

CRJU 341 Section 001

Sociology of Crime

Term: Fall 2007

Time: TH 12:30-1:45

Location: CU 203

Instructor: Benjamin Meade

Office: CU 113

Office Hours: MW 2:30-3:30

TH 10:30-12:30

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Course Material

Miller, J.M., Schreck, C.J., & Tewksbury, R. (2007). *Criminological Theory: A Brief Introduction*. 2nd Ed. Boston, MA: Pearson Education, Inc.

Required readings will also be posted on Blackboard.

Course Description

This course will function as an overview of the major theoretical explanations for criminal behavior. The class will emphasize explanations of the various theories, empirical testing of theories, and the application of criminological theories in the criminal justice profession.

Format and Responsibilities

Course material will be covered by lecture and class discussion. Students will be graded on a series of three exams, three essays, and class participation.

Students are responsible for attending class, reading all assigned readings for each class session, and completing the exams and paper on the assigned dates.

It is highly recommended for students to frequently check their email. I will be sending out periodic class announcements via email.

Grading Scale

Final grades will be calculated on a 500 point scale. Points are earned based on the following assignments.

<u>Assignment</u>	<u>Points</u>
Participation	50
Essay 1	50
Essay 2	50
Essay 3	50
Exam 1	100
Exam 2	100
Final Exam	100

Letter grades will be assigned based on the following points.

A+	= 490-500
A	= 450-489
B+	= 440-449
B	= 400-439
C+	= 390-399
C	= 350-389
D+	= 340-349
D	= 300-339
F	= Below 299

Participation

Due to the format of the course, attendance and participation is critical in order for adequate exam preparation. The participation grade will be based on your attendance and willingness and preparedness to participate.

Attendance will be taken during each class session. Students are allowed five absences. Students who miss more than 5 absences will have their final course grade reduced by one letter grade. The five absence rule includes excused and unexcused absences. Tardiness will result in deduction from the attendance grade.

Students are required to participate in class. Students are encouraged to voluntarily engage in class discussion, however, I will also call on individual students. Failure to read the assignments prior to class or failure to be prepared to participate will result in point deductions from your participation grade.

Readings

Students are required to complete the readings, including the articles posted on Blackboard, prior to the class period for which they are assigned. This class is discussion based, therefore it is critical for students to read the material and be prepared to discuss it in class. If it becomes apparent that students are not reading the material, a series of pop quizzes over the readings will be instituted.

Essays

Students will be required to write three essays over the course of the semester. Essay topics will be assigned, but you will be required to write an analysis of material covered in class. Essays will be graded on content and writing. Late essays will not receive a grade.

Exams

There will be a total of three exams for the course. Exam format will be in-class and may include multiple-choice, true-false, short answer and/or discussion. Students will be allowed to make up exams only in the case of a documented emergency. Students must provide the instructor with documentation before they will be allowed to make up an exam.

Class Demeanor

Students are expected to comply with the Carolinian Creed as well as the Student Code of Conduct outlined in the Carolina Community Student Handbook.

Students are required to maintain the highest level of academic integrity. Plagiarism, cheating, and any other form of academic dishonesty will result in an F for the course.

Open discussion is encouraged during this class. However, students must be respectful to the instructor and fellow students at all times. Do not interrupt or try to talk over the instructor or fellow students. No shouting or loud outburst during discussion, and no arguing (different than debating). No student will demean another student for his or her comments during class. Also, inappropriate comments (racist, sexist, homophobic) will not be tolerated, even as a joke.

Pay attention! No sleeping, talking, talking on cell phones, text messaging, listening to head phones, etc.

No ringing, beeping, vibrating, music-playing, or talking electronic devices during class. Please **turn off** all phones, pagers, beepers, etc. before class begins.

Students with inappropriate class demeanors will be asked to leave the class.

Students with Disabilities

Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 and the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 require USC to provide academic adjustments or accommodations for students with documented disabilities. Students seeking academic adjustments or accommodations must self-identify with the instructor and with the Office of Student Disability Services prior to requesting an accommodation.

