

University of Colorado at Boulder
Department of Sociology

SOCY 2044
Crime and Society

Fall 2009
Tuesdays & Thursdays, 9:30am to 10:45am
Location: Benson 180

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COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course is an introductory examination of crime and crime control in the United States. The course serves to debunk myths about criminality, the prevalence of criminal offenses, and the criminal justice system, and to provide an academic understanding of the subject matter. The course provides a brief overview of the patterns of crime commission and victimization and the theories explaining criminal behavior. The course also surveys the continuum of the criminal justice system from police, through the courts, to corrections, and will examine how these components and agents of the system are affected by public opinion, media representations, policy, and politics.

TEACHING DELIVERY

This course will incorporate several teaching methods. Each of these teaching methods is important to the learning process in this course. Some of the more common methods to be used are as follows:

Lectures

Traditional lecture will be used to assure that all students are fully aware of the information the instructor wishes the students to grasp.

i>Clickers

A student response system, or "clickers," will be integrated into the course to foster participation from all students in the class. According to Educause, "The system allows for active participation by all students and provides immediate feedback to the instructor – and the students – about any confusion or misunderstandings of the material being presented" (7 *Things You Should Know About Clickers*, available at <http://www.educause.edu/ir/library/pdf/ELI7002.pdf>).

In-Class Writing Exercises

Short in-class writing assignments (to be written in small groups or individually) may be used to generate critical thinking on a specific topic and to encourage class participation.

Documentary Films

Documentary films will be shown throughout the course to provide visually stimulating examples for several course topics. These screenings are to be treated as "lectures" for the course, and should be taken as serious subject matter that will likely be included in class exams.

Guest Lectures

Criminal justice professionals and ex-felons may be utilized a few times throughout the course to offer their assessments about crime and the criminal justice system. Like the documentaries, the guest lectures are to be highly regarded and will be included on the course exams.

Class Discussions

Students are strongly encouraged to participate in discussion of the daily topics by providing their insights and asking questions for clarification or rhetorical contemplation.

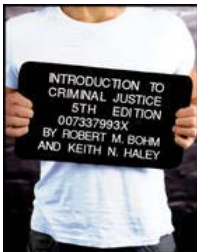
STUDENT DISABILITY SERVICES

Students desiring a reasonable accommodation under the Americans with Disabilities Act must contact Professor Potter **immediately** to discuss their needs, and must seek assistance at the Disability Services Office, located at Willard Administrative Center, Room 322, 303-492-8671 (voice/TTY), DSinfo@colorado.edu. Additional information can be found at <http://www.colorado.edu/disabilityservices/>.

If a student has a temporary medical condition or injury, please see the University guidelines at <http://www.colorado.edu/disabilityservices/go.cgi?select=temporary.html>.

Students requiring exam accommodations due to disabilities must review the University policy (<http://www.colorado.edu/disabilityservices/handbook/handbook6.html>). **Students requiring exam accommodations must coordinate with the professor one to two weeks prior to the exam.**

TEXTBOOK



Robert M. Bohm and Keith N. Haley (2008). *Introduction to Criminal Justice (Fifth Edition)*. McGraw-Hill.

Hard Copy (in CU Bookstore): \$136 (new)

eTextbook: \$79.99

<http://www.coursesmart.com/0077253353?instructoruserid=1823585>

COURSE WORK REQUIREMENTS

The course workload and percentage points are distributed as follows:

Assignment	% Points
Attendance & i>Clicker Participation	10
Assessments	10
Student Information Survey = 1	
Reflection on Crime 1 = 3	
Reflection on Crime 2 = 6	
Research Paper	20
Paper Plan = 1	
Paper = 19	
Examinations	60
Examination 1 = 20	
Examination 2 = 20	
Examination 3 = 20	
Optional Examination 4 = 20	
	100

Attendance

Students are expected to attend every class. Students must attend regularly to guarantee their place in this course during the first two weeks of the semester. If a student fails to attend during this time, she or he may be administratively dropped from the course. **Missing two or more classes during the first two weeks of class may cause a student to be administratively withdrawn.**

For most of the class sessions, attendance will be recorded via the i>clickers. It is the responsibility of the student to notify the professor immediately before class begins or immediately after class ends that the student failed to bring her/his clicker or if the student's clicker is not working. Doing so will assure that said student will at least receive credit for having attended class. Student grades will not begin to be penalized for absences until after missing two classes.

