COURSE INFORMATION

Classroom: State Hall 0325
Class time: 6:00-7:50pm, Tuesdays and Thursdays
Faculty: Charles Klahm, Ph.D. (charles.klahm@wayne.edu)
Office: 3253 Faculty/Administration Building (FAB)
Phone #: 313.577.0302
Office Hours: T & TH 4:00 p.m.-5:30 p.m. or by appointment

READING(S) (¹ = required; ² = recommended)


¹Various readings posted on Blackboard.

²Various readings posted on Blackboard.

COURSE OVERVIEW

Welcome to Criminological Theories! This course will attempt to achieve two objectives. First, like all social phenomena, we must recognize that crime is a socially defined construct, which, at times, can be very fluid. For example, the sale of marijuana for medicinal purposes is legal in the state of Michigan, yet engaging in the same behavior in the state of Kentucky might result in criminal prosecution because it is a crime to sell marijuana under any circumstances in Kentucky. Thus, the first objective of this course will center on how society conceptualizes crime, and we will discuss why and how some behaviors are considered criminal, while other behaviors – some equally harmful to society – are not labeled such. Second, this course is intended to provide an introduction to the major theoretical frameworks attempting to explain crime and delinquency. Throughout the semester, we will discuss various sociological and psychological theories of crime, as well as mixed model approaches (e.g., social psychology, biosocial, life course perspective, etc.).

Unlike most courses, which appear to be conducted in a Kafkaesque fashion, you will be expected to be an active participant in the learning process. That is, this course is not just another cog in the “bachelor degree” wheel that you can simply expect to passively absorb information and earn a passing grade. It is incumbent on you to take an active role
in the learning process. Classes will include formal and informal lectures as well as discussions. Lectures will be centered on the assigned course readings, but will also incorporate other literature to present additional information – thus, reading the assigned material will only get you so far. Class discussions are designed to help you learn to think “sociologically”, critically assess information, and hopefully formulate opinions that are based on empiricism rather than fantasy.

Regular attendance, attentiveness, and class participation are minimum expectations for the course. Attentiveness and participation are defined as being in class on time, prepared, paying attention to class lectures or presentations, asking questions or making comments by raising a hand and being called upon by the instructor, and remaining in class and attentive until dismissed. Discourteous or disruptive behavior will not be tolerated; this includes talking to others during class time, answering cell phones, texting, instant messaging, chronically arriving late for class or leaving in the middle, and packing up your supplies before class is dismissed. I will operate under the assumption that you have read the assigned readings and that you are prepared to engage in thoughtful dialogue regarding the topic each week. When speaking in class it is very important that you respect your fellow classmates (and me). You must refrain from using derogatory and/or inflammatory language. Students who violate this policy will be asked to leave the class immediately and reported to the university.

LEARNING OBJECTIVES

If students successfully complete this course they should have/be able to:

1. Learned the key assumptions and concepts associated with major criminological theories of crime.
2. Developed an appreciation for empirical assessment of criminological theories.
3. Think critically about explanations of crime, social context, and their application to public policy and the real world.
4. Effectively communicate about criminological theory.
5. An understanding how social context impacts thought concerning crime and its causes.

In order to determine if these objectives are met, a series of quizzes, exams, and papers will be administered throughout the semester.

COURSE POLICIES

Curving: Under no circumstance will there be a curve applied to any assignment or the course as a whole.

Absenteism, tardiness, and leaving class early: Your attendance is mandatory. Attendance will be taken at the beginning of each class. You are permitted to miss 1 class (unexcused) without penalty. If you miss more than 1 class (unexcused) your final grade will be reduced by a ½ letter grade for each subsequent absence. Excused absences include, but are not limited to medical reasons, accidents, and deaths in the family. In
order to substantiate your excused absence you must provide legitimate documentation such as a doctor’s note, police report, or obituary. Other situations might be excused at the discretion of the professor. If you are not present during roll call, but show up after, it is your responsibility to notify me of such after class has concluded, and you will be considered late. Habitual tardiness, defined as being late more than four times, will result in the reduction of 50 points from your grade for each subsequent tardy. Leaving class early is not advisable. You will miss important information if you choose to leave class early, and you are responsible for gaining access to said material. This does not mean emailing me and asking for my notes – I will not provide any student with my lecture notes for any reason.

**Cellphone:** Under no circumstances should you use your cell phone during class time. Doing so is completely disrespectful and disruptive. If you have an emergency important enough to warrant using your cell phone during class it is likely severe enough to warrant missing class (i.e., stay home and tend to the situation as opposed to coming to class and being disruptive). Fifty points will be deducted from your final grade each time you are caught using your cellphone.

