SOCIOLOGY 441 – CRIMINOLOGY

Spring 2011 -- Social Science 6104

Mondays and Wednesdays, 4:00 – 5:15 pm

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Discussion Sessions:  MONDAYS:  301, 302, 303, 304, 305

Course Description and Goals

This course is an introduction to criminology -- the study of crime and the theoretical perspectives which explain criminal behavior and the causes of crime. We will learn how crime is defined and measured, and how criminal actions are classified. We will examine social and psychological explanations of criminal acts and criminal behavior, the social structural theories of criminal law and crime rates, and the different theories regarding treatment, control, correctional methods, and the administration of justice. We will review some of the institutions that are part of the criminal justice system (law enforcement, correctional facilities, and the legal system), and how the theoretical foundations in criminology impact their systems and processes. While this course focuses mainly on the United States, we will conclude with a comparative study of criminological approaches and research in other countries.

The course is divided into three parts. The first part will provide an overview of the criminal legal system and how the social construction of criminality is viewed and perpetuated by the media. We then delve into the measurement of crime and researchers’ attempts to understand criminal behavior and actions. We will evaluate how crime is defined and calculated at the local and national level, and we will assess how the correlates of crime are the most common variables used in looking at the prevalence and determinants of crime, criminals and victims. Finally, we will discuss the difficulties faced in researching crime, particularly, the under-reporting of crime and the ethics involved in using ethnographic methods.

The second part of the course is a study of criminological theories that provide an understanding of the major theories of criminal involvement. We will examine the basic
intellectual orientation of each theory, its history, arguments, central hypotheses, and how each theory can be empirically tested. At the end of this section, students should have a strong understanding of the process by which criminal involvement emerges.

The third and final part of this course will examine typologies of criminal behavior and how different types of crime are categorized. We will review current research that tests criminological theories and apply them to specific kinds of crimes. We will then analyze societal responses to crime, particularly in three institutions: law enforcement and policing, correctional facilities, sentencing, and incarceration, and prosecution and the criminal legal system. Finally, we will finish the course with a comparative examination of social control, crime data, and the criminal justice systems in selected countries throughout Europe, Asia, and the Middle East.

**Required Readings:**


Soc 441 READER – required readings of selected book chapters and journal articles are posted at Learn@UW. The complete course packet will be available for purchase at the Social Science Copy Center (6120 SS).

All the required readings (both textbooks and reader) will be available in the Reserve Collection at the College Library.

**Learn@UW**

We will use the online Learn@UW system for various parts of the course, e.g., news, links, instructions, a survey, online quiz, access to required readings, dropbox, or paper submission. (The gradebook, however, will not be enabled.) I do not post my lecture notes online, so if you miss class, you will need to borrow notes from a classmate.

You can access Learn@UW through [https://learnuw.wisc.edu/index.html](https://learnuw.wisc.edu/index.html) or [www.wisc.edu](http://www.wisc.edu). Log in, click on the Criminology link, and take a few minutes to look around the site. (Students on the waitlist need be added to the class list by me.)

**Classroom Format**

The course meets twice weekly for 75-minute lectures and one 50 minute discussion section. The lectures will generally be just that: lectures. I have also scheduled five distinguished guest speakers to make presentations to our class (see the course schedule
for the list of speakers and topics). Attendance at all the lectures is required, and
attendance at the guest speakers’ presentations is MANDATORY. There will be exam
questions based on material presented at the lectures and the guest speakers’
presentations.

This is a full classroom and students should not engage in disruptive behavior. Students
who negatively impact the learning environment of their classmates will be asked to
leave.

_Do not text during lecture. Do not access social media websites or surf the internet
during lecture._ Students may think that they can text without others noticing. This is
not true. Students may think that their texting does not distract others. This is also not
true. As a simple matter of respect, please do not text during lecture. Similarly, if you
are using a laptop to write notes, do not surf the internet or access social media websites
like Facebook during lecture. With a crowded classroom, everybody around and behind
you can see what you are doing.

**Grading Policy**

Final letter grades are based on the following components and weighted percentage:

- **Online Quiz (February 15\(^{th}\)-16\(^{th}\))**: (7%)
- **One-Page Paper Proposal (due March 10\(^{th}\))**: (part of the research paper grade)
- **Midterm Exam (March 28\(^{th}\))**: (20%)
- **10-Page Mini-Research Paper (due April 28\(^{th}\))**: (35%)
- **Final Exam (May 10\(^{th}\))**: (25%)
- **Discussion Section Participation**: (13%)

Details of the graded components are as follows:

**Quiz (7%)**: There will be one timed _30-minute quiz_ taken online at _Learn@UW_
between _February 15\(^{th}\) and 16\(^{th}\). (The quiz will be active between 8:00 am Tuesday
and 3:00 pm Wednesday). The quiz will be true/false, multiple choice, and short
answer questions and will cover material from the lectures and required readings in the
Intro/Overview, Media, Measurement and Correlates sections

