

## **Sociology 441: Criminology**

Fall 2009

MWF 9:55 am - 10:45 am

Instructor: Brett Burkhardt  
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### **Course Description**

Sociology 441 is an introduction to the sociological study of crime. We will ask and attempt to answer a variety of crime-related questions: "How much crime is there?"; "Who is a criminal?"; "Why do people commit crimes?"; "Why do people not commit crimes?"; "How does society respond to crime?"; and "How *should* society respond to crime?".

The course is divided into four sections. Section 1, BASICS, evaluates measures of crime and victimization and explores the prevalence and incidence of crimes. Section 2, THEORY, explores four broad types of theories that try to explain crime: Micro-level (Individual), Social Structure, Social Process, and Critical theories. Section 3, CRIMES, examines particular types of criminal activities. Section 4, RESPONSES, considers how people and groups - mass media, police, and other elements of the criminal justice system - respond to crime.

### **Classroom Format**

The course meets weekly for three 50 minute lectures and one 50 minute discussion section. The lectures will generally be just that: lectures. We will also occasionally have more interactive dialogue, guest speakers, or films.

*Do not text 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.

### **Attendance**

There is no mechanism for tracking lecture attendance. However, you will be responsible for any material covered in lecture. The format and attendance policy for your discussion section will be announced by your TA.

Please do not come to class if you are sick! The instructor and everyone around you thanks you!

### **Learn@UW**

We will use the online Learn@UW system for various parts of the course (e.g., a survey, access to required readings, paper submission, grade recording). You can access Learn@UW through <https://learnuw.wisc.edu/index.html> or [www.wisc.edu](http://www.wisc.edu). Log in, click the Criminology link, and take a few minutes to look around the site. If you have trouble accessing it, go here: <https://learnuw.wisc.edu/students.html>. If you still have trouble, let me know.

### **Required Readings**

There is one text required for the class:

Steven E. Barkan. 2009. *Criminology: A Sociological Understanding*, 4<sup>th</sup> ed. Pearson-Prentice Hall.

The text is available at Rainbow Bookstore, located at 426 W. Gilman St. (<http://www.rainbowbookstore.org/>). You can buy it elsewhere if you prefer (there are used versions at online book sellers), but be sure to get the 4<sup>th</sup> edition.

I have also requested a reserve copy of the text at College Library.

All other required readings will be available through Learn@UW (along with various optional readings). Access them through the "Content" tab at the top right corner. You may print these readings as you see fit.

### Grades

Course grades will be determined on the basis of:

Survey	2%
Quiz	10%
Exam 1	20%
Exam 2	20%
Film Paper	15%
Final Exam	20%
<u>Discussion</u>	<u>13%</u>
Total	100%

You will receive a letter grade for all of the components above (with the exception of the survey). The letter grades correspond to the following points:

A	=	92 - 100%
AB	=	88 - 91%
B	=	82 - 87%
BC	=	78 - 81%
C	=	70 - 77%
D	=	60 - 69%
F	=	0 - 59%

Here are some details of the graded components:

**Survey (2%):** Complete an online survey at Learn@UW (<https://learnuw.wisc.edu/>) by 5:00 pm on Wed., Sep. 9, 2009. If you complete the entire survey by this time, you will receive full credit. *If you don't complete it by this time, you will receive no credit.*

**Quiz (10%):** This will be an in-class quiz. It will cover material from lectures and required readings in the "Basics" section of the course.

**Exams 1 and 2 (20% each):** These are in-class exams. Each exam will consist of one multiple choice (scantron) section and one essay section. Exam 1 will cover material from lectures, electronic posts from the instructor, and required readings in the "Theory" section of the course. Exam 2 will cover material from lectures, electronic posts from the instructor, and required readings in the "Crimes" section of the course.

**Film Paper (15%):** This will be a 5-8 page paper written in response to two crime-related documentary films. You will utilize material from lectures and required readings up to this point. You will need to turn in both a paper and an electronic copy of the paper (to Learn@UW). **Both** forms of the paper are due by 11:00 am on Wed., Dec. 2, 2009. Late papers will be

penalized 10% points (on this assignment) for each calendar day late. I will distribute the details of this assignment mid-way through the semester.

**Final Exam (20%):** This will be an in-class exam during our scheduled final exam period (Sat., Dec. 19, 2009, 10:05 am - 12:05). The final exam will consist of one multiple choice (scantron) section and one essay section. Location to be announced. The final exam will cover material from lectures, electronic posts from the instructor, and required readings in the "Responses" section of the course.

