



**LEGAL STUDIES/SOCIOLOGY 441: Criminology
Spring Semester 2020**

COURSE INSTRUCTOR'S CONTACT INFORMATION & OFFICE HOURS:

Professor John M. Eason
Email: jeason2@wisc.edu
Mondays and Wednesdays 3-4 and by appointment.
8115 Sewell Social Sciences

TA Greg Venturini
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Tuesdays from 12-1
7102 Sewell Social Sciences

CLASS MEETING TIME AND PLACE:

6104 Sewell Social Sciences
Monday and Wednesday 4:00-5:15 p.m.

COURSE DESCRIPTION:

Criminology is the scientific study of crime and deviance. This course explores sociological explanations of crime, deviance, and social control in order to understand, contextualize, and analyze criminal behavior. In short, this is course about crime and its causes. Special attention will be paid to: the idea of social control (formal and informal) and the social contexts of crime and violence such as families, schools, and neighborhoods.

COURSE LEARNING OUTCOMES:

- 1.) Review theories of the causes and correlates of crime and deviance.
- 2.) Understand and critically assess classical and contemporary theories of crime and deviance.
- 3.) Develop practical, analytical skills in sociology, including research methods, critical reading, and analytic writing.
- 4.) Gain experience in applying sociological theory to "real life" situations.

NUMBER OF CREDITS ASSOCIATED WITH COURSE

This is a four-credit course.

HOW CREDIT HOURS ARE MET BY THE COURSE

This four-credit course meets twice per week for 75 minutes per session over approximately 15 weeks along with a weekly discussion section. This is the status quo and represents the traditional college credit format used for decades. This four-credit course will include at least 135 hours of learning activities, which include time in lectures or class meetings, in person or online presentations, reading, writing, studying, preparation for any of these activities, and any other learning activities.

REQUIRED TEXTS:

Siegel, Larry L. *Criminology* (13th edition). Belmont, CA: Thompson/Wadsworth Publishing.

Crutchfield, Kubrin, Brides, and Weis (editors). *Crime Readings* (3rd edition). Thousand Oaks, CA: Sage.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS:

- There are three exams. Each exam is worth 20% of your final grade.
- There are 8 reaction papers. Each reaction paper is worth 2 points and each is due at midnight on Wednesday of the assigned week. All told, reactions are worth 16%.
- There are three field assignments. Each assignment is worth 8% of your final grade.

We encourage questions and insightful comments during class as I value student participation. Lecture and discussion sections rely on your participation.

Exams

Exams will be based on readings, class lectures, and may be cumulative.

Exam & Field Assignment Due Dates

Field Assignment 1:	Wednesday January 26 th (Grade 8%)
Exam 1:	Monday, March 2 nd (Grade 20%)
Exam 2:	Wednesday, April 1 st (Grade 20%)
Field Assignment 2:	Wednesday, April 8 th (Grade 8%)
Exam 3:	Wednesday, April 29 th (Grade 20%)
Field Assignment 3:	Wednesday, May 6 th (Grade 8%)

Reaction Papers: We will try to keep reaction paper from conflicting with other assignments. It is incumbent upon you to check the weekly modules to see if a reaction is due that week. Reaction papers are due at midnight on Wednesdays.

Turning in Assignments

Papers should adhere to standard collegiate style having one-inch margins and be 12 point of a standard font. Your **first and last name** followed by the **name of the assignment**. For examples, field assignments should be labeled as **JohnEason.fieldassignment#1.doc**. We will provide separate descriptions for each of the field assignments in Canvas.

Reaction Papers:

Your reactions (250-500 words) are due in the content folder on canvas by midnight on Wednesdays. You should label reactions in the content folder and in the text you paste here or the word document you attach as follows: Your full name followed by the reaction#. For example, **JohnEason.reaction#1.doc** will be the first reaction paper I would place in the content area in reaction #1. You can enter and type in a paragraph to one page (or attach document) below and click submit. I suggest you work in a format like Microsoft Word so you can easily save your work.

