Instructor: Professor Julie Phillips  
Office Hours: Thursdays, 9:45-10:45 (Zimmerli café) or by appointment  
Office: Health Institute, 112 Paterson Street (off Joyce Kilmer Avenue), New Brunswick  
Davison Hall, A039, Douglass Campus  
Telephone: (848) 932-1824  
E-mail Address: jphillips@sociology.rutgers.edu  
Web Page URL: http://sakai.rutgers.edu/  

Course Description

This course, which satisfies the SAS Core Curriculum requirements, will introduce you to the fundamentals of criminology. We will analyze aspects of crime and criminal justice using a sociological perspective. The course has three main objectives: to provide an understanding of how crime is defined and measured, to examine the reasons for crime, and to explore various categories of criminals and behaviors that have developed over the past two hundred years or so. Within the context of these goals, we will also consider the effectiveness and fairness of efforts to combat crime in the United States. In addition to lectures, we will view a few films, have short discussion group meetings and analyze actual crime data in class. These different approaches should ensure that you master the fundamentals of criminology.

Reading Requirements

We will use two texts and a set of selected readings in this class. The title of the first text is *Criminological Theory: A brief introduction (ed. 3)*, by Miller, Schreck, and Tewksbury. The text is available at the Rutgers University Bookstore (at Ferren Mall). The second text, selected chapters from a criminology textbook by Adler et al., is also required reading and available as an e-book. To purchase this book, you need to follow these instructions:

1. Go to http://create.mcgraw-hill.com/shop/  
   ISBN: 9781121015548  
   Title: Criminology  
3. Add the book to your cart and pay using a credit card or access code.

The other readings (listed at the end of the syllabus) are available on the class website and located under the Resources tab.

Handouts and Announcements

I will post important announcements and lecture outlines on the course web site listed above. *It is important that you check the web site regularly to ensure that you don’t miss important updates or supplementary class material.* These additional materials will help you follow and understand the major points of each lecture.

Grading Criteria

I will not give out grades over the phone or via email. For each exam or assignment, you must come to class or to my office to pick it up. For your final grade, please find out your grades through official channels.

**Exams:** There will be three non-cumulative tests. The two quizzes will each constitute 25% of your final grade while the exam will be worth 35% of your final grade. These in-class tests will be designed to test your understanding and knowledge of material covered in readings, lectures, films, and discussion groups. The exams will consist of multiple choice and true/false questions.
Discussion Groups: Frequently during lectures, I will break you up into small groups to discuss/debate a topic we have recently reviewed in class. Typically, these group discussions will last about twenty minutes, after which lecture will resume. 15% of your grade will come from participation in discussion groups and your summaries of the discussions (which will be handed in to me by the end of each discussion group meeting). In your brief summaries, I will be looking for evidence that the discussion involved a critical analysis of the evidence, which should include information from the readings and the lecture material. You can agree or disagree with any particular stance, including that of your discussion group, as long as you state the basis for your view.

Attendance and Participation: Your attendance and participation are essential to earning a good grade in this course. My past experience in teaching this class tells me that students who do not attend on a regular basis perform poorly on the exams. Attendance will be taken at each lecture. While missing up to three lectures will not have an adverse effect on your final grade, those who miss more will not be given the benefit of the doubt if they are hovering between two grades by the end of the semester.

Makeup exams and timely completion of projects

Make-up exams are unfair to other students in the class, so I can only allow them under extraordinary circumstances. If you have a problem with a scheduled exam, I must be notified at least 24 hours prior to the exam, and you must receive my written permission (e-mail or letter) that a makeup exam is allowed. If you have an emergency that arises the day of the exam, you should notify me as soon as you possibly can; provided you have documentation, a makeup exam can be scheduled. If you fail to get my written permission that a makeup exam is allowed within a week of the originally scheduled exam date, you will receive a failing grade for the test. Any makeup exams will be administered during the final exam period and may contain both essay and oral components.

