

University of Colorado at Boulder
Department of Sociology

SOCY 4014

Criminology

Fall 2009
Tuesdays & Thursdays, 3:30pm to 4:45pm
Location: Duane Physics G131

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COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course analyzes the scientific study of criminal behavior and the ways in which the criminal justice system addresses these behaviors. We will consider ordinary (e.g., theft) and unique (e.g., homicide) cases to begin to understand why individuals commit acts deemed “criminal” by society and the government. Traditional *sociological* theories of crime causation - such as deterrence, social disorganization, strain, social learning, control, and labeling - will be covered. Special attention will also be given to contemporary interpretations of traditional crime causation theories, and critical, feminist, and developmental/life-course theories of crime. In studying sociological theories of criminal behavior, we will examine associated social policy implications in the criminal justice system.

Prerequisite: SOCY 1001, *Introduction to Sociology*,
or SOCY 1004, *Deviance in U.S. Society*,
or SOCY 2044, *Crime & Society*.

TEACHING DELIVERY

This class 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 in this class 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.

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.

Group Exercises

Small-group work may be integrated into the course to foster participation by students who do not feel as comfortable sharing their thoughts and inquiries among the larger class setting.

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 criminality. Like the documentaries, the guest lectures are to be highly regarded and will be included on the course exams.

STUDENT DISABILITY SERVICES

Students desiring a reasonable accommodation under the Americans with Disabilities Act must contact Professor Potter **immediately** to discuss their needs and 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>.

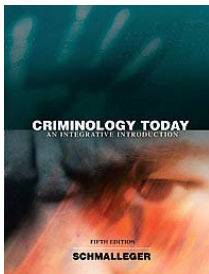
Students requiring exam accommodations due to disabilities must review the University policy (<http://www.colorado.edu/disabilityservices/handbook/handbook6.html>). Students requiring exam accommodations must coordinate with the professor one to two weeks prior to the exam.

COURSE WORK REQUIREMENTS

The course workload and percentage points are distributed as follows:

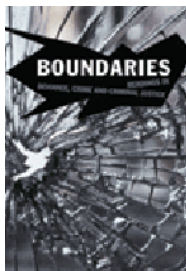
Assignment	% Points
Attendance and Participation	10
Research Paper	30
Exams (<i>n</i> =3 @ 20% each)	60
	100

REQUIRED READING MATERIAL



Criminology Today: An Integrated Introduction, Fifth Edition (2009)
Written by Frank J. Schmalleger
Prentice Hall Publishing

- Choose 1 from 2 formats: eTextbook (\$69.99) or hard copy (\$131.25 new, \$98.45 used).



Boundaries: Readings in Deviance, Crime, and Criminal Justice (2009)
Edited by Bradley R.E. Wright and Ralph B. McNeal, Jr., and Compiled by Hillary Potter
Pearson Custom Publishing

- Available **only** in the CU Boulder campus bookstore in the UMC for \$85.95

ATTENDANCE, READING ASSIGNMENTS, AND PARTICIPATION

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.** It is requested that each student complete the Student Information Survey on CULearn. Students who complete the survey by September 4, 2009, will receive participation points.

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.

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.

CRIME CAUSATION AND POLICY IMPLICATIONS PAPER

Each student is required to research and write a paper on the description and policy implications of crime causation theories. The paper counts for 30% of each student’s total grade. **The paper is to be turned in on Friday, December 11, 2009, 10:00am in CULearn only.** Additional details about this assignment are provided on CULearn in the folder on the Course Content page labeled “Research Paper.”

EXAMINATIONS

Three exams, worth 20% each, will be administered throughout the course. Each exam will consist of multiple-choice and short-answer questions and will gauge students’ comprehension of lecture material.

Each student is to report to each quiz with **a Number 2 pencil and a blue or black ink pen.**

Makeup exams will *only* be given under the following conditions:

1. If the student notifies the professor (via e-mail, phone, fax, or in person) *before* the exam date and time that he or she will be missing the exam.
2. If the student will be providing the professor with written documentation, stating the reason the exam had to be missed and including a contact person and telephone number, within seven days of the date of the missed exam.
3. If the student has a legitimate reason for missing the exam.

Some legitimate reasons for missing an exam, and their corresponding required documentation, are:

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>

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%

Grades will be regularly updated on CULearn. However, students should also feel free to 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 regular e-mail or phone, but can be provided via the CULearn e-mail system.

