CCJS 105

INTRODUCTION TO CRIMINOLOGY
Discussion Sections 0101 to 0108

Spring 2016
TuThu: 2:00-2:50
LEF 2205

Consult individual schedule for discussion section meeting times & locations

Dr. Anastasia Tosouni

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Office Hours: TuThu 12:30-2:00 and W 10:00am-1:30pm

Teaching Assistants

Danielle Ehrnstein
Discussion Sections: 0103, 0105, 0107, 0108
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Office Hours: Wednesday 11am-1pm or by appointment
Phone: 301-405-1709
ehrnstei@umd.edu

Jessica Miller
Discussion Sections: 0101, 0102, 0104, 0106
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Course Description
This course is an overview of Criminology, the scientific study of crime and criminal offenders. The course is organized around three broad themes: lawmaking, law breaking, and reactions to law-breaking, and combines description with explanation to develop a reflective and critical understanding of crime as a social phenomenon.

Texts

2. Occasional handouts, Court Cases, and journal articles (copies posted on ELMS)
COURSE COMMUNICATION

Consider the UMD based Canvas system the best course communication tool in our arsenal. Please make certain that you have access through ELMS (http://elms.umd.edu) and that the email listing you have attached to this account is active and routinely monitored. Please try to always email me through it (if you are unable or forget to do so, then at least make sure to include CCJS 105 & section number in the subject line and sign your name on ALL emails sent to atosouni@umd.edu).

I will be using ELMS to post the syllabus, brief lecture outlines, grades, and any relevant communication. I suggest that you check the course website frequently so that to not miss important updates and/or urgent messages.

➢ Twitter: Students are encouraged to interact informally with their professor and exchange ideas, reactions, and feedback related to this course by following me (and this course) at @DrAnastasiaT. If you already have a twitter account, I suggest you open a different one, that is, one strictly devoted to school-related topics. We will use this as an additional content communication tool (I will not use twitter, but rather the course website or email to communicate administrative items, such as news, deadlines, readings, assignments, etc). For this course, you are required to follow current events and relate them to this class. So be alert, be reflective, and share! You are free to stay or unfollow me upon concluding the course.

COURSE ASSESSMENT

Each student is expected to attend class regularly, complete the assigned readings, and participate in class discussion. Failure to attend class or do the required readings before each class will diminish your chances of success in this course. On the other hand, attendance and participation in class discussion will increase your chances for receiving a satisfactory grade.

COURSE ASSIGNMENT, GRADING SCHEME, AND DUE DATES

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Assignment</th>
<th>Weight</th>
<th>Due Dates</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Midterm examination</td>
<td>20%</td>
<td>Thursday, March 10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Final examination</td>
<td>20%</td>
<td>Monday, May 16 10:30-12:30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Term Paper</td>
<td>30%</td>
<td>Thursday, April 21 on ELMS by 11:59 pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Quizzes (2)</td>
<td>10%</td>
<td>Weeks 5 and 12 in discussion</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Participation/Assignments/Homework</td>
<td>15%</td>
<td>N/A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Character Participation</td>
<td>5%</td>
<td>N/A</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Course grades will be based on the following grading scale:

- A+ =97-100%
- B+ =87-89.9%
- C+ =77-79.9%
- D+ =67-69.9%
- A =92-96.9%
- B =82-86.9%
- C =72-76.9%
- D =62-66.9%
- A- =90-91.9%
- B- =80-81.9%
- C- =70-71.9%
- D- =60-61.9%
- F =below 58%

Exams (20% each): Each exam will test the student on material covered during the previous portion of the course. The student will be held responsible for all assigned readings, lecture materials, as well as class discussions. The exams will consist of multiple choice and true/false questions. The exams will not be cumulative.

There will be NO make-up exams, unless extreme circumstances (e.g. illness) arise, and ONLY after your instructor’s permission (please see “Missed Assignments” policy below for more details).
Quizzes: There will be two 10-item quizzes during the semester. The quizzes will be given during the first 15 minutes of discussion sections. The primary purpose of these quizzes is to assess whether you are keeping up-to-date with weekly reading assignments and gauge the depth of your understanding of the content covered in the course. As with exams, quizzes will test you all assigned readings, lecture materials, as well as class discussions and will not be cumulative. Quizzes are also considered to be major scheduled graded events, and therefore make-up opportunities are governed by the same rules as missed exams (please see “Missed Assignments” policy below for more details).