**Discussion (13%):** This portion of your grade will be based on your participation in discussion sections and completion of any assignments in discussion sections. Your TA will determine how to assign you a letter grade.

All written assignments will be graded by your TA. We will use "blind grading" to ensure objectivity and fair treatment. Students must use *only* their campus ID numbers as identification on essays; **no names may appear on any bluebook or quiz.**

Grades on quizzes, exams, and papers will only be modified in the case of typos, true errors in grading, or errors in grade recording. Grades will *not* be modified for answers that are "close" to correct, responses whose questions seemed "unclear", or (for multiple choice exams) responses that require extensive elaboration to be deemed "correct".

In particular, note: (1) Among multiple choice alternatives, often two alternatives are close, but only one alternative is the *best* answer. *The use of two close alternatives is deliberate.* Sometimes few students answer a particular question correctly; those are the students who understand the finer nuances tested by a question; and (2) For *essay questions*, the instructor determines what information he expects an essay to include, and the instructor assigns values to that information. The TA grades accordingly.

If you believe there is a typo, a true error in grading, or an error in grade recording, follow these steps: (1) Wait 24 hours, (2) Talk to your TA, and (3) Explain *in detail* what you believe the problem is. The instructor and TA will (4) determine the appropriate response and (5) inform you of any action to be taken.

#### **No Make-Up Quizzes or Examinations; No Do-Overs**

In general, there are no make-up quizzes or examinations in this course. The instructor may permit a student to take a make-up quiz or examination only in the *rare and exceptional case* of an illness or family emergency. In certain instances, the instructor may request documentation to verify an emergency claim. It is the student's obligation, where possible, to provide advance notice of an illness or family emergency. The instructor, in the instructor's discretion, may decline to excuse a student for a missed quiz or examination.

Oversleeping, prescheduled trips, family vacations and weddings, employment obligations, extra-curricular commitments, extended holiday or travel weekends, previously purchased or non-refundable airline tickets, and early departures for breaks do not constitute, under any circumstances, "illness or family emergency." The instructor will not grant excuses for a missed quiz or examination for any reason other than illness or family emergency.

Under no circumstances may students retake a quiz or examination.

#### **Missed Quiz or Examinations**

Students who miss a quiz or examination (whether because the student does not show up for the exercise, or because the instructor declines to excuse the student for

any reason) will receive a score of 0 points (a letter grade of "F") for that quiz or examination.

### **Academic Misconduct**

Academic misconduct (including, but not limited to, using a cheat sheet during an exam, plagiarism\*, misrepresenting one's academic performance, or intentionally impeding the work of others) on any assignment will receive 0 points (a letter grade of "F") for that assignment.

You will be required to turn in an electronic version of your film paper (in addition to a paper copy). 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. We will submit the film papers to Turnitin.com.

\*According to the UW-Madison's Student Advocacy and Judicial Affairs office, plagiarism is "presenting the words or ideas of others without giving credit," (<http://students.wisc.edu/saja/misconduct/UWS14.html#points>).

### **Section Changes**

Section changes are only allowed if you find another student willing to swap sections with you. You are responsible for arranging such a swap. If you arrange a swap, inform your TA.

### **Schedule for Readings**

Readings should be completed on the date of the lecture with which they correspond. All readings, unless otherwise noted, are required. Over the course of the semester I may modify the readings schedule. I will make these announcements in class and post the changes on Learn@UW. Students are responsible for staying up-to-date on the required readings schedule.

### **Accommodations**

Students with particular needs that might affect participation, coursework, or examination environment should inform the instructor and TA about those needs within the first two weeks of the semester so they reasonably can accommodate those needs properly. 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.

Students who request relief for religious observances also should notify the instructor and TA within the first two weeks of the semester.

### **Contacting the Instructor**

The best way to contact me is during my office hours. The second best option is this email address: [bburkhar@ssc.wisc.edu](mailto:bburkhar@ssc.wisc.edu). (I do not check other accounts on a regular basis.) Although I will sometimes respond very quickly to emails, at other times I may take up to three days to respond. If you have not gotten a response within three days of your initial email, please email me again (or contact me otherwise).

### **Class Notes**

The instructor and TAs do not provide students with lecture or discussions section notes. Students who miss a class should arrange to obtain notes from a classmate. It is a good idea to find a "notes buddy" in lecture and discussion. Exchange names and emails with this person now so you can have a dependable means of exchanging notes in the future. You are also welcome to come to the instructor's office hours if you would like clarification on something you missed in lecture.

