

University of Colorado at Boulder  
Department of Sociology

SOCY 4014  
**Criminology**

Spring 2010  
Tuesdays & Thursdays, 9:30am to 10:45am  
Class Room: Hellems 267

<b>Professor</b>	<b>Dr. Hillary Potter</b>
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<b>Office Hours</b>	<b>Tuesdays 2:00pm to 4:00pm</b> and by appointment
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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 to 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 professor 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.

**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.

**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>).

**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.

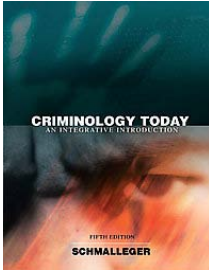
## STUDENT DISABILITY SERVICES

Students desiring a reasonable accommodation under the Americans with Disabilities Act must contact the professor 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](mailto:DSinfo@colorado.edu). Additional information can be found at <http://www.colorado.edu/disabilityservices/>.

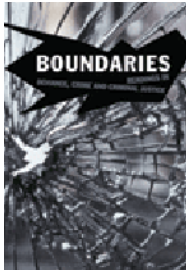
If a student has a temporary medical condition or injury, please see the University guidelines at <http://www.colorado.edu/disabilityservices/go.cgi?select=temporary.html>.

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.

## REQUIRED READING MATERIAL



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



*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

## COURSE WORK REQUIREMENTS

The course workload and percentage points are distributed as follows:

<i>Assignment</i>	<i>% Points</i>
Attendance and Participation	10
Theory Application Papers ( <i>n</i> =13)	50
Exams ( <i>n</i> =3)	40
	100

### Attendance and Participation

Students are expected to attend every class. During the first two weeks of the semester, students must attend regularly to guarantee their place in this course. Missing two or more classes during the first two weeks of class may cause a student to be administratively withdrawn. Students who miss classes during the first two weeks because they were not enrolled in the class will *not* receive credit for the missed days.

Each student must have purchased an i-clicker and have registered the clicker through *CUConnect* by 9:30am, Tuesday, January 19, 2010. The frequency on the clicker must be set to that assigned to the classroom at the start of *each* class. The 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 writing utensils 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. No excuses will be

accepted for failing to bring the clicker to class or for having a non-working clicker. For most of the class sessions, attendance will be recorded via the 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 or 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, January 22, 2010), 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., Chinese New Year, Naw Ruz, Pesach). The following are some legitimate reasons for missing a class (or exam), along with their corresponding required documentation:

<i>Legitimate Absence</i>	<i>Proof Needed for Legitimate Absence</i>
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. Documentation for pre-scheduled meets must be provided during the first two weeks of the semester.
Religious holiday	Note from student specifying religious affiliation and religious holiday (to be provided during the first two weeks of the semester).

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 often insufficient 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. Using the discussion tool on *CULearn* can also facilitate getting to know classmates.

Students are responsible for all material covered in class and listed on the *Class Schedule* (final page of this syllabus). 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. Beginning January 19, 2010, 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. In addition, it is requested that each student complete the Student Information Survey on *CULearn*. Students who complete the survey by January 21, 2010, will receive participation points.

### **Theory Application Assignments**

In order to better comprehend the crime causation theories addressed in this course, students will apply the theories to case studies. (The case studies can be found on *CULearn*.) These assignments are worth 50% of the total grade. There are 15 assignments, but only 13 will count toward the final grade. If all 15 assignments are completed by a student, the two lowest grades will be dropped. The assignments are to be submitted *only* via *CULearn* (click on "Assignments" tab on the course menu to directly access the submission site). No late assignments will be accepted.

Students are to follow these additional guidelines for each theory application:

- Only the readings in the *Boundaries* book may be used for these assignments.
- Only the case studies provided by the professor may be used for these assignments.
- Each assignment must be limited to 400 words.
- Students must review and follow "Professor Potter's Paper Pet-Peeves" available in *CULearn*.

## Examinations

Three exams will be administered throughout the course. Each exam will gauge students' comprehension of lecture and reading materials. Exams 1 and 2 are each worth 10%. The final exam will be cumulative of the entire course and is worth 20%.

Each student is to report to each exam with Number 2 pencils, a reliable eraser, and black or blue ink pens. 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.

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 she or he 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.