Term Paper: One of the principal objectives of this course is that you get a good understanding of criminological thought and research. Another major goal is to stimulate your sociological imagination, so that you are able to place private/personal events to their broader historical and political context. The term paper is your opportunity to achieve both goals by demonstrating your mastery of criminological theory through application and analysis of pressing social issues/phenomena.

Students are required to select a crime-related issue/event/topic that made the news during the past year, describe it, explain it, and relate it to the broader category of crimes in which it is included. For example, if you chose to write about the 9/11 attack (event that took place more than a year ago), your topic/issue is the crime of terrorism in general. If you were to select the Ray Rice incident (which also happened more than a year ago, and therefore you cannot select), your topic would have been domestic violence. You could have also related that incident to the issue of violence in sports. Some incidents relate to more than one issue, and so it is up to you to decide your paper’s focus.

Once you have selected an event, you will first briefly describe it (What happened on 9/11?). Following that, you will provide an overview of the issue/topic in general (e.g. what is the definition of terrorism, what is the prevalence of terrorist attacks today, etc). Then, you will provide an explanation (why are there terrorists and terrorist attacks?) based on one (and only one) of the criminological theories discussed in the class. Applying the theory on a real-life event is the most important part of this assignment.

Good papers will demonstrate originality, clarity, knowledge of the subject and the theory, ability to connect the theory with the issue, and correct use of academic sources.

Please use the following rubric as your guide:

- Introduction: 10 points
- Theory: 20 points
- Issue coverage and use of literature: 20 points
- Analysis/application of theory: 30 points
- Conclusion: 5 points
- Grammar/syntax: 5 points
- Citations/References: 10 (points will be taken off for incorrect citation/references style)

MAXIMUM POINTS: 100

Papers are due Thursday, April 21, 2016 on ELMS by 11:59pm. You may turn in papers earlier, only after permission by your instructor. Late papers will NOT be accepted, even if there is a valid and well-documented excuse. Please take note of this rule and make appropriate arrangements to turn in your paper earlier if you feel you might not be able to turn it in on the due date.

I expect that 4-6 pages of typed, double-spaced text with a 12-pt font and one-inch margins should be sufficient to complete this assignment.
To make things easier for you, a complete and detailed guide to this assignment will be posted on this course's website.

*A Note on Plagiarism: PLEASE DO YOUR OWN WORK.* If you need help, let me know and we can discuss strategies to make this material clearer for you. If you ask for help, we will figure it out together. However, if you cheat, I will follow university policy (see Academic Dishonesty Policy below).

**Character Participation:** Throughout the course, each student will give a one-minute presentation on an important figure in the field of Criminal Justice and/or Criminology. Each presentation will begin by introducing the character in the first person ("Hi, I am Emile Durkheim"), followed by a summary of their major contributions to criminological theory.

Presentations begin on the second week of class, during discussion sections, thus every student should be prepared to present by then. **It will not be revealed when each individual presentation will take place:** "characters" will be called (sometimes more than once) throughout each discussion section throughout the entire course. So, students should be prepared to give their presentation, beginning Week 2, and at each and every class meeting for the rest of the semester at a moment's notice.

All "characters" are discussed either in the textbook or/and in the lectures, and will be randomly assigned to each enrolled student in the first day of class. For some characters, additional information will be provided to help guide the substance of the presentation. Presentations will be graded on content, organization and clarity. These presentations will help introduce new figures and topics to the course, give students another mechanism to contribute to the class holistically and be a relatively lively and fun way to earn a portion of one's course grade.

**Participation (10%):** It is crucial that you contribute meaningfully to this course. This contribution will be offered by way of participating in class discussion, and occasional activities or homework that your TA will assign. Whereas there is no set schedule for the latter, you will be given advanced notice and thus will have ample time (about a week) to work on them. I encourage you to be active (ask/answer questions and offer commentary) during regular class time as well, but note that your participation grade will be solely based on your contribution during your discussion section.