**Midterm Exam (20%)**: The midterm exam will be administered in class on _March
28\(^{th}\) during the designated lecture period. The exam will consist of a scantron part
(true/false and multiple choice), and an essay part (short answers and short essays).
This midterm will cover material from the guest presentations, lectures, and required
readings from the “THEORY” section of the course.
**Final Exam (25%)**: The final exam will be an in-class exam administered on the University's scheduled exam date and time (**Tuesday, May 10th, 7:45 am – 9:45 am**). We will be notified of the exam location later in the semester. This exam is cumulative and will include material introduced from throughout the course, although a significant part of the exam will emphasize material from the lectures and required readings, as well as the guest presentations, from the latter part of the course (Typologies, Responses, Comparative Criminology section). The final exam will consist of scantron questions, short/long answers and short essays. Students must take the final examination on the day and time announced by the Office of the Registrar.

**Paper Proposal and Mini-Research Paper (35%)**: The one-page paper proposal is due on **Thursday, March 10th, at 11:00 am**, at Room 2452. A hard copy of the paper can be turned in at the beginning of class on March 9th, or during the instructor's office hours on March 10th. In addition to the hard copy, students must upload a file of their paper proposal in the course Dropbox at Learn@UW.

The ten-page mini-research paper is due on **Thursday, April 28th, at 11:00 am**, at Room 2452. A hard copy of the paper can be turned in at the beginning of class on April 27th, or during the instructor's office hours on April 28th. In addition to the hard copy, students must upload two files of their paper: 1) one file should be uploaded in the course Dropbox at Learn@UW, and 2) one file should be uploaded at [www.turnitin.com](http://www.turnitin.com). (Instructions for uploading to [www.turnitin.com](http://www.turnitin.com) will be provided later in the semester.)

**Paper Proposal**: This one-page, single-spaced paper is a summary of the topic you plan to study for the mini-research paper. The proposal should contain three concepts: 1) thesis, 2) theoretical foundation, 3) research method. The thesis is the problem or hypothesis you will be exploring, and the theoretical foundation is a concise description of the theoretical framework you will use, including possible sources and citations. Your topic will inform the type of research method used. The proposal should include a justification for the research method picked, a specific timeline for your research, possible respondent(s), list of questions, and specific themes you plan to study.

**Possible Research Methods include**: Content Analysis (News organizations, Police Incident Reports, True crime memoirs), Interviews, Surveys (self-administered, published datasets), Observation (court proceedings, etc.)  

**Theoretical Foundation**: Only academic, scientific, peer-reviewed literature should be used as sources.

**Mini-Research Paper**: The 10-page paper provides an opportunity to apply theories and principles learned in the course to real-life criminological processes. Your paper should reveal an in-depth understanding of the topic you have researched. The paper should lay out your thesis and a summary of the theoretical framework that supports it.
Half of the paper should be a detailed description of your findings, based on your research method, and the other half should be a thorough engagement with the criminology literature that is specific to your topic. Students should reference terminology, theoretical concepts, and explanations from the lectures, readings and other source material in their analysis.

The paper proposal will not be graded separately, but will be combined with the final paper. (If the paper proposal is turned in late or not at all, points will be deducted from the final paper.) The instructor will review the paper proposals and provide feedback on the feasibility of the proposed research. Particulars about the paper proposal and the mini-research paper will be discussed in more detail by the instructor and TA later in the course.

**Final Grades:** Grades are assigned to quizzes, exams, and papers using points. The scale below will be used to assign final course grades. Grades will only be changed in cases of computational error. There are no opportunities to earn extra credit in this course.

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<tr>
<th>Grade</th>
<th>Corresponding Points:</th>
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<tr>
<td>A</td>
<td>93 – 100</td>
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<td>AB</td>
<td>89 – 92</td>
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<td>B</td>
<td>83 – 88</td>
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<td>BC</td>
<td>79 – 82</td>
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<td>C</td>
<td>70 – 78</td>
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<td>D</td>
<td>60 – 69</td>
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<td>F</td>
<td>59 and below</td>
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**Grading of Essays on Quiz and Exams: Read This Closely!!**
All written assignments will be graded by the TA, in collaboration with the instructor. For all written exercises on quizzes and exams, the instructor and the TA will use “blind grading” to ensure fairness and objectivity. Students must only put their campus ID numbers as identification on Examination Bluebooks. *No names may appear on any Bluebook.*

Grades on quizzes, exams, and papers will be modified in the case of computational errors in scoring or recording the grades. Grades will NOT be modified for answers that are “close to” correct (this means the answers are still incorrect) or responses whose questions seemed “unclear”, or (for multiple choice questions) responses that require extensive elaboration to be deemed “correct”. With short answers and essays, the instructor will determine what information she expects an answer to include, and the instructor assigns values to that information. The TA will grade accordingly. Grading on papers will follow a rubric that delineates written work that is considered either exceptional, good, fair, poor, or incorrect.
If a student believes there is a grading error, then, the student should: (1) wait for 24 hours after receiving the results; (2) talk to the TA and explain in detail what the problem is. The instructor and the TA will (3) determine the appropriate response; (4) inform the student of any action to be taken.

