

202 102 Introduction to Criminology

3 Credits

Fall 2022

Class Meeting: Wednesday and Friday

11:30 AM – 12:50 PM

Ackerson Hall 106

Course information:

Instructor: Ihsan Al-Zouabi

Email: ihsan.alzouabi@rutgers.edu

Student Hours: Wednesday 9:45-11:15 AM, School of Criminal Justice, Office 550

Course Overview:

This is an introductory course to the field of criminology. In this course, we will examine theories, assumptions, and definitions. We will be looking at theorized sources of law-breaking, social and societal reactions to crime, and the criminal-legal system.

Prerequisites: There are no prerequisite requirements for this course.

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 successful completion of this course, you will:

1. Have an increased understanding and knowledge of the U.S criminal-legal system.

2. Enhance your critical thinking skills via writing your participation activities, reading through the textbook, and (hopefully!) discussions.
3. Become familiar with criminological theory and its relationship to criminal-legal policy.

Required Readings:

I will be using **SOU-CCJ230 Introduction to the American Criminal Justice System** for all lectures. This book is an open-source (free!) book written by a group of criminologists and available on our class canvas page. If you're unable to access it for any reason, please let me know as soon as possible. I will also include short required readings to supplement guest lectures throughout the semester.

Course Requirements:

Students are required to access our course Canvas page regularly in order to stay informed about any changes in lecture topics, assigned readings, and final exam reviews. In order to do so, you will need internet and computer access. If, for any reason, you are experiencing inconsistent access to the internet or technology, please don't hesitate to reach out to me and we will figure out an appropriate course of action together.

Course Schedule*:

(*This schedule is subject to change as necessary, because life happens.)

Week (+lecture day):	Class Topic:	To Do:
1 (09/07) (09/09)	<u>09/07</u> – Discussion of syllabus, class structure, and expectations. <u>09/09</u> – We'll be deep diving into a more critical understanding of crime and the criminal justice system – we can't learn theory without understanding where and how we apply it!	09/07 – Syllabus Supplementary: Watch: The Color of Justice
2 (09/14) (09/16)	<u>09/14</u> – We'll continue the conversation we began last week and expand our understanding of the criminal-legal system – Cops, Courts, Corrections! This will further aid us in understanding crime and criminal behavior. <u>09/16</u> – The Three C's continued! We'll understand cops, courts, and corrections in context and further understand how a legal case can move through the criminal-legal system.	09/14 – Read pages 26-50 09/16 – No reading, continued from last class. Supplementary: Watch: Why Can't Anyone Agree on the Crime Rate

<p>3 (09/21) (09/23)</p>	<p><u>09/21</u> - Today, we'll be diving into criminological theory! We'll discuss the wide range, from pre-classical to strain theories!</p> <p><u>09/23</u> - <u>NO CLASS</u></p>	<p>09/21 – Read pages 159-186</p> <p>09/23 – Ask me about the extra credit opportunity! :)</p> <p>Supplementary: Watch: Solving the Youth Crime 'Problem'</p>
<p>4 (09/28) (09/30)</p>	<p><u>09/28</u> – Today, we'll be prepping for our guest lecturer later this week. We'll be discussing different kinds of crimes, offenses, and victim typologies.</p> <p><u>09/30</u> – Guest Lecturer: Jordan Costa</p>	<p>09/14 – Read pages 51-67</p> <p>09/16 – Read: 'Life After The Gunshot' Documents The Impact Of Hospital Interventions After Gun Injury. Trauma</p> <p>Supplementary: Watch: Life After the Gunshot</p>
<p>5 (10/05) (10/07)</p>	<p><u>10/05</u> – Back to basics – what roles have law enforcement filled historically? How does the modern face of law enforcement relate to slavery and the slave trade?</p> <p><u>10/07</u> – Guest Lecturer: Mich Ling</p>	<p>10/05 – Read pages 191-223</p> <p>10/07 – Reading TBA</p> <p>Supplementary: Listen: How a Theory of Crime and Policing was Born and Went Terribly Wrong</p>
<p>6 (10/12) (10/14)</p>	<p><u>10/12</u> – This week, we'll be continuing to expand our understanding of theory while adding on a historical and contemporary lens. How does our social understanding of punishment change how we think about crime?</p> <p><u>10/14</u> – Mid-term review!</p>	<p>10/12 – Read pages 311-324</p> <p>10/14 – Read pages 325-342</p> <p>Supplementary: Check out: the ACLU's website on race and the criminal justice system.</p>

7 (10/19) (10/21)	<u>10/19</u> – Mid-term!	10/21 – Class canceled
8 (10/26) (10/28)	Wellness week!	Your assignment this week is to take care of yourself. Spend time with loved ones, sleep in, catch up on other classes, or check-in with me on your progress in this course. Do whatever you need to do and come back next week refreshed!
9 (11/02) (11/04)	<u>11/02</u> – Don't panic, but this week we're jumping into statistics! We'll learn about good statistics, bad statistics, and how they relate to theory and policy! <u>11/04</u> – Stats, continued.	11/02 - Read pages 69-85 11/04 - Reading TBA Supplementary: Listen: DOE Report Shows Racial Disparity in Student Suspensions
10 (11/09) (11/11)	<u>11/09</u> – Stats, continued. <u>11/11</u> – Stats, continued – how do statistics work with theory? Is good theory important to statistics?	11/09 - Reading TBA 11/11 - No reading Supplementary: Watch: How We're Priming Some Kids for College – and Others for Prison