**Extra Credit:** There is no extra credit option for this course.

**COURSE POLICIES**

**Attendance:** You are expected to attend all lectures and discussion meetings. Exams and quizzes will cover reading and in-class discussions. Therefore, missing multiple classes will likely adversely affect your final grade. Earning top marks in the course will require a mastery of both the content read and lecture material; they are not one and the same. The TA’s and I will NOT share the notes for lectures and discussions you have missed. I encourage you to appeal to others enrolled in the course for these materials in the event you cannot be present.

**Discussion Sections:** You have registered for a specific discussion section and this is the one that you are expected to attend. Switching discussion sections is only allowed when you have an excused absence with prior notification and proper documentation submitted to your TA. Additionally you must have determined with your TA which discussion section can be your make-up for that single absence. If you arrive unannounced at a discussion section for which you have not registered for, you may be asked to leave. TA’s will be taking attendance at each meeting.

**Missed Work:** No late work is accepted. Exams, quizzes, and the term paper are considered to be major scheduled graded events (noted in bold under the course calendar section below) and therefore the new university medical
excuse policy (http://www.president.umd.edu/policies/docs/V-100G.pdf) which allows one student signed honor statement attesting to illness does NOT apply to them. Makeup grades will be offered only under the following limited number of circumstances: a medical problem (self or dependent), a death in the immediate family, a religious holiday (see below), or participation in university activities at the request of university authorities, and other compelling circumstances beyond the student’s control. Prior notification is REQUIRED in all instances for excused absences for major scheduled graded events—listed in bold under the Course Calendar heading below—and unannounced quizzes. Additionally, documentation including an obituary/death notice, an official health center excused absence form, or hospital records must be provided. Makeup work must be completed within one week of its original due date. All necessary arrangements must be made with the TA, via email. Preserving this agreement in writing ensures there is no discrepancy at some later point. I reserve the right to alter the content of the missed assignment, including making the make-up exam a short answer or essay format.

Grade Disputes: If you have questions or concerns about your grade(s) and believe the TA’s and/or I should review them, you must submit a written request over email to your TA that describes your concern in detail. This request must be submitted within one week of the day that grades for the relevant assignment are disseminated. If you request a review of a TA graded writing assignment I reserve the right to adjust the grade up or down.

Academic Integrity: Academic dishonesty will not be tolerated. Any suspected violations will be reported to the Honor Council. Academic dishonesty includes cheating, fabrication of information used in assignments, plagiarism, and knowingly facilitating the academic dishonesty of another. For more information on the Code of Academic Integrity or the Honor Council, please visit the following website: www.studenthonorcouncil.umd.edu/whatis.html.

Religious Observance: If you have a request for an alternate time to sit for an exam, quiz, or in-class writing assignment listed on the syllabus due to religious observance reasons, you must submit this request to me in writing (email) with the specific details by Friday, February 5th.

Students with Disabilities: I will make all necessary accommodations for students who are registered with the Disability Support Services (DSS) Office and who provide me with a University of Maryland DSS Accommodation form. This form must be presented to me by Friday, February 5th. I am not able to accommodate students who are not registered with DSS or who do not provide me with documentation that has been reviewed by DSS after this date. DSS students who are requesting to take their exams at the DSS Center need to provide me with a testing form for each exam that must be turned in to me no later than one week prior to each exam. The student is expected to take the exam at the same time as the rest of the class.

Athletes: Official athletic schedules must be submitted to me by Friday, February 5th. It is the student’s responsibility to inform the TA of upcoming discussion section absences. Practices do not count as an excused absence; in cases of an excused absence (e.g., a game), students are expected make arrangements with their TA in order to submit work (tests/papers/homework etc) BEFORE the deadline. Athletes who miss exams/quizzes/discussion section/paper deadlines due to games or other commitments, yet never submitted an official athletic schedule by the date listed above, and never spoke with me and/or your TA about them, will receive a grade of zero for the missing assignment.

Course Evaluation: Your feedback about this course is very important to me and therefore we will do several forms of evaluation throughout this semester. One way is to fill out the online evaluation at the end of the semester. CourseEvalUM will be open for students to complete their evaluations for Spring 2016 courses TBA in late April. Students can go directly to the website (www.courseevalum.umd.edu) to complete their evaluations. Students who complete evaluations for all of their courses in the previous semester (excluding summer), can access the posted results via Testudo’s CourseEvalUM Reporting link for any course on campus that has at least a 70% response rate.
Inclement Weather Policy: On occasion, classes may be cancelled due to inclement weather. If the university is closed on the day a graded item is scheduled the graded assignment will be rescheduled for the next class meeting in which the university is open. If a final exam is cancelled, we will follow university rules for rescheduling.