No Make-Up Quizzes or Exams
Generally, there are no make-up quizzes or exams in this course. The instructor may permit a student to take a make-up quiz or exam only in rare cases such as a family emergency or illness. Students with an emergency should inform the instructor within 24 hours of the date the exam or paper is due. The instructor may request documentation to verify a student’s family emergency claim. Students who miss a quiz or exam for reasons other than the instructor approved illness or family emergency claim will receive a grade of zero on that exercise.

No Do-Overs
Under no circumstances may a student retake a quiz or exam, or rewrite a paper in this course.

Section Changes
Section changes are discouraged but may be allowed for extenuating circumstances. Students who seek to change sections must secure the instructor’s and TA’s prior approval.

Communications
Students are encouraged to come to the instructor’s office hours, during which we will have more time to talk over your concerns and/or questions about the course material. Coming to office hours is the best way to contact the instructor. Students can also e-mail the instructor for short questions or scheduling alternative office hours. The instructor will try to respond to student e-mails in a timely manner, (usually within 48 hours). Nevertheless, the instructor does not accept last-minute questions (especially before an exam). Students should check for course news and updates in their Learn@UW account regularly, as well as their university email account. The Instructor and the TA will use the class and section mail list to announce or circulate important information when needed.

Accommodations
Students with particular needs that might affect participation, coursework, or examination environment should inform the instructor and the TA about those needs within the first three weeks of the semester so we reasonably can accommodate those needs properly and timely. The instructor relies on the McBurney Disability Resource Center to determine what reasonable academic accommodations a student may require. Students who request accommodations must master all requirements, skills, knowledge, and academic standards of the course. More details about the McBurney Center (1305 Linden Drive) can be found on their website http://www.mcburney.wisc.edu/ or call 263-2741.
No qualified person should be denied access to, participation, or the benefits of, any program or activity operated in the UW System, because of his or her disability. If you have a visa from the Center, please let me know immediately.

Students who request relief for religious observances should notify the instructor and the TA before the end of January. Student athletes who request relief for scheduled games should also notify the instructor and the TA before the end of January.

**Policy of Academic Honesty**

Students are expected to learn to pursue and value academic honesty in this course. Cheating or plagiarizing in any form is strictly prohibited and will lead to serious disciplinary sanctions. An exam or paper found not to be your own work will result in a zero (0) points (letter grade “F”) for the exercise, and the misconduct will be reported to the *University’s Office of Student Assistance & Judicial Affairs*. Do your own work, write your own papers, acknowledge the sources you use, heed exam instructions, and be honest.

Academic misconduct (including, but not limited to, using a cheat sheet during an exam, presenting the words or ideas of others without giving credit, misrepresenting one’s academic performance, or intentionally impeding the work of others) on any assignment will receive zero (0) points (or a letter grade of “F”) for that assignment.

The department of sociology uses anti-plagiarism software (Turnitin.com) to identify papers that are similar to each other and similar to a host of other published and unpublished documents. All final papers must be submitted electronically to [www.turnitin.com](http://www.turnitin.com), in addition to the Learn@UW dropbox, and the instructor’s hard copy.

Additional information about the University’s policy on academic misconduct can be found at the website: [http://students.wisc.edu/saja/misconduct/misconduct.html](http://students.wisc.edu/saja/misconduct/misconduct.html). If you have any concern regarding to academic honesty, please talk with the instructor or TA.

**Other Resources:**

*Counseling & Consultation Services*, 7th Floor of UHS, 333 E. Campus Mall, 265-5600

This office helps students who are experiencing personal stress, career concerns, family or interpersonal conflict, general anxiety, depression or other psychological concerns. Staff also provide an after-hours crisis response service at 265-6565.