11 (11/16) (11/18)	<u>11/16</u> – Guest lecturer TBA <u>11/18</u> – Guest lecturer TBA	Readings TBA
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NO CLASS THIS WEEK :)		Enjoy your time off!
13 (11/30 12/02)	<u>11/30</u> – As we expand our understanding of theory, we also need to understand how it applies in a real-world policy context. What theory informs diversion programs? Intermediate sanctions? It's important to connect theory and policy. <u>12/02</u> – Theory+Policy continued.	11/30 – Read pages 347-359 12/02 – Read pages 360-367 Supplementary: Watch: The Neuroscience of Restorative Justice
14 (12/07 /09)	FINAL EXAM REVIEW ALL WEEK!	Supplementary: Watch: What a World Without Prisons Could Look Like
15	Final exam date will be announced on canvas as soon as the final exam schedule is out.	Good luck on your finals!!

III. Grading:

Assignment Description	Linked to SLO	% of Course Grade
Participation Activity #1	SLO 2, 3	25%
Participation Activity #2		
Participation Activity #3		
Participation Activity #4		
Participation Activity #5		
Participation Activity #6		

Participation Activity #7		
Participation Activity #8		
Participation Activity #9		
Participation Activity #10		
Mid-term	SLO 1, 2, 3	25%
Final Exam	SLO 1, 2, 3	50%

Participation Activity:

The in-class participation activity will be given frequently (you'll have plenty of opportunities throughout the semester) and it will simply include the following: you take out a paper and writing utensil, I ask you a series of questions at some point during the lecture, and you spend a few minutes writing. This assignment is graded on **effort** and **completion**.

The mid-term and final exam will both be administered through canvas. You'll have 48 hours to complete the exam and you are able to use the notes you've compiled throughout the semester.

There are no attendance requirements for this course.

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%

Course Policies:

Name and Pronouns Policy:

You have the right to be referred to by the name that you are most comfortable with. If the name listed on my roster is not the name you would like me to refer you as, you are welcome to let me know through any of the contact methods I've listed above. Additionally, you have the right to be referred to with the pronouns you are most comfortable with – If I make a mistake, please quickly correct me through email, phone, or student hours but I will do my best to respect everyone and I expect the same from students towards one another.

Late or Missing Assignment Policy:

The purpose of in-class participation activities is to measure your growing understanding of the material – in class! So, I will not be accepting any late or missing participation activities. I realize life happens – so please communicate with me as soon as possible if you are, for any reason, having difficulty completing the participation activities.

Regarding the mid-term and final-exam; both exams are online. It is up to you to attend class consistently and take solid notes throughout the semester to use as a resource for your exams. I typically will not accept late exams.

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.

Further resources:

Accommodation and Support:

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. Contact ODS at (973)353-5375 or via email at 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. Students may contact the Office of Title IX and ADA Compliance at (973) 353-1906 or via email at TitleIX@newark.rutgers.edu.

For Absence Verification: The Office of the Dean of Students can provide assistance for absences related to religious observance, emergency or unavoidable conflict (e.g., illness, personal or family emergency, etc.). Students should refer to University Policy 10.2.7 for information about expectations and responsibilities. The Office of the Dean of Students can be contacted by calling (973) 353-5063 or emailing deanofstudents@newark.rutgers.edu.

For Individuals with temporary conditions/injuries: The Office of the Dean of Students can assist students who are experiencing a temporary condition or injury (e.g., broken or sprained limbs, concussions, or recovery from surgery). Students experiencing a temporary condition or injury should submit a request using the following link: <https://temporaryconditions.rutgers.edu>.

For English as a Second Language (ESL): The Program in American Language Studies (PALS) can support students experiencing difficulty in courses due to English as a Second Language (ESL) and can be reached by emailing PALS@newark.rutgers.edu to discuss potential supports.

For Gender or Sex-Based Discrimination or Harassment: The Office of Title IX and ADA Compliance can assist students who are experiencing any form of gender or sex-based discrimination or harassment, including sexual assault, sexual harassment, relationship violence, or stalking. Students can report an incident to the Office of Title IX and ADA Compliance by calling (973) 353-1906 or emailing TitleIX@newark.rutgers.edu. Incidents may also be reported by using the following link: tinyurl.com/RUNReportingForm. For more information, students should refer to the University's Student Policy Prohibiting Sexual Harassment, Sexual Violence, Relationship Violence, Stalking and Related Misconduct located at <http://compliance.rutgers.edu/title-ix/about-title-ix/title-ix-policies/>.

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 an 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. There is also a confidential text-based line available to students; students can text (973) 339-0734 for support.

For Crisis and Concerns: 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 the CARE Team by using the following link: tinyurl.com/RUNCARE or emailing careteam@rutgers.edu.

For Stress, Worry, or Concerns about Well-being: 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 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>. 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