SOCIOLOGY 362
CRIMINOLOGY

FALL SEMESTER 2004

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Office Hours: Tu/Th 9:30-11:00; and 2:00-3:30; Wed 10:00-12:00; And By Appointment

COURSE OBJECTIVES:

The major objective of this course is to provide an introduction to and overview of the field of criminology. The major topics to be covered in the first part of the course include the various definitions of crime, the nature of criminal law, the measurement of crime, and the social patterns of crime and victimization. The second part will focus on the classical and contemporary theories of criminal behavior and the criminalization process. The final section of the course will examine the major types of criminal behavior. By the end of the semester, students should be able to apply this knowledge to current public policy issues concerning the prevention and control of crime.

REQUIRED TEXTS:


COURSE OUTLINE AND READING ASSIGNMENTS:

I. INTRODUCTION TO CRIMINOLOGY

A. What is Criminology?
B. Criminology and the Sociological Perspective
C. Definitions of Crime
D. The Behavioral Paradigm
E. The Political Labeling Paradigm
F. Criminal Law
G. Public Opinion, the News Media, and the Crime Problem

READING ASSIGNMENT: Barkan, Chapters 1 and 2.

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II. THE MEASUREMENT AND SOCIAL PATTERNING OF CRIMINAL BEHAVIOR

A. The Measurement of Crime
B. Uniform Crime Reports (UCR)
C. National Crime Victimization Survey (NCVS)
D. Self-Report Data
E. Other Forms of Crime Data
F. Social Patterns of Criminal Behavior
   1. Class and Crime
   2. Gender and Crime
   3. Race and Crime
   4. Age and Crime
G. Victims and Victimization

READING ASSIGNMENT: Barkan, Chapters 3 and 4.

III. THEORIES OF CRIME

A. An Introduction to Theory

READING ASSIGNMENT: Bohm, Chapter 1.

B. The Classical School: Crime as Individually Chosen Behavior
   1. Prelude: The Demonic Perspective
   2. Classical Criminology (Beccaria; Bentham)
   3. Rational Choice Theory (Cornish and Clarke)
   4. Routine Activities Theory (L.E. Cohen and Felson)

READING ASSIGNMENT: Barkan, Chapter 5 (pp. 108-115); and Bohm, Chapter 2.

C. The Pathological Perspective: Theories of the Driven Offender
   1. The Positivist School of Criminology
   2. Biological Theories (Lombroso)
   3. Psychological Theories (Freud)
READING ASSIGNMENT: Barkan, Chapter 5 (pp. 115-140); and Bohm, Chapters 3, 4 and 5.

D. The Chicago School of Sociological Criminology
   1. Social Ecology (Park and Burgess)
   2. Social Disorganization Theory (Shaw and McKay)
   3. The Revival of Social Disorganization Theory

READING ASSIGNMENT: Barkan, Chapter 6 (pp. 145-155); and Bohm, Chapter 6 (pp. 65-73).

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E. Control Theories
   1. A Social Psychological Extension of Social Disorganization
   2. Containment Theory (Reckless)
   3. Neutralization and Drift (Sykes and Matza)
   4. Social Bond Theory (Hirschi)
   5. Self-Control Theory (Gottfredson and Hirschi)
   6. Life Course Theory (Sampson and Laub)

READING ASSIGNMENT: Barkan, Chapter 7 (pp. 182-202); and Bohm, Chapter 6 (pp. 90-94).

F. Learning Theory
   1. Imitation (Tarde)
   2. Cultural Transmission (Shaw and McKay)
   3. Differential Association Theory (Sutherland)
   4. Differential Identification Theory (Glaser)
   5. Social Learning/Differential Reinforcement Theory (Akers)
   6. Cultural Deviance Theories (Miller, Wolfgang and Ferracuti, Anderson)

READING ASSIGNMENT: Barkan, Chapters 6 (pp. 164-167) and 7 (pp. 173-182); and Bohm, Chapter 6 (pp. 82-90).

G. Anomie/Strain Theories
   1. Anomie Theory (Durkheim)
   2. Anomie/Strain Theory (Merton)
   3. Subcultural Strain Theories (Cloward and Ohlin; A. Cohen)
   4. General Strain Theory (Agnew)
   5. Institutional Anomie (Messner and Rosenfeld)
   6. Differential Social Support and Coercion (Colvin and Cullen)
READING ASSIGNMENT: Barkan, Chapter 6 (pp. 155-164 and 167-170); and Bohm, Chapter 6 (pp. 74-82).

H. Critical Perspectives I: Labeling and Conflict Theories
   1. Labeling Theory (Lemert; Becker)
   2. Conflict Theory (Sellin; Vold; Turk; Quinney)
READING ASSIGNMENT: Barkan, Chapter 8 (pp. 206-219); and Bohm, Chapter 7 (pp. 103-113).

I. Critical Perspectives II: Radical and Feminist Theories
   1. Marxist Theories (Bonger; Chambliss; Quinney)
   2. Feminist Theories
   3. Other Developments in Critical Criminology
READING ASSIGNMENT: Barkan, Chapter 8 (pp. 219-235); and Bohm, Chapter 7 (pp. 113-126).

IV. TYPES OF CRIME

   A. Interpersonal Violence
      1. Homicide
      2. Rape
      3. Assault
      4. Violence within the Family
READING ASSIGNMENT: Barkan, Chapters 9 and 10.

   B. Crimes of the Powerful
      1. White Collar Crime
      2. Occupational Crime
      3. Organizational Crime
      4. Corporate and Government (Political) Crime
READING ASSIGNMENT: Barkan, Chapters 12 and 13.