Please note that there is no way to improve ex poste your grade on an examination; no extra-credit assignments are given out. Plan to do well on the required material. If you have a problem with the assignment, make an appointment to see me BEFORE the work is due or ask questions during the class period.

Classroom Atmosphere

The Department of Sociology encourages the free exchange of ideas in a safe, supportive, and productive classroom environment. To facilitate such an environment, students and faculty must act with mutual respect and common courtesy. Thus, behavior that distracts students and faculty is not acceptable. Such behavior includes cell phone use, surfing the internet, checking email, text messaging, listening to music, reading newspapers, leaving and returning, leaving early without permission, discourteous remarks, and other behaviors specified by individual instructors. Courteous and lawful expression of disagreement with the ideas of the instructor or fellow students is, of course, permitted.

If a student engages in disruptive behavior, the instructor, following the University Code of Student Conduct, may direct the student to leave class for the remainder of the class period. Instructors may specify other consequences in their syllabi. Serious verbal assaults, harassment, or defamation of the instructor or other students can lead to university disciplinary proceedings. The University Code of Student Conduct is at http://www.rci.rutgers.edu/~polcomp/judaff.ucsc.shtml.

Texting: Texting is disruptive and disrespectful of the process of education. If you have an emergency that requires you to text, please go out into the hall to do so. Otherwise, I ask that you do not text during the 80 minute class period. If I see you texting during class, I will ask you to leave for the day. If you cannot abide by these restrictions, please find another course to take.

Examination Rules

1. You cannot enter the exam 20 minutes after the exam has begun.
2. Exams will consist of multiple choice type questions. Be sure you bring a #2 pencil and eraser to the exams.
3. Bring your Rutgers ID card and leave it on your desk during the exam. You may not be allowed to take the exam if you do not have your valid ID card.

4. No calculators, rulers or other aids can be used. Only pencils, pens, erasers, pencil sharpeners, a watch, and your Rutgers ID card should be on your desk. You are best off not bringing anything else to the exam. If you do, put it in a bag under your seat.

5. If you have questions on the grading of particular questions on the examination, you are welcome to submit in writing an explanation of why you think your answer is right and the grading was wrong, along with the Scantron for re-grading. This includes mistakes made by the Scantron grader. Please staple the Scantron to your explanation. Appeals must be clearly written and handed back to me at the next lecture after I have handed back the exams. I will not go over the exam with anyone until after this date. Please note I photocopy all the Scantrons before handing them back to you.

A Word to the Wise

1. If you are having problems, please seek out help early. Come in prepared, having gone over the lectures, text, and problems in the text. Please keep appointments that you make to see me. If your plans change and you can't make the appointment, please notify me as soon as possible (before the meeting).

2. If you have missed any classes, make sure you get the missed notes from classmates. In cases like this, it usually pays to get the notes from at least two of your classmates. Please don't ask me to give you a condensed version of lectures you have missed.

3. Please note that the readings are not substitutes for the lectures nor are the lectures a substitute for the readings. Not all the material in the lectures appears in the readings, nor is all the material in the readings covered in the lectures. You are responsible for the material in the texts and in the lectures. I make every effort to have class attendance a necessary (though not sufficient) factor in performing well on examinations.

4. Make it a habit to read a national newspaper daily. A good exercise is to pick up the newspaper and apply concepts we've learned to “crime-related” news.

5. Do not wait until after I have lectured on something to read the material work. Come to class prepared!

6. If possible, please email me to make and/or confirm an appointment (even if you come during office hours).

University Policy on Academic Integrity

Students in this class are expected to uphold the highest standards of academic integrity. I will not tolerate cheating of any kind in my courses, and I will report the incident directly to the appropriate college officer if I believe the university’s policy on academic integrity has been violated. Cheating, plagiarism in written work, receiving and providing unauthorized assistance, and sabotaging the work of others are among the behaviors that constitute violations of the Policy On Academic Integrity. You are expected to be familiar with this policy. If you have questions about specific assignments, be sure to check with me. For more details, please see the following website: http://teachx.rutgers.edu/integrity/policy.html.
Course Topics

I UNDERSTANDING CRIME AND VICTIMIZATION: HOW PERVERSIVE IS IT?

