

University of Colorado at Boulder
Department of Sociology

SOCY 2044
Crime and Society

Fall 2006
Tuesdays & Thursdays, 11:00am to 12:15pm
Room: Hellems 201

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COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course is an examination of the “criminal justice system” in the United States. The continuum of the system from police, through the courts, to corrections is surveyed. The course also provides a brief overview of the patterns of crime commission and victimization and the theories explaining crime causation.

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 instructors wish the students to grasp.

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 may be included in class 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.

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.

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.

TEXTBOOKS

Required Textbook

George F. Cole and Christopher E. Smith (2007). *The American System of Criminal Justice (Eleventh Edition)*. Belmont, CA: Thomson/Wadsworth.

Recommended Textbook

Christina DeJong (2007). *Study Guide for Cole and Smith's The American System of Criminal Justice (Eleventh Edition)*. Belmont, CA: Thomson/Wadsworth.

...or see the textbook's "companion website" at: http://www.wadsworth.com/cgi-wadsworth/course_products_wp.pl?fid=M20b&product_isbn_issn=0495006017&discipline_number=23

COURSE WORK REQUIREMENTS

The course workload and percentage points are distributed as follows:

Attendance = 10%

Examinations = 90%

- Exam 1 = 20%
- Exam 2 = 20%
- Exam 3 = 20%
- Final Exam = 30%

Attendance and Reading Assignments

Students are responsible for all material covered in class and listed on the *Class Schedule* (see page 4). Prior to each class, students are expected to read the assigned material and be prepared with questions or comments. 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*.

Students are expected to attend every class. Attendance will be recorded and count for 10% of each student's total grade to encourage punctual and regular attendance to this course. You must attend regularly to guarantee your place in this course during the first two weeks of the semester. If you fail to do so, you may be administratively dropped from the course (*specifically, missing two or more classes during the first two weeks of class, may cause a student to be withdrawn*). Student grades will not begin to be penalized for absences until after missing three classes. Please refer to the absence policy in the *Examinations* section (see below) for more information. For excused absences that do not take place during an exam, documentation is to be submitted to the teaching assistant, Shelby McKinzey.

Students should confer with the instructors 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 instructors of absences before the anticipated missed class, *unless* an absence will occur during one of the four exams (see missed-exam procedure below, under *Examinations*). During office hours or at a meeting time agreed upon between the student and the professor or T.A., the absentee student will be provided with handouts. The majority, if not all, of the films to be shown in this course are owned by the professor and will be placed on reserve in Norlin Library (Media Library section) for a two-week period following the viewing of the video. The instructors *will not* provide students who miss classes with notes or copies of PowerPoint presentations. Typically, the instructors' 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.

Examinations

There are four examinations in this course, which will count for a total of 90% of each student's final grade. The first three exams will be administered throughout the semester (Sept. 21, Oct. 19, and Nov. 9) during the regularly scheduled class time. Each of these exams will cover three separate areas of the course and are worth 20% each. These exams will consist of multiple-choice questions. *Each student is to report to each examination with at least two Number 2 pencils and a reliable eraser.*

The fourth exam will consist of multiple-choice questions covering the fourth section of the course and cumulative essay questions. It is worth 30% of the final grade. *This exam will be administered during Finals Week on Monday, December 18, 2006, from 1:30pm to 4:00pm (in the same classroom). Each student is to report to the final exam with at least two blue or black ink pens, at least two Number 2 pencils, and a reliable eraser.*

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

1. If the student notifies the instructors (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 instructor 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. (Exceptions: (a) An excuse for missing the final exam must be provided immediately, if not *prior* to the exam; and (b) see *** in table below)
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 emergency nature)	Note from a supervisor
NCAA or Collegiate Sports Club athletic meet	Note from a coach ***Documentation for regularly scheduled meets must be provided during the first two weeks of the semester
Religious holiday	Note from student specifying religious affiliation, religious holiday, and corresponding activities (***to be provided during the first two weeks of the semester)

Going on vacation to Fiji or leaving Boulder early for winter break because Dad got confused about final exam times and bought a non-refundable plane ticket scheduled for departure the day prior to the final *are not legitimate excuses!*

Makeup exams will be taken at a time convenient for the instructors and the student and not beyond one week of the scheduled exam.