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 he or she 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	Assignment ^a
T – 08/25/09	<i>What is Criminology?</i>	◦ Syllabus
R – 08/27/09		◦ <i>Criminology Today</i> : pp. 3-33
T – 09/01/09		◦ iClicker Registration
		◦ <i>Criminology Today</i> : pp. 35-85
		◦ Optional – <i>Criminology Today</i> : pp. 87-120 ^b
R – 09/03/09	<i>Trait Theories</i> . Biological and Psychological Determinism	◦ <i>Criminology Today</i> : pp. 121, 165-256
T – 09/08/09	<i>Choice Theories</i> . Overview	◦ Student Information Survey
	. Deterrence	◦ <i>Criminology Today</i> : pp. 123-163
		◦ <i>Boundaries</i> : pp. 1-11
R – 09/10/09	. Rational Choice	◦ <i>Boundaries</i> : pp. 13-84
	. Routine Activities	
T – 09/15/09	<i>Property Crimes</i>	◦ <i>Criminology Today</i> : pp. 441-468, 473-476
R – 09/17/09	<i>Structural-Cultural/ Social Strain Theories</i> . Overview	◦ <i>Criminology Today</i> : pp. 259-295
	. Durkheimian/ Anomie	◦ <i>Boundaries</i> : pp. 85-128
	. Du Boisian	
T – 09/22/09	. Strain	◦ <i>Boundaries</i> : pp. 129-143
R – 09/24/09	. Social Disorganization	◦ <i>Boundaries</i> : pp. 145-211
	. General Strain	
T – 09/29/09		◦ Exam 1
R – 10/01/09	. Labeling	◦ <i>Boundaries</i> : pp. 214-259
	. Reintegrative Shaming	
T – 10/06/09	<i>Drug Crimes</i>	◦ <i>Criminology Today</i> : pp. 527-562
R – 10/08/09	<i>Cultural-Subcultural/ Socialization Theories</i> . Overview	◦ <i>Criminology Today</i> : pp. 297-341
	. Differential Association	◦ <i>Boundaries</i> : pp. 261-279
	. Social Learning/ Differential Reinforcement	
T – 10/13/09	. Neutralization Techniques	◦ <i>Boundaries</i> : pp. 281-292
R – 10/15/09	. Social Bond/ Control	◦ <i>Boundaries</i> : pp. 293-337
	. Self Control/ General	
T – 10/20/09	. Subculture of Violence	◦ <i>Boundaries</i> : pp. 339-374
	. Code of the Streets	
R – 10/22/09	. Life-Course	◦ <i>Boundaries</i> : pp. 375-395
	. Female Pathways	
T – 10/27/09	<i>Violent Crimes</i>	◦ <i>Criminology Today</i> : pp. 381-416
R – 10/29/09		◦ <i>Criminology Today</i> : pp. 416-434
T – 11/03/09		◦ Exam 2
R – 11/05/09	<i>White-Collar and Organized Crime</i>	◦ <i>Criminology Today</i> : pp. 468-473, 476-477, 479-525
T – 11/10/09	<i>Critical/ Social Conflict Theories</i> . Overview	◦ <i>Criminology Today</i> : pp. 343-378
	<i>Class</i> . Conflict	◦ <i>Boundaries</i> : pp. 397-429
	. Marxist	
	. Constitutive	
R – 11/12/09	. Left Realist	◦ <i>Boundaries</i> : pp. 431-460
	. Peacemaking	
T – 11/17/09	<i>Race</i> . Colonial	◦ <i>Boundaries</i> : pp. 461-474
	. Critical Race	
R – 11/19/09	<i>Gender</i> . Liberation Hypotheses	◦ <i>Boundaries</i> : pp. 475-550
	. Patriarchy/ Radical Feminist	
T – 11/23/09	<i>No Classes</i>	<i>No Classes</i>
R – 11/25/09	<i>Fall Break</i>	<i>No Classes</i>
T – 12/01/09	. Intersectionality/ Postmodernist Feminist	◦ <i>Boundaries</i> : pp. 551-572
R – 12/03/09	. Power-Control	◦ <i>Boundaries</i> : pp. 573-617
	. Masculinities/ Structured Action	
T – 12/08/09	<i>Public Order Crimes</i>	◦ <i>Criminology Today</i> : pp. 563-570
R – 12/10/09	<i>Conclusions</i>	◦ Research Paper
T – 12/15/09		◦ Exam 3
1:30-4:00pm		

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

^b Optional reading, but RECOMMENDED for non-Sociology and non-Social Sciences majors