

Sociology of Crime and Punishment

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Sociology 190 | Summer 2017

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Welcome to Sociology of Crime and Punishment. The first half of this course will outline the causes of criminal behavior according to a handful of theories. The second half will detail punishment as process embedded in larger social structures.

You are *required* to purchase a course reader from Copy Central (2576 Bancroft Way). With the exception of the first week, you must bring this reader to every class. You are also *required* to purchase or checkout one pre-approved book for the final project (details below).

Attendance & Participation (10%)

Attendance and participation is integral to your success in this course. You are allowed *one* absence. For each additional absence, you will lose ten percent of your participation grade, or one percent of your final grade in the course. However, showing up to class is not enough. You must also be involved (this includes bringing your reader). Should I become concerned with your level of engagement, I will reach out to you directly by email so that we may brainstorm solutions. If, for whatever reason, you remain uncommitted to the course I will consider lowering your attendance and participation grade.

Reading Responses (15%)

You are expected to carefully and critically read 14 texts (not including your pre-approved book for the final project). These readings are short (usually between 20 to 40 pages), but they are often dense and difficult. For *10* of these readings, you must answer *one* of its corresponding questions listed in the course schedule. While reading response formatting is question specific, you will always have the option of either writing a response (three to four sentences with page citations) or diagraming/tabling a response (with page citations). All responses must be *submitted on bcourses by 10am the day of the assigned reading* under the assignments tab – written responses must be submitted using the bcourses assignment text box and diagramed/tabled responses must be attached as a standard image file (e.g., JPG). All reading responses are graded on a pass/fail basis. While “wrong” answers will not be penalized, I may ask you to resubmit a reading response if your initial submission is obviously careless. Late reading responses will not be accepted.

Note: I may integrate your responses into my lecture slides. Please know that I will never cite your work to highlight something you have done wrong.

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Two Take-Home Exams (25% each)

Your performance on two written take-home exams, one on crime and the other on punishment, will determine half of your grade in this course. For each exam you will be given 48 hours to answer two or three questions. These exams will challenge you to bring course readings in conversation with one another. The first exam will be distributed in class on June 7th and is due June 9th at 5:00pm on bcourses. The second exam will be distributed in class on June 21st and is due June 23rd at 5:00pm on bcourses. Exams turned in late will be docked one full letter grade for each day they are tardy. *No exam will be accepted beyond 72 hours of its designated collection time.* Additional instructions and requirements will be provided on the exam prompts.

Book Critique: Presentation or Paper (25%)

You will read a pre-approved book cover-to-cover and look for connections and ruptures with the various themes we will discuss in class. Using course material to challenge your book on the one hand and your book to challenge course material on the other, you will either a) present your critique to the class or b) write your critique as an essay. Those who present will submit a PowerPoint file and give a five to seven minute presentation in the final week of class. Those who write must submit a five to seven page essay by 11am on June 26th. Your grade for this final project is partly dependent on you completing three preliminary assignments on time: 1) you must notify me of your book selection and your plan to acquire your book by 5pm on May 26th, 2) you must notify me of your decision to either present or write your critique by 5pm on June 2nd, and 3) you must submit an outline of your critique by 5pm on June 16th.

The end of this syllabus includes a list of 30 pre-approved books. I have also uploaded brief descriptions of these books onto bcourses. You may select any one of these books, no questions asked. However, if you want to use a different book you must email me by May 25th at 5pm with the title as well as a brief note on why you think the book will work for this assignment. If I deny your request, I will help you select a book that will hopefully match your interests while also setting you up to succeed in the project.

Expect further details on this assignment by the beginning of the fourth week.

Note on Workload

This is a four-credit course jammed into 6 weeks. *The workload is intense but not insurmountable.* We have 11 three-hour meetings, two of which are reserved for student presentations. All other classes are divided into two parts, separated by 10-15 minute breaks. In addition to regular reading responses, *you will turn in something every Friday by 5:00pm via bcourses.* The only exception is the final week.

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Week 1

MONDAY | May 22nd

Part 1: Introduction, syllabus

Part 2: Crime and Punishment in the United States: An Introduction (no reading)

SOCIOLOGY OF CRIME

WEDNESDAY | May 24th

Part 1: Sutherland. 1947. "Differential Association."

Reading response options due at 10am on bcourses. Answer one:

- A) Explain, in your own words, the "principle of differential association." (write)
- B) Why doesn't Sutherland like the term "social disorganization"? (write)
- C) How is criminal behavior learned? (diagram)

Part 2: Merton. 1938. "Social Structure and Anomie."

Reading response options due at 10am on bcourses. Answer one:

- A) What are the "two phases of the social structure"? (write or diagram)
- B) Provide an example (real or fictitious) of "innovation," "ritualism," or "rebellion." (write)
- C) What is the relationship between poverty and crime? (write or diagram)

DUE 5PM FRIDAY 5/26 ON BCOURSES: BOOK SELECTION

Week 2

Monday 5/29: Memorial Day, no class

WEDNESDAY | May 31st

Part 1: Hirschi. 1969. "A Control Theory of Delinquency."

