Introduction to Criminology

Professor Sally S. Simpson

Office Hrs:  Tuesday 2-4, Wed. 8:45-9:45 or by appointment

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Course Description: This course provides a general introduction to the study of crime. The main focus of the course will revolve around crime measurement, patterns and trends in crime, crime types, criminological theory, and crime and criminality from a global perspective.

Elms
I will be using Elms to post the syllabus, brief lecture outlines, grades, and any relevant communication. Go to http://elms.umd.edu and log in with your Directory ID (logon ID) and password to use this feature.

Students with Disabilities
If you have a documented physical or learning disability, I am willing to make
the necessary accommodations. If this is the case, please let me know your needs by September 16th and we can discuss the best way in which to handle your specific situation. If you need test accommodations, I will need the testing form 1 week before each exam in order to get the exam to DSS in a timely manner.

I am unable to accommodate students who are not registered with Disability Support Services or who do not provide me with documentation that has been reviewed by DSS.

**Academic Integrity**

All students are expected to adhere to the highest standards of academic integrity. Plagiarism, passing other’s work off as your own (e.g., buying or downloading papers or reports), cheating on examinations, submitting fraudulent documents or forged signatures, and so forth will not be tolerated. Students who violate these standards will be reported to the Office of Judicial Programs. Please refer to the Code of Student Conduct in the current edition of the *Undergraduate Catalog* for additional information.

**General Education Requirements**

This course can be used to fulfill, in part, the general education “distributive studies” requirements. Students must earn a grade of D- or better in this course if used to fulfill this requirement. Courses used to satisfy general education may not be taken with the pass/fail grading method. To get credit for the course if you are a CCJS major (or plan to be), you must pass with a C- or better.
Inclement Weather Policy

On occasion, classes may be cancelled due to inclement weather. If the University is closed on the day a midterm exam is scheduled or an assignment is due, the exam will be scheduled the next class meeting in which the University is open. Assignments will be due the next day that the University is open (turned into the TA mailboxes in 2220 LeFrak Hall). If a final exam is cancelled, we will follow University rules for rescheduling.

Course Requirements and Expectations

The course is structured around a lecture and discussion format. There are two lectures per week and one discussion section. Discussion sections meet at different times during the week and are led by a teaching assistant. Students are expected to attend lectures and their assigned discussion section (i.e., the one for which they are registered).

I expect the classroom environment to be intellectually stimulating and respectful. Disruptive students who demonstrate a lack of respect for others will not be tolerated. 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. You are expected to adhere to the Code of Student Conduct.

Disrespect and disruptions can also occur through the inappropriate use of technology. Cell phones should be silenced during class and put away. Laptop computers are allowed in this class solely for note-taking. If a student
is found to be using personal technology devices in any way that is not specifically related to the day’s class discussion, s/he will be referred to the Department Director of Undergraduate Programs. A second offense may result in a referral to the Office of Student Conduct for violating course policy on the use of personal computers in the classroom.

**Attendance.**
Students are expected to attend class, keep up-to-date on reading materials and assignments, and participate in all class activities. Students who miss class due to illness or medical necessity will provide a self-excusal note for the absence upon return to class. This note should explain the reason for the absence and acknowledge that the information provided is accurate. I will accept one self-excusal, but any subsequent absences must be excused by written documentation from a health care provider.

**Examinations.** There are three examinations schedule for this course, two midterm examinations and one non-comprehensive final. Each exam will employ a combination of objective (True/False, Multiple Choice) questions. Questions for the exams will be drawn from both required reading and lecture materials. **EXAM SCORES WILL NOT BE CURVED.**

**Quizzes.** There will be three randomly given quizzes during the semester. The quizzes will be administered during discussion sections. (Although the days the quizzes will be given are unknown, there will be only one quiz given per exam period (i.e., 1 quiz before the first exam, 1 quiz before the second exam, and 1 quiz prior to the final exam). The primary purpose of these
quizzes is to assess whether students are keeping up-to-date with weekly reading assignments and if they understand these readings. The quizzes will combine objective and subjective questions, with each quiz worth 10 points. Only the two highest quiz scores will count toward the final grade. You may not attend a different discussion section other than your own to take a quiz. There is no make-up policy for quizzes unless you miss at least two or all quizzes due to the circumstances defined above. If this is the case, advanced notice and official documentation is required.