**Make-up exams/ quizzes and late assignments:** Make-ups will only be given under extraordinary circumstances (e.g., medical reasons, accidents, death in the family) when legitimate documentation is provided (e.g., doctor’s note, police report, obituary, etc.). Similarly, late assignments will only be accepted for the aforementioned extraordinary circumstances. Please note that scheduling a family vacation during the semester does not constitute an extraordinary circumstance, rather a significant lapse in judgement. Similarly, participating in athletic events or ceremonies does not constitute an extraordinary circumstance either. Lastly, unless you are unconscious, you must notify before the exam/quiz to be considered for a make-up. All make-up exams/ quizzes will be essay format and administered on the study day before final exams week.

**Extra credit:** As a general rule, I do not offer extra credit. However, at times, I may offer extra credit for attending lectures/talks pertaining to the course that are offered by the department, college, or university if they are held outside this class’ timeslot. Note: if you are unable to take advantage of extra credit opportunities due to personal conflicts this does not constitute an unfair practice on my part. You can earn up to twenty-five extra credit points for participating in the Criminal Justice Student Organization.

**Academic dishonesty:** I have a zero tolerance policy when it comes to academic dishonesty (e.g., cheating on exams, plagiarism, etc.). Anyone engaging in academic dishonesty will receive a zero on the assignment. Repeat offenses will result in an F for the course. Please familiarize yourself with Wayne State University’s policy regarding academic integrity (http://www.doso.wayne.edu/codeofconduct.pdf).

**EAS Accommodations:** If you have a disability and are registered with the Educational Accessibility Services Office adjustments and/or accommodations will be made, provided you present the appropriate EAS form during the first week of class pursuant to university guidelines.
Withdrawals: I will approve a withdrawal from this course up until WSU’s official deadline, which is 03/27/2016.

Writing intensive: This class will fulfill the writing intensive degree requirement for the department. If you choose to use this class to satisfy the writing intensive requirement you need to contact your advisor (i.e., Marianka Holloway or Alicia Ortez) and register for the writing intensive course. Please note, it is possible to pass this course and fail the writing intensive course. Thus, passing either does not guarantee that you will pass both classes.

Letters of recommendation: If you would like me to write you a letter of recommendation, you must have earned (or be earning) A-, or better, in each class you have taken with me. If you have not earned at least an A- in each class I will not write you a letter of recommendation.

Important dates: Last day for tuition cancellation (1/25/16), Last day to drop without class appearing on record (2/07/16), Degree applications due (2/12/16), Last day to withdraw (3/27/16)

Blackboard: I will use Blackboard to post assignments and important course documents, as well as to communicate with you via email. Thus, it is imperative that you are familiar with and check Blackboard regularly. Relatedly, I expect that you will check your email at least once a day. I will periodically send out important notices and/or updates regarding the class schedule.

Rules about emailing me (yes, I’m serious): (1) I will only open emails originating from your WSU email account; (2) I will not open any emails that do not include information in the subject line; (3) I will not respond to any email that omits a proper salutation (i.e., Hello, Dear) and fails to address the reader (i.e., Professor, Dr. Klahm); (4) Be patient. I will reply as soon as possible, usually within 24 hours (with the exception of weekends – I do not check my email between 4pm on Fridays and 10am on Mondays).

GRADING SCALE

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grade</th>
<th>Points</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A</td>
<td>100-90</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B</td>
<td>89-80</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C</td>
<td>79-70</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D</td>
<td>69-60</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>F</td>
<td>&lt; 60</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

COURSE POINTS

You will be graded based on your performance in the following areas:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Points</th>
<th>% of Final Grade</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Exams</td>
<td>500</td>
<td>50%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Paper</td>
<td>200</td>
<td>20%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Attendance</td>
<td>100</td>
<td>10%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Writing assignments</td>
<td>100</td>
<td>10%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Quizzes</td>
<td>100</td>
<td>10%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>1,000</td>
<td>100%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
READINGS

There are three required books for this class (see above). Additionally, there are several required and recommended readings posted on Blackboard in each week’s folder.

EXAMS

There will be five essay style exams over the course of the semester (see course schedule). You will have 1 hour 15 minutes to complete each exam. You will not be permitted to take the exam if you show up late (11 minutes or more after the class’ scheduled time). For each exam, questions might be drawn from the required readings (including the books), documentaries, or lectures.

WRITING ASSIGNMENTS

Throughout the course of the semester, there will be 2 short writing assignments (See course schedule for due dates). Assignment details are posted on Blackboard.

PAPER

At the conclusion of the semester, you will submit a term paper (See course schedule for due date). Assignment details are posted on Blackboard.

QUIZZES

Over the course of the semester there will be a series of quizzes. Quiz material might be drawn from the lecture(s) and/or the assigned readings from that class period. You will have 15 minutes to complete each quiz. See course schedule for quiz dates.