### Criminology Links

Contexts' public criminology blog: <http://contexts.org/pubcrim/>  
 U.S. Bureau of Justice Statistics: <http://www.ojp.usdoj.gov/bjs/>  
 FBI UCR data: <http://www.fbi.gov/ucr/ucr.htm>  
 Madison crime map: <http://www.madison.com/crime>

### Schedule of Assigned Readings

Note: "B" = Barkan

Section	Week	Topic	Day	Date	Readings/Tasks	Approx. # pgs.
<b>BASICS</b>	1	Criminology	W	2-Sep	No reading. Introduction to the class	0
		Measurement	F	4-Sep	B 55-67; Rosenfeld & Lauritsen "The Most Dangerous Crime Rankings"; Read the course syllabus	14
	2		M	7-Sep	No class (Labor Day)	
		Crime Rates and Victimization	W	9-Sep	B 68-88; Complete survey on Learn@UW by 5:00 pm	20
			F	11-Sep	B 94-116	20
	3		M	14-Sep	Maltz & Zawitz 1-9; Crime and victimization survey demo in class	9
		Quiz	W	16-Sep	QUIZ in class	
<b>THEORY</b>		Micro Level Theories	F	18-Sep	B 129-137	8
	4		M	21-Sep	B 137-150	13
		Social Structure Theories	W	23-Sep	B 163-175	12
			F	25-Sep	B 175-191	16
	5	Social Process Theories	M	28-Sep	B 195-219	26
			W	30-Sep	B 219-225 (Optional: Warr 91-108)	6
		Critical Theories	F	2-Oct	B 229-240	11
	6		M	5-Oct	Becker, <i>Outsiders</i> , Ch. 1	18
			W	7-Oct	B 240-248	8
			F	9-Oct	Theory application exercise in class (exam review)	
	7		M	12-Oct	Lanier & Henry, 353-358; B 249-256	12
		Exam	W	14-Oct	EXAM in class	
<b>CRIMES</b>		Homicide, Assault	F	16-Oct	B 261-278	17
	8	Hate Crimes	M	19-Oct	Grattet and Jenness "The Birth and Maturation of Hate Crime Policy in the United States", Ch. 2	24
			W	21-Oct	Film in class	
			F	23-Oct	Film in class	

	9	Sex Crimes	M	26-Oct	Janus, <i>Failure to Protect</i> , 42-50	8
		Property Crimes	W	28-Oct	B 331-349	18
		Terrorism	F	30-Oct	B 412-416, 422-423	6
	10	Drugs	M	2-Nov	B 427-437; Goode "Legalize It? A Bulletin from the War on Drugs"	16
			W	4-Nov	Bourgois, <i>In Search of Respect</i> , Ch. 3	28
		White Collar Crimes	F	6-Nov	Stewart "The Omen"	12
	11		M	9-Nov	Zuckhoff "The Perfect Mark"	7
			W	11-Nov	TBA	
		Street Gangs	F	13-Nov	Venkatesh & Levitt (start)	17
	12		M	16-Nov	Venkatesh & Levitt (finish); Film in class	17
			W	18-Nov	Film in class	
			F	20-Nov	Papachristos "Gang World"	6
	13	Exam	M	23-Nov	<i>EXAM in class</i>	
<b>RESPONSES</b>		Police	W	25-Nov	B 461-483	22
			F	27-Nov	<i>No class (Thanksgiving)</i>	
	14		M	30-Nov	Tomaskovic-Devey & Warren "Explaining and Eliminating Racial Profiling" (Optional: Moskos, <i>Cop in the Hood</i> , 38-62)	5
		Prison	W	2-Dec	B 518-522; Uggen, Manza, & Thompson "Citizenship, Democracy...", 281-296; <b>FILM PAPER DUE (PAPER AND DIGITAL COPIES) BY 11:00 AM</b>	19
			F	4-Dec	TBA	
	15	Collateral Consequences	M	7-Dec	Pager 58-72, 90-92	17
			W	9-Dec	Western "Mass Imprisonment and Economic Inequality"	20
			F	11-Dec	Uggen, Manza, & Thompson "Citizenship, Democracy...", 296-305	9
	16	Media	M	14-Dec	Warr "Safe at Home"	
		Final Exam	Sa	<b>19-Dec</b>	<b>Final 10:05-12:05</b>	