

**47: 202: 423: 01 CRIME OVER THE LIFECOURSE  
 Three Credits  
Spring 2025**

**Monday and Wednesday**

**10:00 - 11:20AM**

**Room BOYDEN Hall 100**

1. **Course Information**

**Instructor Information:**

Instructor: K. Gershman

Email: katarzyna.gershman@rutgers.edu

Office Hours: Office hours may be by appointment only

**Course Overview:**

This course examines the development of anti-social and criminal of behavior from childhood through old age, including patterns of onset, persistence, and desistance; what is known about why and how people start and stop committing crime at various ages and the different types of crime that are typically committed at different ages.

**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.

**Learning Objectives:**

* To gain an appreciation of the life course perspective in studying crime.
* To obtain an understanding of basic theories, concepts, and research methods used by life course criminologists.
* To establish and understanding of the connection between life course theories and ideas and real-world phenomena.

### Required Readings:

Benson, Michael L. 2013*. Crime and the Life Course: An Introduction*. Second Edition. New York: Routledge. **ISBN-13:** 978-0415994934 **ISBN-10:** 0415994934

Douglas, John and Olshaker, Mark. 1999. *The Anatomy of Motive.* Scribner Publisher. **ISBN:** 0671023934

\*Additional scholarly articles will be used to supplement during the semester, check blackboard.

**Course Requirements:**

Active participation in the course, which means completing readings and homework assignments on time and contributing positively to discussion in lecture will be a critical part of your grade. Attendance will be monitored, you are allowed two unexcused absences and any more than two will be grounds for dismissal from the class or for receiving a failing grade.

There will be two writing assignments and two in class examinations, serving as your midterm and final for the course. Late assignments will be penalized 10% per day of your grade, no exceptions. Assignments are:

1. Video Critique Assignment (25%)
2. Examination One (20%)
3. Book Report (assigned book) (25%)
4. Examination Two (20%)
5. Attendance and Participation (10%)

In class assignments and homework might be assigned at random, you should always be prepared by completing your assigned readings, as well as attending class.

# Course Schedule

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| **Date** | **Class Topic** | **Readings & Assignments Due** |
| Week 1 | **First Day of Class**  **(Course Introduction)** | Introduction and Key Concepts |
| Week 2 | **An Overview of Life Course Theory and Research.** | Textbook Chapter 1 |
| Week 3 | Biology and Behavior: The Launch Pad | Textbook Chapter 2 |
| Week 4 | The Family: Initial Trajectories | Textbook Chapter 3 |
| Week 5 | **Adolescence and Crime: Continuity Change** | Textbook Chapter 4Book Report Due |
| Week 6 | **Adolescence and Crime** | Supplementary Article posted on Blackboard |
| Week 7 | **Adulthood: Desistance, Persistence, and Human Agency** | Textbook Chapter 5 |
| Week 8 | **EXAM ONE** | In Class |
| Week 9 | **Spring Break** | No Classes |
| Week 10 | **History, Social Change, and the Life Course** | Textbook Chapter 6 |
| Week 11 | **History, Social Change, and the Life Course Con’t.** | Supplementary Article posted on Blackboard |
| Week 12 | **What Can Be Done? Intervening in the Life Course** | Textbook Chapter 7 |
| Week 13 | **Movie** | Video Critique Due |
| Week 14 | **The Life Course Perspective and White Collar Crime**  **Crime and the Life Course** | Textbook Chapter 8Appendix Reading |
| Week 15 | EXAM TWO | In Class |

*\*\*Please note I reserve the right to edit the readings and/or assignments during the semester, so please check blackboard for updates and additional information.*

1. 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%

### IV. Course Policies

**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.

**Note: Writing assignments will be randomly submitted through AI checking engines. If AI use is detected in more than 50% of the writing assignment students will be receiving a zero for that assignment without a chance to rewrite. AI assistance with grammar and such is permitted and understandable, however using verbatim text from AI and submitting it as your own is considered plagiarism.**

**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.

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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.