PARTICIPATION

Your level of participation will be assessed in the following manner: (1) You must be present in order to earn participation points and (2) you must contribute to class discussions in a way that conveys you have read the required materials and/or followed the lectures. For each class period, I may randomly select names from the class roster and ask for responses to questions. If a student’s name is called and they are not present they will receive a zero for that day. If a student’s name is called and they are present, but they clearly have not read nor been keeping up with lectures they will receive a zero. If a student’s name is called, they are present, and they contribute with meaningful discussion, they will receive full marks for participation for that day.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Week 1</th>
<th>Topic &amp; what’s due</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Tuesday, Jan. 12, 2016</td>
<td>COURSE OVERVIEW</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
| Thursday, Jan. 14, 2016 | INTRODUCTION TO CRIMINOLOGY  
Required materials: Cullen & Agnew (2003); Video: John Stossel’s “Illegal everything” |

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Week 2</th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| Tuesday, Jan. 19, 2016 | ORIGINS OF MODERN CRIMINOLOGY  
Required materials: Beccaria (1775); Lombroso (1911) |
| Thursday, Jan. 21, 2016 | SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH PRINCIPLES & CRIMINOLOGY  

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Week 3</th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Tuesday, Jan. 26, 2016</td>
<td>EXAM 1</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
| Thursday, Jan. 28, 2016 | INDIVIDUAL TRAITS AND CRIME  
Required materials: Glueck & Glueck (1950) |

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Week 4</th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| Tuesday, Feb. 2, 2016 | SOCIAL STRUCTURE AND CRIME  
Required materials: Shaw & McKay (1942) |
| Thursday, Feb. 4, 2016 | SOCIAL STRUCTURE AND CRIME  
Required materials: Merton (1938) |

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Week 5</th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| Tuesday, Feb. 9, 2016 | SOCIAL PROCESSES AND CRIME  
Required materials: Sutherland & Cressey (1960); Hirschi (1969) |
| Thursday, Feb. 11, 2016 | SOCIAL PROCESSES AND CRIME  
Required materials: Anderson (1999); Sykes & Matza (1957)  
WRITING ASSIGNMENT #1 DUE |

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Week 6</th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Tuesday, Feb. 16, 2016</td>
<td>EXAM 2</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
| Thursday, Feb. 18, 2016 | INEQUALITY AND CRIME  
Required materials: Bonger (1969) |
**Week 7**

Tuesday, Feb. 23, 2016  INEQUALITY AND CRIME  
Documentary: Waiting for Superman Documentary

Thursday, Feb. 25, 2016  DEVELOPMENTAL THEORIES OF CRIME  
Required materials: Moffitt (1993)

**Week 8**

Tuesday, Mar. 1, 2016  DEVELOPMENTAL THEORIES OF CRIME  
Required materials: Sampson & Laub (1993)

Thursday, Mar. 3, 2016  DEVELOPMENTAL THEORIES OF CRIME  
Required materials: Moffitt (1993); Sampson & Laub (1993)

**Week 9**

Tuesday, Mar. 8, 2016  EXAM 3

Thursday, Mar. 10, 2016  EDUCATION & CRIME  
Required materials: Advancement Project (2007); Carter et al. (2014); Video: Education Under Arrest

**Week 10**

Tuesday, Mar. 15, 2016  SPRING BREAK – NO CLASS

Thursday, Mar. 17, 2016  SPRING BREAK – NO CLASS

**Week 11**

Tuesday, Mar. 22, 2016  MENTAL HEALTH, DRUG DEPENDENCY, & CRIME  
Required materials: Ford (2015); James & Glaze (2006); Mumola & Karberg (2006)

Thursday, Mar. 24, 2016  RATIONAL CHOICE THEORY AND SITUATIONAL CRIME PREVENTION  
Required materials: Cohen & Felson (1979); Cornish & Clarke (1986)

**Week 12**

Tuesday, Mar. 29, 2016  ACJS’ ANNUAL CONFERENCE – NO CLASS  
WRITING ASSIGNMENT #2 DUE

Thursday, Mar. 31, 2016  ACJS’ ANNUAL CONFERENCE – NO CLASS
**Week 13**

Tuesday, Apr. 5, 2016  **RATIONAL CHOICE THEORY AND SITUATIONAL CRIME PREVENTION**  
Required materials: Clarke (1997) pages 1 -15

Thursday, Apr. 7, 2016  **EXAM 4**

**Week 14**

Tuesday, Apr. 12, 2016  **WHITE-COLLAR CRIME**  
Documentary: The Inside Job

Thursday, Apr. 14, 2016  **WHITE-COLLAR CRIME**  
Required materials: Sutherland (1940); Tallmer (1988); Video clip: Charles Duhigg on Democracy Now! (part 1)

**Week 15**

Tuesday, Apr. 19, 2016  **WHITE-COLLAR CRIME**  
Required materials: Sutherland (1940); Tallmer (1988); Video clip: Charles Duhigg on Democracy Now! (part 2)  
PAPER DUE

Thursday, Apr. 21, 2016  **EXAM 5**

*Subject to change*