*Writing Center*, 6171 Helen C. White Hall and other campus locations, 263-1992 (www.wisc.edu/writing). This center is a one-shop stop for all writing needs, from outlining to writing and editing. The services range from low-commitment one-time meetings, a few meetings for one assignment, weekly meetings, email instruction, to online chat conferences. It’s free. They also have classes on writing.
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<tr>
<th>DATE</th>
<th>ASSIGNED READINGS</th>
<th>LECTURE TOPIC</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>January 19</td>
<td>Friedman “Crime and Punishment” <strong>(R1)</strong></td>
<td><strong>INTRODUCTION</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>January 24</td>
<td>Scarpitti Nielsen &amp; Miller, pp. 1-37.</td>
<td><strong>OVERVIEW and FEATURES OF THE CRIMINAL LEGAL SYSTEM</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>February 2</td>
<td>Scarpitti Nielsen &amp; Miller, pp.88-103. Rowe, “Tripping over Molehills” <strong>(R5)</strong></td>
<td><strong>MEASUREMENT: Part II Researching Criminology</strong></td>
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<td>February 9</td>
<td>Scarpitti Nielsen &amp; Miller, pp. 139-176.</td>
<td><strong>CORRELATES OF CRIME: Part II Dimensions and Variables</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>February 14</td>
<td><strong>Online Quiz (3/15-3/16)</strong> Scarpitti Nielsen &amp; Miller, pp. 441-449. Deslauriers, Confessing their Crime <strong>(R7)</strong></td>
<td>Two Guest Speakers: District Attorney of Dane County (Ismael Ozanne) and Appellate State Public Defender (Michael Gould – Milwaukee office)</td>
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<td>Date</td>
<td>Assignment/Event</td>
<td>Notes</td>
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<td>March 9</td>
<td><strong>PAPER PROPOSAL DUE (3/10)</strong>&lt;br&gt;Scarpitti Nielsen &amp; Miller, pp. 464-474.&lt;br&gt;Pager, “Mark of a Criminal Record” <strong>(R8)</strong></td>
<td>Guest Speaker: &lt;br&gt;Mary Kay Kollat, Director of Reentry, Dept. of Corrections</td>
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<td>March 14-16</td>
<td><strong>SPRING BREAK</strong></td>
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<td>March 21</td>
<td>Akers &amp; Sellers, pp. 211-235, 267-293.</td>
<td>CRIMINOLOGICAL THEORIES: Conflict and Feminist Theories</td>
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<td>March 28</td>
<td><strong>REVIEW and PREPARE FOR MIDTERM EXAM</strong></td>
<td><strong>MIDTERM EXAM</strong></td>
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<td>March 30</td>
<td>Scarpitti Nielsen &amp; Miller, Ch. 38 Osgood et al. “Social Disorganization” <strong>(R9)</strong></td>
<td>Guest Speaker: &lt;br&gt;Hon. Tom Alisankus, Police Officer and Municipal Court Judge</td>
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<tr>
<td>April 4</td>
<td>Scarpitti Nielsen &amp; Miller, Sec. V &amp; Ch. 32 Gottfredson et al. Timing of Property <strong>(R10)</strong></td>
<td>TYPOLOGIES OF CRIME: Property Crimes</td>
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<td>April 11</td>
<td>Scarpitti Nielsen &amp; Miller, Ch. 33 &amp; 35 Holtfreter et al. “Low Self-Control” <strong>(R12)</strong></td>
<td>TYPOLOGIES OF CRIME: White Collar and Organized Crimes</td>
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<td>April 13</td>
<td>Scarpitti Nielsen &amp; Miller, Ch. 41 Eliason, “Surgery with a Meat Axe” <strong>(R13)</strong></td>
<td>TYPOLOGIES OF CRIME: Political and Consensual Crimes</td>
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<tr>
<td>April 18</td>
<td>Scarpitti Nielsen &amp; Miller, Ch. 39 Hinkle et al. Irony Broken Windows <strong>(R14)</strong></td>
<td>RESPONSES TO CRIME: Policing</td>
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<td>April 27</td>
<td><strong>FINAL PAPER DUE (4/28)</strong>&lt;br&gt;Scarpitti Nielsen &amp; Miller, Ch. 37 &amp; 43</td>
<td>Guest Speaker: &lt;br&gt;Hon. Paul Van Grunsven, Circuit Court Judge, Milwaukee County</td>
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<td>Date</td>
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<td>May 2</td>
<td>Wardak, Social Control Saudi Arabia (\textbf{(R22)})</td>
<td>COMPARATIVE CRIMINOLOGY: Social Control and Crime Rates</td>
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<td>Ganopathy Social Control Singapore (\textbf{(R23)})</td>
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<td>May 4</td>
<td>Feest etal. “Protecting the Innocent” (\textbf{(R24)})</td>
<td>COMPARATIVE CRIMINOLOGY: Criminal Justice Systems</td>
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<td>Wolfe, “Participation in the Courts” (\textbf{(R25)})</td>
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<td>Johnson, “Prosecutor Culture” (\textbf{(R26)})</td>
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<tr>
<td>May 10</td>
<td>REVIEW AND PREPARE FOR FINAL EXAM</td>
<td>FINAL EXAMINATION(\textbf{(7:45 – 9:45 am)})</td>
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