Open-Door Policy

Please feel free to visit my office during office hours. If posted office hours are inconvenient, please call or email me, and we can make an appointment to meet.

Final Note: I reserve the right to modify this syllabus. Reading assignments and material may be subject to change. Students will receive ample notification in such cases.

Course Outline

All readings and assignments must be completed prior to the class for which they are assigned.

Week 1

August 24 – Introduction to the class

Week 2

August 28 – Read Miller, Schreck, & Tewksbury, CH. 1

Read South & Messner, *Crime and Demography: Multiple Linkages, Reciprocal Relations* (Blackboard)

August 30 – Read Miller, Schreck, & Tewksbury, CH. 2

Read Nagin & Pogarsky, *Integrating Celerity, Impulsivity, and Extralegal Sanction Threats into a Model of General Deterrence*

Week 3

September 4 – Read Miller, Schreck, & Tewksbury, CH. 3

Read Fishbein, *Biological Perspectives in Criminology*

September 6 – Read Miller, Schreck, & Tewksbury, CH. 4

Read Modestin, *Criminal and Violent Behavior in Schizophrenic Patients*

Read Lykken, *Psychopathy, Sociopathy, and Crime*

Week 4

September 11 – Exam Review

September 13 – Exam 1

Week 5

September 18 – Read Miller, Schreck, & Tewksbury, CH. 5

September 20 – Read Sampson and Raudenbush, *Systematic Social Observation of Public Spaces*

Read Osgood et al, *Routine Activities and Individual Deviant Behavior*

Week 6

September 25 – Read Miller, Schreck, & Tewksbury, CH. 7

September 27 – Read Blazak, *White Boys to Terrorist Men*

Read McCarthy & Hagan, *Mean Streets: The Theoretical Significance of Situational Delinquency Among Homeless Youth*

Week 7

October 2 – Read Miller, Schreck, & Tewksbury, CH. 6

Essay 1 Due

October 4 – Read Piqueor, Tibbetts, & Blankenship, *Examining the role of Differential Association and Techniques of Neutralization in Explaining Corporate Crime*

Week 8

October 9 – Read Skinner & Fream, *A Social Learning Theory Analysis of Computer Crime Among College Students*

October 11 – No Class! Fall Break!!!

Week 9

October 16 – Read Miller, Schreck, & Tewksbury, CH. 8

October 18 – Read Jenkins, *School Delinquency and the School Social Bond*

Read Evans et al, *The Social Consequences of Self-Control: Testing The General Theory of Crime*

Week 10

October 23 – Exam 2 Review

October 25 – Exam 2

Week 11

October 30 – TBA

November 1 – TBA

Week 12

November 6 – Read Moffit, *Adolescence-Limited and Life-Course Persistent Antisocial Behavior: A Developmental Taxonomy*

November 8 – Read Sampson and Laub, *Crime and Deviance Over the Life Course: The Salience of Adult Social Bonds*

Week 13

November 13 – Read Miller Schreck, & Tewksbury, Ch. 9

November 15 – Read Jacobs & Carmichael, *Subordination and Violence Against State Control Agents: Testing Political Explanations for Lethal Assaults Against the Police*

Read Messerschmidt, *Becoming “Real Men:” Adolescent Masculinity Challenges and Sexual Violence*

Week 14

November 20 – Read Levitt, *Understanding Why Crime Fell in the 1990s*

Essay 2 Due

November 22 – No Class! Happy Thanksgiving!!!

Week 15

November 27 – Read Kurlychek, Brame, & Bushway, *Enduring Risk? Old Criminal Records and Predictions of Future Criminal Involvement*

Read Brezina & Aragonés, *Devils in Disguise: The Contribution of Positive Labeling to “Sneaky Thrills” Delinquency*

November 29 – Read Matsueda & Anderson, *The Dynamics of Delinquent Peers and Delinquent Behavior*

Week 16

December 4 – TBA

December 6 – Last Day of Class! **Essay 3 Due**

Final Exam: Thurs. Dec. 13, 2:00 pm