For the reactions you will write your reflections or insights/questions raised from the readings. This is a central arena for class participation as I will draw on these questions and insights during lectures. Moreover, you can also write about other thoughts on what has been helpful (from class or the readings), any conceptual issues you are thinking about in regard to the exams. Even if you have issue with the readings- if you think, "Robert Sampson sucks"- the best place to work these thoughts/arguments out are through writing them down first. So if you think, "Robert Sampson sucks", then you can begin to construct an argument on why "Robert Sampson sucks" in your writing before class to present it coherently during class discussion. Almost anything goes with the reaction papers; **you will receive credit, but no grade.**

RULES, RIGHTS, RESPONSIBILITIES:

Attendance and Participation: Students are expected to attend class and participate. An unexcused absence will result in a participation grade penalty. Excused absences are accepted. Please review the student rules on attendance for what is considered an excused absence:

Computers: You may bring a computer to class to take notes on it; however, please refrain from sending email, opening web pages, playing games, or doing anything that will distract your classmates.

Cell Phones: Please turn off your cell phones during class. No texting is allowed.

See also the online Undergraduate Guide for Rules, Rights and Responsibilities at:
<http://guide.wisc.edu/undergraduate/#rulesrightsandresponsibilitiestext>

GRADING:

<u>Assignment</u>	<u>Points</u>
8 Weekly Reaction Papers worth 2 points each	16
Field Assignment 1	8
Field Assignment 2	8
Field Assignment 3	8
Exam 1	20
Exam 2	20
Exam 3	20
Total	100

Final grades will be assigned as follows:

A	93-100
AB	88-92
B	83-87
BC	78-82
C	70-77
D	60-69.9
F	59.9 and lower

*****Please note that total points earned are equal to final grade percentages*****

COURSE SCHEDULE

*Denotes readings available through Canvas.

PART I: Concepts of Crime, Law, and Criminology

WEEK 1- Wednesday, January 22nd

Course overview and brief comments on crime research traditions.

WEEK 2- Monday, January 27th

OBSERVATION TIME FIELD ASSIGNMENT #1-In lieu of lecture this week, please use this time to do field work.

Required Reading: Siegel. Chapter 1.

Required Reading: Hagan (reader). "Defining Crime: An Issue of Morality".

Wednesday, January 29th

Required Reading: Siegel. Chapter 2.

Required Reading: Messner, Deane, Anselin, and Person-Nelson (reader). "Locating the Vanguard in Rising and Falling Homicide Rates Across U.S. Cities."

*Required Reading: Jacobs. "Researching Crack Dealers: Dilemmas and Contradictions"

*Required Reading: Wright, Decker, Redfern, and Smith. "A Snowballs' Chance in Hell: Doing Fieldwork with Active Residential Burglars"

WEEK 3- Monday, February 3rd

Required Reading: Siegel. Chapter 3.

PART II: Criminological Theories I-Individual Theories

Wednesday, February 5th

Required Reading: Siegel. Chapter 4.

Required Reading: C. Ronald Huff (reader). "Historical Explanations of Crime: From Demons to Politics"

*Required Reading: Levitt and Venkatesh. "Why do Crack Dealers Still Live with Their moms?"

WEEK 4- Monday, February 10th

OBSERVATION TIME FOR FIELD ASSIGNMENT #1-In lieu of lecture this week, please use this time to do field work.

Required Reading: Siegel. Chapter 5.

Required Reading: Wilson and Hernstern. (reader). “A Bio-Psychological Theory of Choice”

PART III: Criminological Theories II-Social Structure Theories

Wednesday, February 12th

Required Reading: Siegel. Chapter 6, pgs. 179-195.

Required Reading: Shaw and McKay (reader). “Juvenile Delinquency and Urban Areas”.

WEEK 5-Monday, February 17th

Required Reading: Siegel. Morenoff, Sampson, and Raudenbush. (reader). “Neighborhood Inequality, Collective Efficacy, and the Spatial Dynamics of Urban Violence”.

Suggested Reading: Baumer, Horney, Felson, and Lauritsen. (reader). “Neighborhood Disadvantage and the Nature of Violence”.

Wednesday, February 19th

Required Reading: Siegel. Chapter 6, pgs. 196-204.

Required Reading: Merton, Robert. (reader). “Social Structure and Anomie”.

Required Reading: Agnew, Robert. (reader). “Foundation for a general Strain Theory of Crime and Delinquency”.

Suggested Reading: Broidy, Lisa. (reader). “A Test of General Strain Theory”.

WEEK 6-Monday, February 24th

Required Reading: Siegel. Chapter 6, pgs. 205-213.

Required Reading: Wolfgang and Ferracuty. (reader). “The Subculture of Violence”.

Wednesday, February 26th

Required Reading: Anderson, Elijah. (reader). “The Code of the Streets”.

