

---



**RUTGERS** School of Criminal Justice

**Criminology**  
**47: 202: 102:02**  
**3 Credit Hours**  
**Fall 2020**

---

**Asynchronous Delivery**

**(Previously Tuesday & Thursday)**

**Module lectures will post every Sunday at 12:00 AM**  
**available for viewing until Saturday at 11:59 PM**

**I. Course Information**

**Instructors Information:**

*Instructor:* **Whitney Tchoula**

Email: [whitney.tchoula@rutgers.edu](mailto:whitney.tchoula@rutgers.edu)

Zoom Office Hours: Thursdays at 10:00 AM -11:00 AM

*Teaching Assistant:* **Arlana Henry**

Email: [ah1113@rutgers.edu](mailto:ah1113@rutgers.edu)

Zoom Office Hours: Tuesdays at 1:00- 1:30 PM

**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.**

The class will mainly be composed of recorded lectures, minimizing our ability to interact with each other. That being said, we encourage you to interact on the discussion boards as well as attend the voluntary virtual office hours. During the virtual office hours, we will be discussing the complicated ideas and concepts from each module and relating them to current events.

**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 and punishment is created, 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.

In addition to these four learning objectives, we hope that, over the course of the semester, you learn about the historical origins of the construction of crime and ‘*criminals*,’ the medias role in perpetuating dangerous rhetoric about *crime* and ‘*criminals*,’ as well as unlearn some of the often taken for granted ways we approach ‘*punishment*’ in our society.

### **Course Requirements:**

This course will be administered primarily in an asynchronous web delivery format, using platforms like blackboard, zoom, WebEx, youtube, etc. Therefore, consistent access to a laptop/desktop, access to the internet, and reliable streaming media is necessary for the successful completion of this course. If you are having issues with technology, please reach out to either of the instructors for alternate accommodations. Students are required to consume assigned media (read, listen, watch, etc.) and participate in virtual class discussions in a manner that reflects familiarity with the assigned materials.

### **Required Readings:**

None. All material is distributed by the instructors on Blackboard (BB) and/or hyperlinked through this syllabus. This schedule is subject to change.

### **Course Structure:**

The course will be delivered entirely online via Blackboard and zoom, in a primarily asynchronous format. Every week, there will be a content module with assigned materials: readings, podcasts, videos, powerpoint slides, lecture videos, etc. The lecture videos will be prerecorded; module lectures will post every Sunday at 12:00AM and are available until Saturday at 11:59PM. Once the weekly module videos are closed, they will not reopen. So please make sure to watch the content during the allotted week. Lecture videos will correspond to the assigned materials for the week/module in which they are posted—that

is, they will not be a direct summary or recitation of assigned module material. Rather, the lectures will build on the larger ideas, patterns, and trends associated with the assigned material and weekly topic. On designated modules, listed below and on blackboard, you will have assignments (quizzes, discussion board participation posts, exams, etc.) to complete.

**Offensive or Sensitive Material:**

In learning about crime, “justice”, and injustice students will inevitably encounter language, depictions, behaviors &/or attitudes that they find disturbing and/or offensive. This will differ from person to person and the emotional and intellectual reactions will vary in intensity and outcome. That being said, it is probably impossible to predict how you might react to a given topic. But, if you would like to avoid participating in a particular class module, please email either of the instructors as soon as possible to arrange alternate materials. Always feel welcome to discuss with us any concerns you may have with course materials or related conversations.

**Instructor Role:** As your instructor, I plan to challenge you. There will be rigorous assigned reading based on “cannon” as well as other important, innovative social science, difficult assignments, and concepts presented that will challenge your thinking. By the end of this class, I hope you will feel proud of your growth and accomplishments. You can expect that your instructors will: be prepared and well researched in each lecture, be available via email and telecommunication appointments (zoom, webex, or kaltura) to answer questions, think out ideas, concepts, concerns, etc.; make every lecture engaging and valuable in relation to course goals, respect your contributions to discussions, and grade and provide feedback on assignments in a fair and equitable manner, and in a reasonable amount of time. I want you to succeed, learn, and intellectually grow throughout our time together in this course—as I am sure that I will. Wishing you joy and success this semest