**Make-up policy.** There are a limited number of circumstances under which major graded scheduled events (i.e., exams) can be made up: (1) serious illness, (2) a death in the immediate family, (3) religious holiday observance, (4) participation in University activities at the request of university authorities, and (5) circumstances beyond the student’s control. Advanced notice is required (i.e., prior to missing a class or an exam). Notify me or your TA, via e-mail or telephone message except in the case of religious observance. Notice of religious observance conflicts must be given no later than the second week of classes (September 8). Official documentation from a health care professional is also required and must be provided no later than the first day of class upon your return if not sooner.

**Extra-Credit.** The 3rd quiz can be used for extra-credit bonus points or students can choose to write a critical review of a scholarly article published in a peer reviewed journal or a critical review of a newspaper report on crime or justice from a major news organization (such as Washington Post, Wall Street Journal, NY Times, Boston Globe, Chicago Tribune, LA Times, etc.).
The expectations (content) for this extra-credit option will be gone over in your discussion sections. The article/report must be approved by your TA, copied and attached to your critical review. Reviews should be no longer than 2 pages in length (typed and double spaced).

The extra-credit option is worth a maximum of 10 points. If students choose to write a critical review, it is due on the last day that your discussion section meets and should be handed-in at the beginning of class.

Discussion Section Activities. During the semester, your TA will lead you in several graded activities. In addition, your class participation during discussion section meetings will be graded on a weekly basis using the following metric (0= no participation or missed class; 1= limited participation, 2= active and informed participant). Grading will begin the week of September 8 and end the week of December 8th.

Final Grades. The midterm exams are worth 100 points each. The final exam is worth 100 points. The exams sum to a total point possibility of 400. Quizzes add another potential 20 points to the total. Other discussion section activities (including participation) will add another 80 points.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Exams</th>
<th>300 points</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Quizzes</td>
<td>20 points</td>
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<tr>
<td>Participation</td>
<td>26 points</td>
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<tr>
<td>Section activities</td>
<td>54 points</td>
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400 Total Points

Extra-credit 10 points maximum (added to your total points)

Final grades will be calculated on a percentage basis. Students receiving 95 percent or greater of 400 points (380+) will receive an “A+”; 90-94.9% will receive an “A”; 88-89.9% will receive an “A-“; 85-87.9% will receive a “B+”; 80-84.9% will receive a “B”; 78-79.9% will receive a “B-”; 78-79.9% will receive a “C+”; 70-74.9% will receive a “C”; 68-69.9% will receive a “C-“; 65-67.9% will receive a “D+”; 60-64.9% will receive a “D”; 58-59.9% will receive a “D-“; less than 58 percent will receive an “F”.

Required Readings

Your course texts can be purchased new or used at the University Book Center or Maryland Book Exchange. If you purchase the book from a different vendor, be certain that you obtain the appropriate volume.

- Freda Adler, Gerhard O.W. Mueller, and William S. Laufer (2013),

  --On the Run also is available as an e-book. ISBN: 9780226136851

Copyright

The lectures I deliver in this class and the course materials I create and distribute are protected by federal copyright law as my original works. My lectures are recorded or delivered from written lectures in order to ensure copyright protection. You are permitted to take notes of my lectures and to use course materials for your use in this course. 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).

Important Dates

1st Midterm: September 30
Guest Lecture, October 23rd, Jack Faer (Chief Security Officer, Iron Mountain)
2nd Midterm: November 4
Extra-Credit review due: Last meeting of your discussion section

Final Exam: December 19 (Friday) 1:30-3:30pm
Course Outline

**Week 1 (September 2, 4)**

I. Introduction to Course and Criminology
   A. A general picture of criminal behavior, actors, and institutions.
   B. The Meaning of Crime
      1. History
      2. Definitions
      3. Social and Legal Components of Crime
   C. Criminal Law and Process

Reading: Chapter 1, Adler et al.