Reading response options due at 10am on bcourses. Answer one:

- A) Map the various "elements of the bond." (diagram)
- B) What is the difference between "attachment" and "commitment"? (write)
- C) What does Hirschi say about "strain theory"? (write)

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Part 2: Shaw and McKay. 1942. *Juvenile Delinquency and Urban Areas* (pp. xv, 137-163, 164-170, 435-441) [Note: this seems like a lot of reading, but there are plenty of maps and tables]

Reading response options due at 10am on bcourses. Answer one:

- A) What is the relationship between delinquency and neighborhood population? (write)
- B) What is the relationship between delinquency and economic status? (write or diagram)
- C) What is the role of “values” in Shaw and McKay’s theory? (write or diagram)

DUE 5PM FRIDAY 6/2 ON BCOURSES: FINAL PROJECT FORMAT SELECTION

Week 3

MONDAY | June 5th

Part 1: Spitzer. 1975. “Toward a Marxian Theory of Deviance.”

Reading response options due at 10am on bcourses. Answer one:

- A) What is “deviance production” and how does it work? (write or diagram)
- B) What is the difference between “social junk” and “social dynamite”? (write or diagram)
- C) Why does monopoly capitalism involve an “overproduction of deviance”? (write)

Part 2: Sampson and Wilson. 1995. “Toward a Theory of Race, Crime, and Urban Inequality.”

Reading response options due at 10am on bcourses. Answer one:

- A) What is the relationship between macrostructure, race, and violent crime? (write or diagram)
- B) What do Sampson and Wilson say about Shaw and McKay? (write)
- C) What do Sampson and Wilson say about Merton? (write)

WEDNESDAY | June 7th

Part 1: Messerschmidt. 1993. *Masculinities and Crime* (pp. 1-4, 14-17, 25-9, 61-71, 76-9, 83-5)

Reading response options due at 10am on bcourses. Answer one:

- A) What does Messerschmidt say about Sutherland? (write)
- B) What does Messerschmidt say about Merton and Hirschi? (write)
- C) What is the relationship between structured action, crime, and masculinity? (write or diagram)

Part 2: Review, **exam distributed** (no reading)

DUE 5PM FRIDAY 6/9 ON BCOURSES: EXAM I

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Week 4

MONDAY | June 12th

Part 1: Durkheim. 1933. *Division of Labor in Society*. (pp. 31-34, 38-9, 41-8, 52, 60-61, 64)

Reading response options due at 10am on bcourses. Answer one:

- A) What is the relationship between crime, punishment, and collective consciousness? (diagram)
- B) What is the role of the state with respect to punishment? (write)
- C) How does punishment constitute an “emotional reaction” and why does this matter? (write)

Part 2: Rusche and Kirchheimer. 1939. *Punishment and Social Structure*. (pp. 5-7, 127-132, 137, 207)

Reading response options due at 10am on bcourses. Answer one:

- A) What is the relationship between economic production and punishment? (write / diagram)
- B) How do economic conditions help explain the emergence of the Auburn system? (write)
- C) How can the crime rate “really be influenced”? (write / diagram)

WEDNESDAY | June 14th

Part 1: Foucault. 1977. *Discipline and Punish: The Birth of the Prison*. (pp. 3-11, 15-16, 18, 24-31, 215-216)

Reading response options due at 10am on bcourses. Answer one:

- A) What does it mean to punish the “soul”? (write)
- B) What does Foucault say about Rusche and Kirchheimer? (write)
- C) What is the “disciplinary society”? (write or diagram)

Part 2: Sykes. 1958. *The Society of Captives: A Study of a Maximum Security Prison*. (pp. 63-83)

Reading response options due at 10am on bcourses. Answer one:

- A) Why is imprisonment painful? (write or diagram)
- B) What are the “two paths” for coping with the pains of imprisonment? (write or diagram)

DUE 5PM FRIDAY 6/16 ON BCOURSES: BOOK CRITIQUE OUTLINE

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Week 5

MONDAY | June 19th

Part 1: Irwin. 1985. *The Jail: Managing the Underclass in American Society*. (pp. 1-3, 8-17, 103-115)

Reading response options due at 10am on bcourses. Answer one:

- A) Who are the “rabble” and what is their relationship to the jail? (write or diagram)
- B) Why is there hostility toward (and a campaign against) the rabble? (write)

Part 2: Wacquant. 2009. *Punishing the Poor: The Neoliberal Government of Social Insecurity*. (pp. xv-xviii, 14-17, 287-8, 295-8, 306-8)

Reading response options due at 10am on bcourses. Answer one:

- A) What is the relationship between “workfare” and “prisonfare”? (write or diagram)
- B) What does Wacquant say about Foucault? (write)
- C) What is neoliberalism, both ideologically and actually? (write or diagram)

WEDNESDAY | June 21st

Part 1: Comfort. 2007. “Punishment Beyond the Legal Offender.”