Note from the Registrar's office regarding Final Exams: If you have three or more final exams scheduled on the same day, you are entitled to arrange an alternative exam time for the last exam or exams scheduled on that day. To qualify for rescheduling final exam times, you must provide evidence that you have three or more exams on the same day, and arrangements must be made with the instructors *no later than the end of the sixth week of the semester (Friday, October 6, 2006).*

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%	C	73-76%	D	63-66%
A-	90-92%	B-	80-82%	C-	70-72%	D-	60-62%
B+	87-89%	C+	77-79%	D+	67-69%	F	0-59%

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 pre-arranged office hours. Detailed grade information *will not* be provided via e-mail or phone.

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
Tuesday, August 29	Introduction to the course	Course Syllabus
Thursday, August 31	CRIME AND JUSTICE IN THE U.S.	Chapter 1, pp. 1-33
Tuesday, September 5	Crime and Justice in the U.S.	Chapter 1, pp. 1-33
Thursday, September 7	Crime Victimization	Chapter 2, pp. 37-51, 65
Tuesday, September 12	Causes of Crime	Chapter 2, pp. 51-65
Thursday, September 14	Criminal Justice as a System	Chapter 3, pp. 69-100
Tuesday, September 19	Criminal Justice and the Rule of Law	Chapter 4, pp. 103-139
Thursday, September 21	EXAMINATION 1	Chapters 1-4 and Notes
Tuesday, September 26	COPS	Chapter 5, pp. 141-178
Thursday, September 28	Police Operations	Chapter 6, pp. 181-195
Tuesday, October 3	Police Operations	Chapter 6, pp. 196-216
Thursday, October 5	Issues and Challenges in Policing	Chapter 7, pp. 219-232
Tuesday, October 10	Issues and Challenges in Policing	Chapter 7, pp. 232-254
Thursday, October 12	Police and Constitutional Law	Chapter 8, pp. 257-273
Tuesday, October 17	Police and Constitutional Law	Chapter 8, pp. 273-284
Thursday, October 19	EXAMINATION 2	Chapters 5-8 and Notes
Tuesday, October 24	COURTS	Chapter 9, pp. 287-314
Thursday, October 26	Criminal Prosecution	Chapter 10, pp. 317-334, 347
Tuesday, October 31	Criminal Defense	Chapter 10, pp. 335-348
Thursday, November 2	Plea Bargaining and Trials	Chapter 11, pp. 351-380
Tuesday, November 7	Punishment and Sentencing	Chapter 12, pp. 383-414
Thursday, November 9	EXAMINATION 3	Chapters 9-12 and Notes
Tuesday, November 14	CORRECTIONS	Chapter 13, pp. 417-453
Thursday, November 16	Community Corrections	Chapter 14, pp. 457-467
Tuesday, November 21	Fall Break – No Class	
Thursday, November 23	Fall Break – No Class	
Tuesday, November 28	Community Corrections	Chapter 14, pp. 467-475
Thursday, November 30	Prison	Chapter 15, pp. 479-495
Tuesday, December 5	Prison	Chapter 15, pp. 495-515
Thursday, December 7	Prison Release	Chapter 16, pp. 519-537
Tuesday, December 12	JUVIES	Chapter 17, pp. 541-568
Thursday, December 14	Conclusions	
Monday, December 18 1:30pm to 4:00pm	FINAL EXAMINATION	Chapters 1-17 and Notes

STUDENT BEHAVIOR GUIDELINES

The CU-Boulder Honor Code

Academic dishonesty will not be tolerated. 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. If a student needs to leave class early, he or she is to notify the instructors of such before the start of class.

Side Conversations

Side conversations between small groups or a pair 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) via a wireless connection. 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. 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 instructors or studying for other courses during class time is also not considered appropriate student behavior. Overall, students should make every effort to pay attention and join in the group discussions, 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 instructors 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