Required Reading: Stewart and Simons. (reader). “Structure and Culture in African-American Adolescent Violence: A Partial Test of the ‘Code the Streets’ Thesis”.

WRITE UP OF FIELD ASSIGNMENT #1 DUE

PART IV: Criminological Theories III-Social Process and Other Theories

WEEK 7- Monday, March 2nd

EXAM #1

Wednesday, March 4th

Required Reading: Siegel. Chapter 7.

*Required Reading: Becker. “Becoming a Marijuana User”.

Required Reading: Schur. (reader). “Labeling Criminals”.

Required Reading: Gottfredson and Hirschi (reader). “The Nature of Criminality: Low Self-Control”.

WEEK 8- Monday, March 9th

Required Reading: Siegel. Chapter 9.

Required Reading: Sampson and Laub (reader). “Toward a Age-Graded Theory of Informal Social Control”

*Required Reading: Sanchez. “My Bloody Life”.

Suggested Reading: Sampson, Laub, and Wimer. (reader). “Does Marriage Reduce Crime? A Counterfactual Approach to Within-Individual Causal Effects.”

Wednesday, March 11th

Required Reading: Siegel. Chapter 8.

Required Reading: Chambliss (reader). “Crime and Structural Contradictions”.

WEEK 9- March 14th-22nd

NO CLASS - SPRING BREAK

WEEK 10-Monday, March 23rd

Required Reading: Hudson (reader). “Beyond White Man’s Justice: Race, Gender, and Justice in Late Modernity”.

Suggested Reading: Jacobs, Carmichael, and Kent (reader). “Vigilantism, Current Racial Threat, and Death Sentences”.

PART V: Crime Typologies

Wednesday, March 25th

Required Reading: Siegel. Chapter 10.

*Required Reading: Simon, David. Excerpts from *Homicide: A Year of Killing on the Streets*.

Suggested Reading: Zimring (reader). "A Youth Violence Epidemic: Myth or Reality?"

WEEK 11-Monday, March 30th

Required Reading: Siegel. Chapter 11.

Required Reading: Hagan, Rymond-Richmond, and Parker (reader). "The Criminology of Genocide: The Death and Rape of Darfur".

Required Reading: LaFree and Dugan (reader). "How Does Studying Terrorism Compare to Studying Crime?"

Wednesday, April 1st

EXAM #2

WEEK 12-Monday, April 6th

*Required Reading: Newman. 2004. Excerpts from *Rampage: The Social Roots of School Shootings*.

Required Reading: Sutherland (reader). "A Theory of Crime: Differential Association".

Required Reading: Hochstetler et al (reader). "Differential Association in Group and Solo Offending".

Wednesday, April 8th

Required Reading: Esbensen and Weerman (reader). "Youth Gangs and Troublesome Youth Groups in the United States and Netherlands: A Cross-National Comparison".

*Required Reading: Papachristos. "Gang World".

*Required Reading: Excerpts from *Dead End Kids*.

WRITE UP OF FIELD ASSIGNMENT #2 DUE

WEEK 13-Monday, April 13th

Required Reading: Siegel. Chapter 13.

*Suggested Reading: Harland Prechel and Theresa Morris. 2010. "The Effects of Organizational and Political Embeddedness on Financial Malfeasance in the Largest U.S. Corporations: Dependence, Incentives and Opportunities." *American Sociological Review*, 75:331-354.

Wednesday, April 15th

OBSERVATION TIME FOR FIELD ASSIGNMENT #3-In lieu of lecture this week, please use this time to do field work.

WEEK 14- Monday, April 20th

*Required Reading: Siegel. Chapter 17...**Canvas.**

Required Reading: Wilson and Kelling (reader). "Broken Windows: The Police and Neighborhood Safety".

Wednesday, April 22nd

*Required Reading: Siegel. Excerpts from Chapter 16 & All of Chapter 18...**Canvas.**

WEEK 15- Monday, April 27th

Required Reading: Western and Pettit (reader). "Beyond Crime and Punishment: Prisons and Inequality".

*Required Reading: Real Cost of Prison comic strips (3) at:
<http://realcostofprisons.org/comics.html>.

*Required Reading: Eason, John M. 2016. The Prison Industrial Complex. *The SAGE Encyclopedia of Economics and Society*.

*Required Reading: Eason, John M. 2019. Prisons and the Rural Ghetto. *Dissent*.

Wednesday, April 29th

EXAM #3

Wednesday, May 6th

WRITE UP OF FIELD ASSIGNMENT #3 DUE