Reading response options due at 10am on bcourses. Answer one:

- A) Map the “direct contacts” and “unintended consequences” highlighted by Comfort. (diagram)
- B) What is “carceralized aid”? (write)

Part 2: Review, **exam distributed** (no reading)

DUE 5PM FRIDAY 6/23 ON BCOURSES: EXAM II

Week 6

DUE 11AM MONDAY 6/26 ON BCOURSES: BOOK CRITIQUE (PowerPoint or Essay)

MONDAY | June 26th

Student presentations.

WEDNESDAY | June 28th

Student presentations.

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30 PRE-APPROVED BOOKS FOR BOOK CRITIQUE

(see bcourses for book descriptions)

Alexander, Michelle. 2012. *The New Jim Crow: Mass Incarceration in the Age of Colorblindness*. The New Press.

Anderson, Elijah. 2000. *Code of the Street: Decency, Violence, and the Moral Life of the Inner City*. W. W. Norton & Company.

Beckett, Katherine and Steve Herbert. 2011. *Banished: The New Social Control In Urban America*. Oxford University Press.

Beeghly, Leonard. 2003. *Homicide: A Sociological Explanation*. Rowman & Littlefield Publishers.

Bourgois, Philippe. 2003. *In Search of Respect: Selling Crack in El Barrio*. Cambridge University Press.

Clear, Todd R. 2009. *Imprisoning Communities: How Mass Incarceration Makes Disadvantaged Neighborhoods Worse*. Oxford University Press.

Cleve, Nicole Gonzalez Van. 2016. *Crook County: Racism and Injustice in America's Largest Criminal Court*. Stanford Law Books.

Contreras, Randol. 2012. *The Stickup Kids: Race, Drugs, Violence, and the American Dream*. University of California Press.

Currie, Elliott. 1998. *Crime and Punishment in America*. Picador.

Epp, Charles R., Steven Maynard-Moody, and Donald P. Haider-Markel. 2014. *Pulled Over: How Police Stops Define Race and Citizenship*. University of Chicago Press.

Flores, Jerry. 2016. *Caught Up: Girls, Surveillance, and Wraparound Incarceration*. University of California Press.

Goffman, Alice. 2015. *On the Run: Fugitive Life in an American City*. Picador.

Gottschalk, Marie. 2016. *Caught: The Prison State and the Lockdown of American Politics*. Princeton University Press.

Hagan, John. 2010. *Who Are the Criminals?* Princeton University Press.

Haney, Lynne. 2010. *Offending Women: Power, Punishment, and the Regulation of Desire*. University of California Press.

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- Katz, Jack. 1988. *Seductions Of Crime: Moral And Sensual Attractions In Doing Evil*. Basic Books.
- Kupchik, Aaron. 2012. *Homeroom Security: School Discipline in an Age of Fear*. NYU Press.
- Laub, John H. and Robert J. Sampson. 2009. *Shared Beginnings, Divergent Lives*. Harvard University Press.
- Manza, Jeff and Christopher Uggen. 2008. *Locked Out: Felon Disenfranchisement and American Democracy*. Oxford University Press.
- Mohamed, A. Rafik and Erik D. Fritsvold. 2011. *Dorm Room Dealers: Drugs and the Privileges of Race and Class*. Lynne Rienner Pub.
- Moskos, Peter. 2009. *Cop in the Hood: My Year Policing Baltimore's Eastern District*. Princeton University Press.
- Parenti, Christian. 2008. *Lockdown America: Police and Prisons in the Age of Crisis*. Verso.
- Peterson, Ruth D., Lauren J. Krivo, and John Hagan. 2012. *Divergent Social Worlds: Neighborhood Crime and the Racial-Spatial Divide*. Russell Sage Foundation.
- Rios, Victor M. 2011. *Punished: Policing the Lives of Black and Latino Boys*. NYU Press.
- Simon, Jonathan. 1997. *Poor Discipline: Parole and the Social Control of the Underclass, 1890-1900*. University Of Chicago Press.
- Stuart, Forrest. 2016. *Down, Out, and Under Arrest: Policing and Everyday Life in Skid Row*. University Of Chicago Press.
- Tonry, Michael. 2012. *Punishing Race: A Continuing American Dilemma*. Oxford University Press.
- Vargas, Robert. 2016. *Wounded City: Violent Turf Wars in a Chicago Barrio*. Oxford University Press.
- Western, Bruce. 2006. *Punishment and Inequality in America*. Russell Sage.
- Zimring, Franklin E. 2006. *The Great American Crime Decline*. Oxford University Press.