For **excused absences**, documentation is to be submitted to the professor within one week of the absence. University policy regarding **religious observances** requires that faculty make every effort to deal reasonably and fairly with all students who, because of religious obligations, have conflicts with scheduled exams, assignments, or required attendance. During the first two weeks of the semester (by Friday, September 4, 2009), any student requesting to have an excused absence due to religious obligations must give a note to the professor specifying the religious affiliation and the religious holiday (e.g., Rosh Hashanah, Eid al Fitr, Yom Kippur). The following are some legitimate reasons for missing a class, along with their corresponding required documentation:

Legitimate Absence	Proof Needed for Legitimate Absence
Illness	Note from a certified medical professional or recognized spiritual healer
Death in the family	Note from a family member and funeral information
Work (should be of an urgent nature)	Note from a supervisor
NCAA or Collegiate Sports Club athletic meet	Note from a coach. <i>Documentation for regularly scheduled meets must be provided during the first two weeks of the semester</i>
Religious holiday	Note from student specifying religious affiliation, religious holiday, and corresponding activities (<i>to be provided during the first two weeks of the semester</i>)

Students should confer with the professor outside of class sessions after an absence to find out if any **handouts** were provided or films were screened. Students are **not** to notify the professor of absences before the anticipated missed class. During office hours or at a meeting time agreed upon between the student and the professor, the absentee student will be provided with any handouts (some handouts will also be available on CULearn).

The majority, if not all, of the **videos** to be shown in this course are owned by the professor and will **be placed on reserve in Norlin Library** (Circulation Desk, on the first floor) for the remainder of the semester following the viewing of the video.

The professor will not provide students who miss classes with notes or copies of PowerPoint presentations. Typically, the professor's notes and PowerPoint presentations are heavily supplemented with oral lecture and are practically useless to students without notes taken by class attendees. Therefore, it is strongly suggested that each student assemble class companions with whom to exchange lecture notes in the event a class is missed. Information Sharing Discussion Groups have been set up on CULearn to facilitate student networking. Each student has been assigned to one of several discussion groups.

Reading Assignments and i>Clicker Participation

Students are responsible for all material covered in class and listed on the *Class Schedule* (see below). Prior to each class, students are expected to read the assigned material and be prepared with questions or comments and ready to respond to the readings. It is widely held in academia that students should spend at least two hours studying outside of class for every hour in class. That is, *each week six hours of study time should be devoted to this course.*

By the second week of class (Tuesday, September 1, 2009) each student must have purchased an i>clicker at the campus book store and have registered the clicker through CUConnect. Instructions on how to register the clicker can be found at <http://www.colorado.edu/its/cuclickers/students/register.html>. **The frequency on the clicker must be set to that assigned to the classroom at the start of each class.**

The i>clicker is to be treated as one of the many "school supplies" that are used by students. Just as it is necessary to bring paper and pens/pencils to every class, it is just as necessary to bring the clicker. The clicker should operate for 200 hours before the batteries need to be replaced, but students should carry an extra set of AAA batteries just in case. No excuses will be accepted for failing to bring the clicker to class.

Beginning Tuesday, September 1, 2009, each class – with the exception of exam days – will incorporate some form of questions that students must respond to by using their i>clickers. The questions will be based on the daily readings, current and previous lectures, and student opinions. Points will be assigned to these questions.

Assessments

There are three “assessments” in this course, which will count for a total of 10% of each student’s final grade.

Student Information Survey

Each student is required to complete the student information survey, available on CULearn, by **Friday, September 4, 2009, 7:00pm**. No points will be awarded for surveys completed after September 4.

Reflection on Crime Assessments

There are two “reflection on crime” assessments for this course.

The first assessment, which is available on CULearn, is to be **completed by August 27, 2009, by 9:30am**. This assessment will not be graded per se, but will be worth 3% of the overall grade. Each student will be given credit for honestly and thoroughly answering the questions posed. This assessment will help the instructors gain insight into student’s perceptions of “crime and society.”

Toward the end of the semester, students must respond to similar questions posed in the original reflection. This second assessment will be worth 6% of the overall grade. This assessment is not so much about what students think, rather, the purpose is to show how students critically engaged with the material that was presented during the course of the semester. Some of the questions on this assessment will be graded based on relaying the information that was imparted during the semester. The second assessment will be available beginning Thursday, December 3, and is to be **completed by Thursday, December 10, 2009, by 11:59pm in CULearn only**.

Research Paper

Each student is required to write a research paper. There are two paper options from which to choose (described below). The *plan* for the paper is to be **submitted by Thursday, November 3, 2009, by 11:59pm in CULearn only**. (An “assignment” page has been set up on CULearn for submissions of paper plans. It can be found in the Assignments section or through a link in the Research Paper folder on the Course Content page.)

Option 1: Experiential Paper

Students choosing this option are required to participate in or observe an activity within the field of “criminal justice” and write a corresponding research paper. The activities include going on a police ride-along, sitting in on criminal court proceedings, or touring a jail or prison. (Several correctional facility tours will be scheduled by the professor, but students may also schedule their own tours if they are able to do so.) Any other activities should first be cleared with the professor.

