the local level.
- 5) Articulate through classroom discussions and written work their praxis of the theoretical and philosophical foundations with the specific local crime reduction problems as examined in lectures and course material.

- More generally, students will learn basic principles of social science research as applied to issues in crime reduction; how to reason from evidence; and how to articulate their reasoning in class discussions and through written work.
- By the end of this course, students will have improved their research and writing skills via their papers, written exams, and group presentations. Students will also have gained experience to refine their ability to articulate personal reflections on course issues.

Note: over the semester, we may discuss topics and view images about material addressing a wide array of potentially offensive, disturbing or triggering subjects including violence, racism, colonialism, classism, rape and sexual violence, child abuse, violence and abuse of animals, discussions about substance use and abuse, and sex work. We may also be addressing issues surrounding cultural practices as well as sexuality and gender. Through the critical examination of these subjects, students are expected to strengthen their ability to imagine and empathize with other perspectives and work to better address those criminal justice issues relating to those subjects.

Course Requirements:

REQUIRED TEXTBOOK:

Walker, S. (2015). *Sense and Nonsense About Crime, Drugs, and Communities*. (8th ed.). Upper Saddle

River, NJ: Cengage Learning.

ISBN: 978-1-285-45902-8

- The book has been ordered for you at the campus bookstore., but you are welcome to pursue other options for purchase or rental.

- A hard copy can be used in-library by making an appointment for office hours.

- **It is your responsibility to get and maintain textbook access throughout the semester.**

- All textbook readings are due *before* the class meeting and topic they are listed under.

- Failure to complete the readings before class will hamper your ability to participate competently and perform on assessments.

SUPPLEMENTAL READINGS AND MATERIALS:

- Additional readings and materials are posted on Blackboard. *These are required in addition to the textbook.*

- Check Blackboard for all materials frequently, as they may be updated pending current events.

Blackboard

Blackboard is used extensively.

- Content and information are constantly being updated on Blackboard--especially in the case of weather or current events that are relevant to the course – check frequently. lecture topics, assigned readings, and other course announcements.

Course Structure:

- The course content is divided into 3 sections:
- I. Beginnings: Crime and Policy
- II. Theory: Approaches to Understanding Crime and Control at the Local Level

The course will consist of lectures, a review of the weekly readings, and extensive discussion of the various topics related to correctional foundations, philosophical perspectives and practices of incarceration, and a survey approach to issues specific to the research and data that policy makers, researchers and practitioners utilize in the creation, implementation, and evaluation of local crime problems and environmental criminology will be introduced, analyzed, and discussed via assigned readings, documentaries, and lecture material and discussion.

Course Schedule

- This calendar of events, assignments, and readings is subject to change based on the completion of course material, student progress, and other events, such as weather.

<p>Week 1</p>	<p>Course Introduction & Syllabus Review Introductory Survey</p> <p>Beginnings: Crime and Policy</p>	<p>Chapter 1</p> <p>Crime and Policy: A Complex Problem</p>
<p>Week 2</p>	<p>Crime and Policy: A Complex Problem, Parts I and II Understanding Crime Rates and Models of Crime</p>	<p>Chapter 2</p> <p>Models of Criminal Justice</p> <p>Additional readings on Blackboard</p>
<p>Week 3</p>	<p>Theory: Approaches to Understanding Crime and Control at the Local Level – Introduction & Get Tough Approach, Part I – Police and Deterrence</p>	<p>Chapter 3</p> <p>The Going Rate (evaluating the effectiveness of the criminal justice system)</p>
<p>Week 4</p>	<p>Get Tough Approach, Part II – Sentencing and Prosecution; Imprisonment & Reform Approach, Part I – Offender Rehabilitation & Quiz</p>	<p>Chapter 4</p> <p>The Prediction Problem</p> <p>Additional readings posted on Blackboard</p>

<p>Week 5</p>	<p>Reform Approach, Part II – Increasing Legitimacy of the System; Victim Rights & Crime and Community Approach: Focus on Community Crime Control</p>	<p>Chapter 5 Unleash the Cops!</p>
<p>Week 6</p>	<p>Environmental Approaches: Thinking about Crime and Place & Midterm</p>	<p>Additional readings on Blackboard Midterm Exam</p>
<p>Week 7</p>	<p>Environmental Approaches: Routine Activities - Case Study: Shoplifting & Broken Windows: Addressing Disorder - Case Study: Vandalism</p>	<p>Chapter 6 Deter the Criminals Chapter 7 Lock ‘Em Up</p>
<p>Week 8</p>	<p>Situational Crime Prevention: Reducing Opportunities for Crime - Case Study: Burglary & 27th Problem-Oriented Policing - Case Study: Hot Spot Policing</p>	<p>Chapter 8 Close the Loopholes</p>

<p>Week 9</p>	<p>Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design - Case Study: Homelessness and Vagrancy Guest speaker: Bob Davison, Executive Director of Essex & Morris Mental Health Association Crime Not as a Criminal Justice Issue: Crime as Public Health Problem</p>	<p>Chapter 9 Protect Crime Victims Chapter 11 Treat ‘Em</p>
<p>Week 10</p>	<p>Practice and Prevention: Analyzing Crime Trends and Controlling Local Crime – Introduction & Public Violence: Fighting, Robbery</p>	<p>Chapter 12 Gain Compliance with the Law</p>
<p>Week 11</p>	<p>Substance Abuse, Part I – Alcohol-Related Offenses & Friday, November 17th **Online meeting** Substance Abuse, Part II – Drug Offenses - Documentary: <i>Frontline: Chasing Heroin</i></p>	<p>Chapter 13 Sense and Nonsense About Drugs</p>
<p>Week 12</p>	<p>Thanksgiving Break Prepare for Group Projects</p>	<p>Readings Posted on Blackboard</p>

Week 13	Gun Crime (Tuesday) & Friday, begin group presentations	Chapter 10 Control Gun Crimes
Week 14	Finish group presentations & Juvenile Crime: Hangouts, Truancy, Joyriding	Chapter 14 Crime and Community: Putting It All Together
Week 15	Eco-related Crime, Part I – Littering, Pollution Eco-related Crime, Part II – Abandonment, Vandalism and Graffiti Crime in Public Spaces – Parks, Streets, Campuses Final Lecture	Readings on Blackboard

Attendance

You will not be successful in this course if you miss more than one *unexcused* class. If you cannot attend a given class, you must make arrangements to hand-in your assignment. You are responsible for the material you miss. Also, please be prompt—tardiness is disruptive to the rest of the class.

Watching and/or playing with electronic items such as an iPhone or with the Internet on your laptops is tantamount to not attending class. Students exhibiting this behavior during class time will be marked absent.

Announcements

All announcements and additional course information will be posted on Blackboard—please check our class page regularly.

Grading

Will be calculated based on a 100-point scale as follows:

5% Class participation/attendance

15% Quiz—September 28th

25% Midterm Exam—October 26th

25% Group Project and Paper—November 30th

30% Final Exam—TBA

Grading Criteria

A 90–100%

B+ 85-89%

B 80-84%

C+ 75-79%

C 70-74%

D 60-69%

F <60%

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 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.

Kate Torres

Coordinator of ADA Services and Academic Support

Robeson Campus Center, Suite 352
350 Martin Luther King Jr. Boulevard
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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/>.