## II. Course Schedule

Module	Week	Module Topic	Material & Assignments
1	9/1—9/5	<u>Course Introduction:</u> What is <i>Theory</i> ?	<b>Required Material:</b> <b>None.</b>  <b>Assignments:</b> <b>Discussion Board Participation Post (DBPP) &amp; Quiz #1</b>
2	9/6—9/12	How did we get ' <i>here</i> ': Defining & Measuring Crime and (re)Conceptualizing Punishment	<b>Required Material:</b> Sharkey Chapter and Davis Chapter #1  <b>Assignment: DBPP</b>
<b>THEORIES OF 'OFFENDER' BEHAVIOR AND SPECIFIC THEORIES OF CRIME:</b> <b>Last day to drop class: 9/14/2020</b>			
3	9/13—9/19	Classical (rational choice and deterrence) and Biosocial Theories	<b>Required Material:</b> Beccaria, Lombroso, <a href="#">Dr. Burke Harris, ACES</a>  <b>Assignment: DBPP</b>
4	9/20—9/26	Social Dis/organization and Anomie & Strain Theories	<b>Required Material:</b> Shaw and McKay, , <a href="#">Redlining's role in "disorganization"</a> , and Institutional Anomie Entry.  <b>Assignments: DBPP &amp; Quiz #2</b>
5	9/27—10/3	Control and Lifecourse/Developmental Theories	<b>Required Materials:</b> Hirschi chapter, Gottfredson and Hirschi excerpt, and Sampson and Laub
6	10/4—10/10	Subcultural Theories, Social Learning Theory, & Labeling Theories	<b>Required Materials:</b> Anderson Article, Sykes and Matza Article, and <a href="#">Dr. Victor Rios' label resistance</a>  <b>Assignment: DBPP &amp; Quiz #3</b>
7	10/11—10/17	Situational & Environmental Theories	<b>Required Materials:</b>

			Lee Article, Newman Handbook (skim), <a href="#">NPR: Broken Windows</a> , " <a href="#">Broken Windows is Broken</a> "  <b>Assignment: DBPP</b>
8	10/18—10/24	<b>1<sup>st</sup> EXAM</b> Available on 10/20 at 10:00 AM Due by 10/22 at 10:00 AM	
<b>THEORIES OF THE CRIMINAL (IN)JUSTICE SYSTEMS</b>			
9	10/25—10/31	Policing Theories	<b>Required Materials:</b> Epp et al Chap 3 & 5, and " <a href="#">Police Power and the role of gun laws</a> "  <b>Assignments: DBPP</b>
10	11/1—11/7	Mass Incarceration Theories	<b>Required Materials:</b> Davis Chapter 5, Goodwin Oped, <a href="#">Forman Jr Podcast</a> , " <a href="#">Prison Policy</a> " (hard skim)  <b>Assignment: DBPP &amp; Quiz #4</b>
11	11/8—11/14; No module	<b>Assignment: Submit Theory Application Paper by 11/14 at 11:59PM</b>	
12	11/15—11/21	School to Prison Pipeline/ Nexus & <i>Crimmigration</i> Theories	<b>Required Materials:</b> Morris Chapter, Gonzales Article, & Light and Miller Article  <b>Assignments: DBPP</b>
<b>NO MODULE: 11/22—11/28</b>		<b>FALL BREAK</b>	
13	11/29—12/5	Future Directions: Reform, Abolition, and Restorative Justice Theories	<b>Required:</b> Davis Chapters 3 & 6, Vitale Excerpt, and " <a href="#">Prison Design</a> "  <b>Assignments: DBPP &amp; Quiz #5</b>
14	12/6—12/12	<b>Course Wrap-Up</b> <b>Assignment: Complete 2<sup>nd</sup> Exam</b> Available on 12/8 at 10:00 AM Due by 12/10 at 10:00 AM	

### 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 Grade</i>
<i>Quizzes</i>	<i>Various</i>	<i>SLO #1 - 4</i>	<i>20%</i>
<i>1<sup>st</sup> Examination</i>	<i>10/22 at 10:00 AM</i>	<i>SLO #1 - 4</i>	<i>20%</i>
<i>Theory Application Paper</i>	<i>11/14 at 11:59PM</i>	<i>SLO #2, 3, &amp; 4</i>	<i>20%</i>
<i>2nd Examination</i>	<i>12/10 at 10:00 AM</i>	<i>SLO #1 - 4</i>	<i>25%</i>
<i>Attendance &amp; Discussion Board Participation Posts</i>	<i>Weekly</i>	<i>SLO #1 - 4</i>	<i>15%</i>

**ASSIGNMENT: 4 Quizzes (20%):** There will be 5 total quizzes administered throughout the course, however, the lowest quiz grade will not be counted toward your final grade. Therefore, each quiz is worth a possible 5%, with all quizzes worth a total of 20%. The content of the quiz will cover basic concepts from assigned material associated with the module where the quiz is administered, as well as lecture material. The goal of the quiz is to test your comprehension of assigned materials and overall course content.