Upon completion of the activity, the student is to write a research paper that must provide a constructive-critical assessment of the agency (e.g., usefulness, problems) and the agents, *and* incorporate existing scholarly interpretations of at least one issue/area/concern raised during the activity that is of particular interest to the student.

Proof of an experiential activity done without the instructor must be submitted with the paper.

Option 2: Position Paper

Students choosing this option are to select a contemporary issue within the area of crime, criminality, or the criminal justice system and write a position paper. The position paper will present an arguable opinion about the chosen issue, *and* incorporate existing scholarly research to support the argument. The proposed topic must be approved by the professor prior to the student beginning work on the paper.

Technical Guidelines

Students are to follow these additional guidelines:

- The paper needs to be typed using a 12-point font and double spacing
- The paper must have a cover page that includes student name and a paper title.
- The paper must properly cite outside resources using **only APA-style or ASA-style** of citation, and include a Works Cited page (a.k.a., References; Bibliography).
- The paper must be 1800-2500 words. The content on the cover and references pages are not to be included in the paper word count.
- Students must review and follow “Professor Potter’s Paper Pet-Peeves” available in CU Learn for this course.
- The paper is to be **submitted by Tuesday, December 1, 2009, by 11:59pm in CULearn only**. The grade for the paper will drop one letter grade for each day it is late.

Examinations

There are four examinations in this course. The first three exams will be administered throughout the semester (Sept. 22, Oct. 27, and Dec. 3) during the regularly scheduled class time. Each of these exams will cover three separate areas of the course. The fourth exam will be cumulative of the entire course content. This exam will be administered during Finals Week on Monday, December 14, 2009, from 7:30pm to 10:00pm (in the same classroom). These exams will consist of multiple-choice questions.

Only three exams will count toward the overall exam grade, for a total of 60% of each student's final grade. Each exam is weighted equally. **There are no make-up exams. The only students who will be accommodated with alternate exam times will be those with certified documentation from Disability Services.** If a student misses any of the first three exams he or she must take the final exam. A student who misses more than one exam is expected to drop the class. If a student takes the first three exams, she or he may also take the final and the lowest of the four exam grades will be dropped.

Each student is to report to each exam with at least two Number 2 pencils and a reliable eraser. In order to take advantage of the professor's special "gimme," students must arrive no later than 9:30am on exam days. Students must use restroom facilities prior to entering the classroom on exam days. Students shall leave the room on exam days only after completing and turning in the exam *or* if the student *truly* (and under dire circumstances) must relieve himself or herself.

GRADING

Overall course grades will be assigned on the following scale:

Grade	Overall %	Grade	Overall %	Grade	Overall %	Grade	Overall %
A	93-100%	B	83-86.9%	C	73-76.9%	D	63-66.9%
A-	90-92.9%	B-	80-82.9%	C-	70-72.9%	D-	60-62.9%
B+	87-89.9%	C+	77-79.9%	D+	67-69.9%	F	0-59.9%

Students will be able to monitor their grades throughout the semester on CULearn. Students may consult with the professor throughout the semester to determine where they stand in the course. It is preferred that this be done during office hours. Detailed grade information *will not* be provided via e-mail or phone.

STUDENT BEHAVIOR GUIDELINES

The CU-Boulder Honor Code

Academic dishonesty will not be tolerated. The research paper will be closely checked for plagiarism using the SafeAssign program through CULearn.

Students are encouraged to review the Honor Code booklet at

<http://www.colorado.edu/academics/honorcode/files/honor%20code%20booklet.pdf>. The Honor Code mission reads as follows:

As citizens of an academic community of trust, CU-Boulder students do not lie or cheat whether they are on campus or acting as representatives of the university in surrounding communities. Neither should they suffer by the dishonest acts of others. Honor is about academic integrity, moral and ethical conduct, and pride of membership in a community that values academic achievement and individual responsibility. Cultivating honor lays the foundation for lifelong integrity, developing in each of us the courage and insight to make difficult choices and accept responsibility for actions and their consequences, even at personal cost.

Respect

Respect of others is not only expected, but required. This includes valuing others' opinions, no matter how wrong some may believe those views to be, and allowing others to speak without interruption. Naturally, racial or sexual harassment or other forms of harassment will not be tolerated and will be dealt with authoritatively. The University of Colorado at Boulder policy on Discrimination and Harassment (<http://www.colorado.edu/policies/discrimination.html>), the University of Colorado policy on Sexual Harassment, and the University of Colorado policy on Amorous Relationships applies to all students, staff, and faculty. Any student who believes she or he has been the subject of discrimination or harassment based upon race, color, national origin, sex, age, disability, religion, sexual orientation, or veteran status should contact the Office of Discrimination and Harassment (ODH) at 303-492-2127 or the Office of Judicial Affairs at 303-492-5550. Information about the ODH and the campus resources available to assist individuals regarding discrimination or harassment can be obtained at <http://www.colorado.edu/odh>.