September 1      Introduction

September 8      History of Violence in the U.S.
                   Film: Violence: An American Tradition (2-3433)
                   Reading: Courtwright

September 12     Measurements of Crime
                   Reading: E-book, pp. 26-31

September 15     Sources of Crime Data
                   Reading: E-book, pp. 32-37

September 19     Historical Trends
                   Reading: Rosenbaum; Washington Post Ed; E-book, pp. 37-40

September 22     Social Dimensions of Crime
                   Short Video: Walking While Black
                   Reading: E-book, pp. 40-50; Kennedy; Bain; MacFarquhar

September 26     Victimization
                   Reading: Shenk; Johnson; Greenhouse 2003; Shih; Economist article; Miller et al. (pp. 107-115)

September 29     Review for Quiz 1

October 3        QUIZ 1

II EXPLAINING CRIME AND CRIMINALS: WHY DO THEY DO IT?

October 6       Overview to Theories of Crime and History of Criminological Thought
                   Reading: Miller et al., Chapters 1 and 10

October 10      Biological and Psychological Theories of Crime
                   Reading: Miller et al., Chapters 3 and 4; Hirschi and Hindelang

October 13      Classical School of Criminology and Choice Theories of Crime
                   Reading: Miller et al., Chapter 2; NYT Wasteful & ineffective juvenile detention

October 17      Capital Punishment: Does it Deter Crime?
                   Film: Witness to Execution: Capital Punishment (2-6288)
                   Reading: Berlow; NYT - Family’s Effort to Clear Name Frames Debate on Executions

October 20      Social Disorganization Theory
                   Reading: Miller et al., Chapter 5 (pp.93-107); Massing

October 24      Subcultural Theories
                   Film: Gang Violence in America (2-5126)
                   Reading: Anderson; Miller et al. (pp. 125-138)

October 27      Strain Theories
                   Reading: Miller et al., Chapter 7; Merton
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Topic</th>
<th>Reading</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>October 31</td>
<td>Social Learning Theories: Differential Association and Neutralization</td>
<td>Reading: Miller et al., Chapter 6 (pp. 118-124); Sykes and Matza</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>November 3</td>
<td>Social Control Theories</td>
<td>Reading: Miller et al., Chapter 8; Sampson and Laub</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>November 7</td>
<td>Labeling Theory</td>
<td>Reading: Miller et al. Chapter 9 (pp. 197-202); Lemert; Becker</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>November 10</td>
<td>Review for Exam</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>November 14</td>
<td>EXAM</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>November 17</td>
<td>III CRIMINAL BEHAVIORS</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>November 17</td>
<td>Violent Crimes</td>
<td>Reading: Cannon; Arbetter; Liptak; NYT editorial – Lax and Lethal</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>November 22</td>
<td>CLASS CANCELLED</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>November 28</td>
<td>Property/White Collar Crime</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Film: Crime in the Suites (2-5121)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>December 1</td>
<td>White Collar Crime</td>
<td>Reading: Miller et al. (pp.203-204); E-book, Chapter 12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>December 5</td>
<td>Organized Crime</td>
<td>Film: Sex, Drugs and Consenting Adults</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>December 8</td>
<td>Public Order Crimes</td>
<td>Reading: E-book, Chapter 13; Ellingwood –Mexico under seige</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>December 12</td>
<td>QUIZ 2</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Violence in America


Nature and Extent of Crime


Criminal Victimization


Psychological Explanations of Crime: Intelligence


Classical School of Criminology: Capital Punishment


Social Structure: Social Disorganization Theory

Social Structure: Subculture of Violence Theory


Social Structure: Strain Theory


Social Process: Neutralization Theory


Social Process: Labeling Theory


Social Control Theory


Violent Crime


Public Order Crimes


Ellingwood, Ken. “Mexico under siege: More than 12,000 killed in Mexican drug war this year, officials say” Los Angeles Times, December 16, 2010.