#### **Taking the Quizzes**

The quizzes will be password protected—the password will be provided inside of the corresponding lecture &/or lecture slides. Once the quiz has begun, it must be completed in that sitting within the given time limit. If you are not finished when the time expires (15 minutes), your quiz will automatically submit as is. The quiz may feature short answer format, multiple-choice format, true/false, matching, etc. Remember: the lowest of the 5 quiz scores will be dropped, with only 4 of the 5 quizzes counting towards your final grade. Once the module closes for the week, the opportunity to submit your quiz is closed; no late quizzes accepted.

**ASSIGNMENT: Theory Application Essay (20%):** Students must write and submit a 2-3-page, APA style paper, applying their knowledge of criminology in practice. In this paper, students must demonstrate their skillful understanding of one or more criminological theory/theories through connection to a popular song of their choice. After properly summarizing the theory being applied, each paper should include the artist(s) information (including a brief bio), the song title, a summary of the song, and a section, with specific lyrics from the song, detailing its relevance to the theory being analyzed. For further clarification, a few example papers will be provided via blackboard, as well as a rubric for the assignment. The goal of the assignment is to demonstrate your knowledge of a

theory/theories, and your ability to use various pieces of “data”/evidence to support &/refute the theory. A minimum of 3 citations must be used in this paper. More information available in blackboard. For each day the assignment is late, 5% will be deducted. If more than 4 days late, you will receive a zero (0%) for the assignment. Unless otherwise arranged. Please reach out to the instructors if you need help preparing for this paper or meeting the timeline.

**ASSIGNMENT: 1<sup>st</sup> Exam (20%):** The 1<sup>st</sup> exam will be graded on a 100-point scale. This assignment is worth 20% of the final grade. Examinations are designed to measure your understanding of the major concepts presented in class, as well as specifics of assigned materials. Additionally, the format may include multiple choice, true/false, matching, fill in the blank, short answer and/or essay questions. The exam will be password protected—the password will be provided by the instructor/s.

**Taking the Exam:** The exam will be password protected—the password will be provided via email/announcement 10 mins prior to its availability. You will have a 48HR window to complete the exam—The exam will be available beginning Tuesday, October 20<sup>th</sup> at 10AM and the exam will close/is due by Thursday October 22<sup>nd</sup> at 10AM. Once you begin the exam, it must be completed in that sitting within the given time limit (2 Hours). If you are not finished when the time expires, your exam will automatically submit. There are NO MAKEUPS without formal documentation of exigent circumstances.

**ASSIGNMENT: 2<sup>nd</sup> Exam: (25%):** The final exam will be graded on a 100-point scale. This assignment is worth 25% of the final grade. The 2<sup>nd</sup> exam is designed to measure your understanding of the major concepts presented in class, as well as details and specifics from assigned materials, since the midterm examination. That is, this exam is NOT comprehensive. The format may include multiple choice, true/false, matching, fill in the blank, short answer and/or essay questions. The exam will be password protected—the password will be provided by the instructor/s. Once the exam has begun, it must be completed in that sitting within the given time limit. If you are not finished when the time expires, your exam will automatically submit as is. There are NO MAKEUPS without formal documentation of exigent circumstances.

**Taking the Exam:** The exam will be password protected—the password will be provided via email/announcement 10 mins prior to its availability. You will have a 48HR window to complete the exam—The exam will be available beginning Tuesday, December 8<sup>th</sup> at 10 AM and the exam will close/is due by Thursday, December 10<sup>th</sup> at 10AM. Once you begin the exam, it must be completed in that sitting within the given time limit (2 Hours). If you are not finished when the time expires, your exam will automatically submit. There are NO MAKEUPS without formal documentation of exigent circumstances.

**ASSIGNMENT: ATTENDANCE and PARTICIPATION (15%):** Attendance credit (5%) is automatically assigned to you, provided you log into the blackboard page at minimum once a week. If you fail to log in to the blackboard page for 7 or more days, attendance points will begin to be deducted. If you fail to login, without notice, for 3 or more weeks straight, or

cumulatively 4 weeks, you will fail the course. Participation (10%) is earned by briefly responding to weekly discussion board posts.