**Week 2 (September 9, 11)**

II. Crime and Victimization Measurement
   A. Data Sources
   B. Crime Patterns and Trends
   C. Victimology

Reading: Adler et al., Chapter 2; Goffman, Appendix (A Methodological Note, Pages 211-261).

**Week 3 (September 16, 18)**

III. Who are the Offenders and Victims?

Reading: Goffman, Prologue; Preface, Introduction, and Chapter 1
Week 4 (September 23, 25)

IV. Explanations for Crime and Criminality
   A. What is Theory? Why is it important in Social Science?
   B. The Classical and Positive Criminology: Early Developments

Reading: Adler et al., Chapter 3

Week 5 (September 30, October 2*)

**************MIDTERM EXAMINATION, September 30***************

*Video, “Born Bad” (October 2)
   This video looks at whether parenting, biology, and behavior are factors in predicting whether someone will become a "cold blooded" individual. Featured are various speakers from the United States and Canada addressing such issues as the scanning of psychopath’s brains, genes, the fact that psychopaths do not register emotions, and whether mediation can prevent crime.

Week 6 (October 7, 9)
   B. Biogenic and Psychogenic Models of Criminality

Reading: Adler et al., Chapter 4

Week 7 (October 14, 16)
   C. Social Structural, and Social Process Theories

Reading: Adler, et al., 5 and 6

Week 8 (October 21, 23)
   E. Social Control and Developmental Theory
Reading: Adler, et al., Chapter 7; Goffman, Chapters 3-5

*October 23rd, Guest Lecture by Jack Faer (Chief Security Officer, Iron Mountain)*

**Week 9 (October 28-30)**

D. Labeling and Radical (Conflict, Marxist, Feminist, Critical Race) Criminology

Reading: Adler et al, Chapters 8 and 9

**Week 10 (November 4, 6)**

***********************MIDTERM EXAM, November 4 ***********************

V. Crime Types

A. Street Crimes

1. Violent Crime

Reading: Adler et al., Chapter 10; Goffman, Chapters 2 and 3

**Week 11 (November 11, 13)**

2. Property Crime

Reading: Adler et al., Chapter 11; Goffman, Chapters 4 and 5

**Week 12 (November 18, 20*) and Week 13 (November 25*)**

B. Crimes of the Powerful

* Video: “The Inside Job” 120 minutes (November 20, 25).

Inside Job exposes the shocking truth behind the economic crisis of 2008. The global financial meltdown, at a cost of over $20 trillion, resulted in millions of people losing their
homes and jobs. Through extensive research and interviews with major financial insiders, politicians and journalists, Inside Job traces the rise of a rogue industry and unveils the corrosive relationships which have corrupted politics, regulation and academia.

Reading: Adler et al., Chapter 12; Goffman, Chapters 6 and 7

*************** November 27 Thanksgiving Holiday***************

**Week 14 (December 2, 4)**

C. Public Order Crimes

D. Comparative Criminology

Reading: Adler, Chapters 13 and 14

**Week 15 (December 9, 11)**

VI. Controlling Crime

A. Justifications for Punishment

B. Breaking the Cycle: Desistence

C. Summing up and review

Reading: Goffman, Conclusion and Epilogue

***************FINAL EXAM December 19, 1:30-3:30pm***************
CCJS105 Introduction to Criminology; (3 credits)

Discussion Sections (begin meeting the second week of classes)
Tuesday
  8:30-9:20 – Rochisha Shukla LEF 1220
  9:30-10:20 – Rochisha Shukla SQH 1101

  2:00-2:50 – Lizabeth Remrey LEF 2208
  3:00-3:50 – Lizabeth Remrey COL 0100

Thursday
  8:30-9:20 – Lizabeth Remrey LEF 1220
  9:30-10:20 – Lizabeth Remrey EDU 1107

  2:00-2:50 – Rochisha Shukla SQH 2122
  3:00-3:50 – Rochisha Shukla SQH 2122