## 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 in *CULearn*. Students may consult with the T.A. or 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 papers 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, she or he is to notify the instructors 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/Remote 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 PDA. Laptops may be used in this course, but *only* for the purpose of taking notes. Accessing the Internet should *only* occur at the request of the professor. *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 or 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		Readings <sup>a</sup>	Written Work <sup>b</sup>
T – Jan 12	<i>What is Criminology?</i>		◦ Syllabus	
R – Jan 14			◦ <i>Criminology Today</i> : pp. 3-33	
T – Jan 19			◦ <i>Criminology Today</i> : pp. 35-85	
			◦ Optional – <i>Criminology Today</i> : pp. 87-120 <sup>c</sup>	
R – Jan 21	<i>Trait Theories</i>	· Biological Determinism	◦ <i>Criminology Today</i> : pp. 121, 164-211	◦ <b>Student Info Survey</b>
T – Jan 26		· Psychological Determinism	◦ <i>Criminology Today</i> : pp. 212-256	
R – Jan 28	<i>Choice Theories</i>	· Overview	◦ <i>Criminology Today</i> : pp. 123-163	◦ <b>Theory Application 1</b>
		· Deterrence	◦ <i>Boundaries</i> : pp. 1-45	
		· Rational Choice		
T – Feb 2		· Routine Activities	◦ <i>Boundaries</i> : pp. 47-84	◦ <b>Theory Application 2</b>
R – Feb 4	<i>Property Crimes</i>		◦ <i>Criminology Today</i> : pp. 441-468, 473-476	
T – Feb 9	<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		
R – Feb 11		· Strain	◦ <i>Boundaries</i> : pp. 129-143	◦ <b>Theory Application 3</b>
T – Feb 16		· Social Disorganization	◦ <i>Boundaries</i> : pp. 145-211	◦ <b>Theory Application 4</b>
		· General Strain		
R – Feb 18	<i>Drug Crimes</i>		◦ <i>Criminology Today</i> : pp. 527-562	
T – Feb 23				◦ <b>Examination 1</b>
R – Feb 25	<i>Violent Crimes</i>		◦ <i>Criminology Today</i> : pp. 381-434	
T – Mar 2	<i>Cultural-Subcultural/ Socialization Theories</i>	· Overview	◦ <i>Criminology Today</i> : pp. 297-341	◦ <b>Theory Application 5</b>
		· Differential Association	◦ <i>Boundaries</i> : pp. 261-279	
		· Social Learning/ Differential Reinforcement		
R – Mar 4		· Neutralization Techniques	◦ <i>Boundaries</i> : pp. 281-292	◦ <b>Theory Application 6</b>
T – Mar 9		· Social Bond/ Control	◦ <i>Boundaries</i> : pp. 293-311	◦ <b>Theory Application 7</b>
R – Mar 11		· Self Control/ General	◦ <i>Boundaries</i> : pp. 313-337	◦ <b>Theory Application 8</b>
T – Mar 16		· Life-Course	◦ <i>Boundaries</i> : pp. 375-395	◦ <b>Theory Application 9</b>
		· Female Pathways		
R – Mar 18		· Subculture of Violence	◦ <i>Boundaries</i> : pp. 339-374	◦ <b>Theory Application 10</b>
		· Code of the Streets		
T – Mar 23	<i>Spring Break</i>	<i>No Classes</i>	<i>Spring Break</i>	<i>No Classes</i>
R – Mar 25				
T – Mar 30				◦ <b>Examination 2</b>
R – Apr 1	<i>White-Collar and Organized Crime</i>		◦ <i>Criminology Today</i> : pp. 468-473, 476-477, 479-525	
T – Apr 6	<i>Critical/ Social Conflict Theories</i>	· Overview	◦ <i>Criminology Today</i> : pp. 343-378	◦ <b>Theory Application 11</b>
		· Critical Criminology	◦ <i>Boundaries</i> : pp. 397-429	
R – Apr 8			◦ <i>Boundaries</i> : pp. 431-460	
T – Apr 13		· Race	◦ <i>Boundaries</i> : pp. 461-474	◦ <b>Theory Application 12</b>
		· Convict Criminology		
R – Apr 15		· Labeling	◦ <i>Boundaries</i> : pp. 214-259	◦ <b>Theory Application 13</b>
		· Reintegrative Shaming		
		· Peacemaking		
T – Apr 20		· Feminist Criminology	◦ <i>Boundaries</i> : pp. 475-550	◦ <b>Theory Application 14</b>
R – Apr 22			◦ <i>Boundaries</i> : pp. 551-572	
T – Apr 27		· Power-Control	◦ <i>Boundaries</i> : pp. 573-617	◦ <b>Theory Application 15</b>
		· Masculinities/ Structured Action		
R – Apr 29	<i>Public Order Crimes</i>		◦ <i>Criminology Today</i> : pp. 563-570	
M – May 3 1:30-4:00pm				◦ <b>Final Examination</b>

<sup>a</sup> Reading assignments are to be completed by the start of class on the specified day.

<sup>b</sup> Theory application assignments are due at 9:30am on the specified day.

<sup>c</sup> Optional reading, but RECOMMENDED for non-Sociology and non-Social Sciences majors