**Discussion Board Participation Posts (10%):** For most modules listed, there will be a question posed in the discussion board—there are a total of 11 DBPP’s. You will receive credit as long as you make your posts (an original post and one in reply to a classmate) before the due date and meet the minimum requirements of the posting. You will not receive credit if you do not make your posts before the deadline and/or you do not meet the minimum requirements of the posting. This is a pass/fail assignment. Once the module closes for the week, the opportunity to submit your reply is closed; no late DBPP assignments accepted. You are able to miss/not complete 3 DBPP’s without penalty, afterward points will be deducted for each incomplete.

**Minimum requirements of DBPP’s:**

- Respond properly/reasonably to question posed. This means reflecting your knowledge of the subject. Using your personal opinion is not satisfactory, you must reflect knowledge of the required material/lecture material.
  - Minimum 3 complete sentences in original post.
- Responds properly/reasonably to, at minimum, one of your classmates’ posts.
  - Minimum 3 complete sentences in reply post.

**Grading**

A	90–100%	Work is <i>excellent</i> in quality; it is correct, comprehensive, and markedly superior
B+	87-89%	Work is <i>very good</i> in quality; it is correct and provides a detailed explanation in responses; exceeds expectations in some areas
B	80-86%	Work is <i>good</i> in quality; it is correct and provides a detailed explanation in responses
C+	77-79%	Work is of <i>acceptable</i> quality; may be missing or incorrect in a minor area; meets but does not exceeds expectations
C	70-76%	Work is of <i>average</i> quality; may be missing or incorrect in a minor area; meets course requirements
D	60-69%	Work <i>does not meet</i> expectations for the course but passes; it is incorrect in one or more major areas
F	<60%	Work <i>fails</i> to meet minimum expectations for the course



Requests to review or reconsider any grade received must be made within 7 days of the return of the graded coursework. Requests for grade reassessment on exams or assignments must be accompanied by a short but specific explanation detailing why you believe your grade should be higher. “I thought I did better on this...” is not an adequate explanation. If you have any confusion about assignments, contact the instructor &/or the TA BEFORE submission for clarification.

### **Late or Missing Assignment Policy:**

Active “attendance” is very important and will count toward your final grade. That being said, we are in the midst of a global pandemic, uncertain political times, and in the midst of several social movements. We understand that there will be other things that demand your time, attention, and consideration. Please do not be afraid to reach out to the instructors with any concerns about missing &/mounting assignment deadlines. We want you to succeed and will do our best to do our part to help you do so.

**Examinations:** Examinations are to be taken in their available window and submitted by their scheduled deadlines. 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. I know unforeseen events are called unforeseen for a reason, but please try to reach out before deadlines pass to ensure you can succeed on every assignment. It is easier to assist you before deadlines pass (helping to form plans of action, possible deadline extensions, etc.) than it is after they pass. Reach out for help with strategies to succeed in this course, ways to balance workloads, etc. We want you to succeed in this course and at Rutgers.

**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 reaching out to me and possibly setting up an appointment. 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.

## **IV. Course Policies**

### **Digital Classroom Rules**

All members of the class are required to conduct themselves in an appropriate and professional manner. In the class, discussions/lectures that challenge our life experiences and taken-for-granted assumptions about crime, justice, and injustice will occur. Students should be prepared to engage honestly and openly about this material and perhaps even reexamine their own beliefs about the issues (when appropriate). While I am hopeful that the course materials will spark interesting discussions, personal insults or other types of demeaning, disrespectful, or threatening comments toward anyone involved in the class about their experiences, backgrounds, identity, or statements will NOT be tolerated at any time or in any format. That being said, if your statements are in anyway bigoted, discriminatory, or otherwise harmful, they will be addressed and possibly penalized. Lies, myths, untruths, and other forms of academic dishonesty 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.