Punctuality

Students should make every effort to attend all classes on time. In order to not disrupt class, students shall utilize the restroom and take care of other personal matters prior to or after class sessions. (This is a requirement on exam days.) If a student needs to leave class early, he or she is to notify the professor of such before the start of class.

Side Conversations

Side conversations between small groups of students make it difficult for others to actively listen and learn. Repeated warnings to students engaging in side conversations will result in the involved students being directed to leave the class session.

Wireless Communications

All communication devices must be turned off or silenced upon entering the classroom and are not to be used inside the classroom during class sessions. Aside from the obvious of speaking on wireless phones, this includes the use of text messaging on phones and other apparatuses and accessing the Internet on a laptop computer, phone, or personal digital assistant (PDA). Students may use laptop computers in this class, but it is expected that they are to be used for academic purposes pertaining to this class *only*. Any use of wireless devices or other information technology *during an exam* will result in a zero for the exam.

Sleeping and Other Forms of Inattention

Falling asleep in class is not considered appropriate student behavior. Likewise, resting one's head on the desk is disrespectful to the professor. Students should make the mature decision to either stay awake and alert in class or go elsewhere and get some sleep. Reading books, Internet matter, or other materials without being assigned to do so by the professor or studying for other courses during class time is also not considered appropriate student behavior. Overall, students should make every effort to pay attention, which will assist students with mastering the material. Besides, the class sessions are only 75 minutes long – but a short span of time in a 24-hour period!

Class Visitors

Family and friends of enrolled students are welcome to periodically attend a class session. Please notify the professor of class guests prior to the start of the class. Unfortunately, class visitors are limited to people/humans; **animals/non-humans are not to be brought to class, unless they are used as aids for students with disabilities and these students have secured assistance from Disability Services.**

PROFESSOR RESPONSIBILITY STATEMENT

As the professor for this course, I am devoted to maintaining a safe place (figuratively and literally) for students to discuss issues related to this course. It is my goal that students will not only leave the course with a better and more critical understanding of the issues addressed in the course, but that they will feel I treated them fairly and with respect regarding discussions, handling of course topics, administration of the classroom, and grading. If students have any questions or concerns about any of my statements, omissions, grading decisions, etc., I strongly encourage them to come to me with their concerns at their earliest convenience.

Hillary Potter

CLASS SCHEDULE

It is expected that this schedule will be strictly followed, but the professor may make adjustments if less or more time is needed on a particular topic and depending on student progress.

Date	Topic	Assignments ⁱ
T – 08/25/09	<i>Crime and Justice in the U.S.</i>	Syllabus
R – 08/27/09		Pages 2-24, 50-51 Reflection on Crime – Part 1
T – 09/01/09	<i>Crime Definitions</i>	Pages 26-36 iClicker Registration
R – 09/03/09		Inciardi Chapter (on CULearn)
T – 09/08/09		Student Information Survey
R – 09/10/09	<i>Crime Measurement</i>	Pages 37-48, 51-56
T – 09/15/09		
R – 09/17/09		
T – 09/22/09		Exam 1
R – 09/24/09	<i>Crime Causation</i>	Pages 59-94
T – 09/29/09		
R – 10/01/09		
T – 10/06/09		
R – 10/08/09	<i>Criminal Law</i>	Pages 97-133
T – 10/13/09	<i>Cops</i>	Pages 136-177
R – 10/15/09		Pages 178-217
T – 10/20/09		Pages 218-251
R – 10/22/09		
T – 10/27/09		Exam 2
R – 10/29/09	<i>Courts</i>	Pages 254-302
T – 11/03/09		Pages 304-338 Research Paper Plan
R – 11/05/09		
T – 11/10/09	<i>Corrections</i>	Pages 340-388
R – 11/12/09		Pages 390-417
T – 11/17/09		Pages 418-462
R – 11/19/09		
<i>T – 11/23/09</i>	<i>No Classes</i>	<i>Fall Break</i>
<i>R – 11/25/09</i>		<i>No Classes</i>
T – 12/01/09	<i>Crime and Kids</i>	Pages 464-504 Research Paper
R – 12/03/09		Exam 3
T – 12/08/09	<i>Conclusions</i>	Pages 506-543
R – 12/10/09		Reflection on Crime – Part 2
M – 12/14/09 7:30-10:00pm		Exam 4

ⁱ Reading assignments are to be completed by the start of class on the specified day.