STUDENT CODE OF CONDUCT/ DISRUPTION OF LEARNING ENVIRONMENT

Students must adhere to the Code of Student Conduct. Students unable to show civility with one another, the teaching assistants, or me will be subject to being referred to the Office of Student Conduct or to Campus Police.

I expect the classroom environment to be intellectually stimulating and respectful. Behavior which disrupts the teaching–learning process during class activities will not be tolerated. While a variety of behaviors can be disruptive in a classroom setting, more serious examples include belligerent, abusive, profane, and/or threatening behavior. Less serious, but nevertheless disruptive behaviors such as engaging in side-conversations with your fellow classmates during lecture, sleeping, wearing earphones, or being perpetually tardy will also not be tolerated. Make sure you silence and put away your cell-phones as soon as class starts or else you will be asked to leave. You are welcome to use laptops or tablets solely for note-taking. If you get caught using them for different purposes during lecture, you will lose the privilege to bring them to class for the rest of the semester. Last, if you come in late, or need to leave early, please sit in the back rows and try to make it fast and quiet.

I very much welcome students' comments, questions, and concerns. Please do not hesitate to share them with me in person or via email. I am normally very good at responding back within a short period of time. But there is a certain etiquette that should be followed in these communications. Please be polite and respectful at all times, even if you are really-really upset about something. Rude emails (emails without greetings; emails using inappropriate language, including “texting” grammar. Example: “omg, missed class2day r u gonna post slides”) will NOT receive a reply. I will also NOT respond to questions that can be answered by reading the syllabus.

Copyright: The lectures I deliver in this class and the course materials I create and distribute are protected by federal copyright law. You are permitted to take notes of my lectures and to use course materials for this class. You may not record, reproduce, or distribute my lectures/notes for any commercial purpose without my written consent. Persons who sell or distribute copies or modified copies of my course materials, possess commercial copies of my notes (i.e. Terpnotes), or assist another person or entity in selling or distributing those materials may be considered in violation of the University Code of Student Conduct, Part 9(k).
# Tentative Course Schedule

*Please study respective readings BEFORE coming to class/discussion section*

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Week</th>
<th>Topic</th>
<th>Readings</th>
<th>Major Assignment Due</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| 1    | 01/26-28 | Introduction to the course  
What is Criminology? |  |
| 2    | 02/2-4 | Law Making  
The Social Construction of Crime | Chapter 1 |
| 3    | 02/9-11 | Law Making  
Crime Data and Methods of Research | Chapter 2 |
| 4    | 02/16-18 | Law Making  
Crime Data and Methods of Research | Chapter 2 |
| 5    | 02/23-25 | Law-Breaking Criminological Theory | Quiz 1 |
| 6    | 03/1-3 | Law-Breaking Criminological Theory | Chapter 4 |
| 7    | 03/08-10 | Midterm Review in class | MIDTERM EXAM Thursday |
| 8    | 03/22-24 | Spring Break –NO CLASSES! |  |
| 9    | 03/22-24 | Law-Breaking Criminological Theory | Chapter 4 |
| 10   | 03/29-4/31 | Law-Breaking Criminological Theory | Chapter 5 |
| 11   | 4/5-4/7 | Law-Breaking and Reactions to Law Breaking  
Patterns of Criminality and Victimization | Chapters 6 and 7 |
| 12   | 4/12-4/14 | Law-Breaking and Reactions to Law Breaking  
Patterns of Criminality and Victimization | Chapter 8, 9, 10 |
| 13   | 4/19-4/21 | Reactions to Law Breaking  
The Criminal Processing System  
Police, Courts, Corrections | Chapter 11, 12 |
| 14   | 4/26-4/28 | Reactions to Law Breaking  
Theories of Punishment  
Death Penalty  
Wrongful Convictions | Chapter 13 |
| 15   | 5/3-5/5 | Reactions to Law Breaking  
Prison and Alternatives to Incarceration  
Restorative Justice Theory and Practice | Chapter 13 |
| 16   | 5/10 | Final Review in class |  |

**Final Exam Monday May 16 10:30-12:30**