### **Accommodation and Support Statement**

Rutgers University Newark (RU-N) is committed to the creation of an inclusive and safe learning environment for all students and the university as a whole. RU-N has identified the following resources to further the mission of access and support:

**For Individuals with Disabilities:** The Office of Disability Services (ODS) is responsible for the determination of appropriate accommodations for students who encounter barriers due to disability. Once a student has completed the ODS process (registration, initial appointment, and submitted documentation) and reasonable accommodations are determined to be necessary and appropriate, a Letter of Accommodation (LOA) will be provided. The LOA must be given to each course instructor by the student and followed up with a discussion. This should be done as early in the semester as possible as accommodations are not retroactive. More information can be found at [ods.rutgers.edu](http://ods.rutgers.edu). Contact ODS at (973)353-5375 or via email at [ods@newark.rutgers.edu](mailto:ods@newark.rutgers.edu) .

**For Individuals who are Pregnant:** The Office of Title IX and ADA Compliance is available to assist with any concerns or potential accommodations related to pregnancy. You may contact the Office of Title IX and ADA Compliance at (973)353-1906 or via email at [TitleIX@newark.rutgers.edu](mailto:TitleIX@newark.rutgers.edu) .

**For Individuals seeking Religious Accommodations:** The Office of the Dean of Students is available to verify absences for religious observance, as needed. Contact the Dean of Students at (973)353-5063 or via email at [DeanofStudents@newark.rutgers.edu](mailto:DeanofStudents@newark.rutgers.edu).

**For Individuals with temporary conditions/injuries:** Students who have experienced a temporary condition or injury that is adversely affecting their ability to fully participate should submit a request via <https://temporaryconditions.rutgers.edu> .

**Absences:** The Office of the Dean of Students can provide assistance for absences related to religious observance, emergency or unavoidable conflict (illness, personal or family emergency, etc.). The Office of the Dean of Students is also available to verify extended absences. Contact the Dean of Students at (973)353-5063 or via email at [DeanofStudents@newark.rutgers.edu](mailto:DeanofStudents@newark.rutgers.edu).

**For English as a second language (ESL):** Students experiencing difficulty in courses due to English as a second language (ESL) should contact the Program in American Language Studies via email at [PALS@newark.rutgers.edu](mailto:PALS@newark.rutgers.edu) to discuss potential supports.

**For Gender or Sex-Based Discrimination or Harassment:** If you have experienced any form of gender or sex-based discrimination or harassment, including sexual assault, sexual harassment, relationship violence, or stalking, know that help and support are available. If

you wish to report an incident, you may contact the Office of Title IX and ADA Compliance at (973)353-1906 or via email at [TitleIX@newark.rutgers.edu](mailto:TitleIX@newark.rutgers.edu) . You may also submit an incident report using the following link: [tinyurl.com/RUNReportingForm](http://tinyurl.com/RUNReportingForm). If you wish to speak with a staff member who is confidential and does not have a reporting responsibility, you may contact the Office for Violence Prevention and Victim Assistance at (973)353-1918 or via email at [run.vpva@rutgers.edu](mailto:run.vpva@rutgers.edu) .

**For Support Related to Interpersonal Violence:** The Office for Violence Prevention and Victim Assistance can provide any student with confidential support. The office is a **confidential resource** and does *not* have a reporting obligation to report information to the University's Title IX Coordinator. Students can contact the office by calling (973) 353-1918 or emailing [run.vpva@rutgers.edu](mailto:run.vpva@rutgers.edu). There is also a confidential text-based line available to students; students can text (973) 339-0734 for support.

### **Psychological and Counseling Services**

The great writer and revolutionary Audre Lorde once said, "*Caring for myself is not self-indulgence, it is self-preservation, and that is an act of political warfare.*" Please see your wellness as an act of power and perseverance. The core to your success. 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. The Counseling Center has confidential therapists available to support students. Students should reach out to the Counseling Center to schedule an appointment: [counseling@newark.rutgers.edu](mailto:counseling@newark.rutgers.edu) or (973) 353-5805. If you are not quite ready to make an appointment with a therapist but are interested in self-help, check out *TAO at Rutgers-Newark* for an easy, web-based approach to self-care and support: <https://tinyurl.com/RUN-TAO>. Additionally, the Campus Awareness Response and Education (CARE) Team works with students in crisis to develop a support plan to address personal situations that might impact their academic performance. Students, faculty and staff may contact Care Team by using the following link: [tinyurl.com/RUNCARE](http://tinyurl.com/RUNCARE) or emailing [careteam@rutgers.edu](mailto:careteam@rutgers.edu). There are also many other resources listed on our blackboard pages.

For emergencies, call 911 or contact Rutgers University Police Department (RUPD) by calling 973-353-5111.

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/>

Follow us, to stay up to date! @SCJ\_apps