   C. Public Order Crimes
      1. Gambling
      2. Illegal Drugs
      3. Prostitution, Pornography, and Abortion
READING ASSIGNMENT: Barkan, Chapter 14.
D. Conventional Property Crime
   1. Robbery
   2. Burglary
   3. Larceny
   4. Motor Vehicle Theft
   5. Arson

READING ASSIGNMENT: Barkan, Chapter 11.

V. PREVENTING AND CONTROLLING CRIME
READING ASSIGNMENT: Barkan, Chapter 17.

TENTATIVE SCHEDULE:

AUGUST
31 Introduction
SEPTEMBER
2 Definitions of Crime
7 The Behavioral Paradigm
9 The Political Labeling Paradigm
14 Criminal Law
16 Criminal Law
21 The Measurement of Crime
23 The Measurement of Crime
28 Patterns of Crime and Victimization
30 FIRST MIDTERM EXAMINATION

OCTOBER
5 Classical Criminology
7 Pathological Perspectives: Biological and Psychological Theories
12 Chicago School: Social Ecology and Social Disorganization Theory
14 Control Theories
19 Learning Theories
21 Anomie Theory
26 Strain and Sub-cultural Theories
28 SECOND MIDTERM EXAMINATION

NOVEMBER
2 Labeling Theory
4 Conflict/ Marxist Theory
9 Feminist Theory
11 Interpersonal Violence PAPER DUE
16 Crimes of the Powerful I
18 Conventional Property Crime
COURSE REQUIREMENTS:

The major requirements of this course are to keep up with the readings listed in the course outline and to attend class regularly. More than two unexcused absences may negatively affect your grade. Try to have the reading for a section completed by the time we start that section.

We will follow the course outline closely. Please try to avoid falling too far behind in the readings, for the lectures will be much more understandable if you have read the material beforehand. It should be noted, however, that a great deal of the lecture material is not covered in the readings. Thus, both the lectures and regular class attendance will be very important. In addition, not all of the readings will be covered in class, but you are responsible for all assigned materials.

Your grade in the course will be determined by: 1) two midterm exams, 2) a number of special assignments (some take-home, some in-class), 3) a 4-6 page theory paper, and 4) a comprehensive final examination.

The midterms are in-class examinations and they will contain questions drawn from both the books and the lecture material. They are tentatively scheduled for Thursday, September 30, and Thursday, October 28. Each exam is worth 100 points. Cheating on exams will not be tolerated. If you cheat on an exam, you will receive a zero.

IF YOU MISS A MIDTERM FOR A LEGITIMATE REASON (I.E. ILLNESS, DEATH IN THE FAMILY, COURT APPEARANCE) EXPLAINED IN A WRITTEN NOTE, YOU MAY TAKE A MAKE-UP EXAM (ALL ESSAY QUESTIONS). HOWEVER, YOU MUST CONTACT ME BY PHONE OR IN
The Special Assignments will be a variety of homework assignments or in-class exercises that I will occasionally give to you. Late assignments will not be accepted and missed assignments cannot be made up. Thus, again, regular class attendance is important. There will be 15 Special Assignments and each one is worth 10 points (a total of 150 points).

You are also required to write a 4-6 page paper on one of the major theories or theoretical perspectives that we will study. You may select Classical Criminology, the Pathological perspective (Biological and Psychological theories), the Chicago School (Social Ecology and Social Disorganization theories), Control theory, Learning theories, Anomie, Strain, and Sub-cultural theories, or one of the Critical theories (Labeling, Conflict, Marxist, and Feminist theories). THE PAPER MUST BE ORGANIZED IN THE FOLLOWING FORMAT:

A. Background- Briefly describe the social, historical, or intellectual background to the development of the theory.

B. Core Concepts, Propositions and Names- What are the major concepts and key propositions used within the theory or theories (what are the key ideas or core statements of the theory), and the names of the theorists who developed them?

C. Policy Implications- What are the policies or programs to prevent or control crime that are suggested by the theory or theories; what would the theory have the government do to reduce crime?

D. Critique- What are the major problems with the theory or theories? What are the strengths and weaknesses of the theory or theories? How do the textbook authors evaluate the theory and theories?

The theory paper is worth 100 points. The papers must be typed and will be due on Thursday, November 11.
As required by the university, the Final Examination will be comprehensive, that is, covering all material from the entire semester. The final is scheduled for Wednesday, December 8 from 8:00 to 10:00 AM.

NOTE: You are responsible for becoming aware of and understanding the policies and procedures in the Undergraduate Catalog (pp. 268-269) that pertain to academic integrity. These policies include cheating, fabrication, falsification and forgery, multiple submissions, plagiarism, complicity and computer misuse. If there is reason to believe you have been involved in academic dishonesty, you will be referred to the Office of Student Conduct for a hearing. You should consult with me if you are uncertain about an issue of academic honesty prior to the submission of an assignment.

There are a possible 600 points you can earn in this class.

- Midterms (100 each) 200
- Special Assignments (10 each) 150
- Theory Paper 100
- Final Examination 150

**TOTAL** 600

The following scale will be used to determine the final grade:

- 558-600 = A
- 528-557 = BA
- 498-527 = B
- 468-497 = CB
- 438-467 = C
- 408-437 = DC
- 360-407 = D
- 359-down = E

Finally, I want to encourage each of you to participate in the class as much as you feel comfortable in doing. Feel free to ask questions, raise issues, and contribute to class discussions. We will be dealing with many controversial issues in the course and I hope to create a supportive environment in the class within which we can discuss and debate these issues. Effective participation on your part, however, depends on doing the readings. I hope you enjoy the course and find criminology an exciting topic to study.