

Sociology 155
fall 1999
Landis

CRIMINOLOGY

office: amador 450
office hrs: tuth 12-1:30, 2:30-4,
and by appt

books: Required:

Sense and Nonsense About Crime, 4th ed.--Walker
Crime and Everyday Life, 2nd ed.--Felson
The Rich Get Rich and the Poor Get Prison, 5th ed.--Reiman
No Heroes, No Villains--Phillips

1) Assignments: You will be expected to complete the following tasks:

1)-3 exams, 2)-one 1500 word paper

2) Exams: There will be three multiple choice exams--two midterms and a final. The midterms are worth 80 points each, the final is worth 120 points. The test questions are factual and reasonably detailed (some have said picky) and require a careful reading of the books and attention to lecture material. To give you an idea of what the test questions are like, I will read 2 test questions at each class meeting, 1 from lecture and 1 from one of the books.

Test questions will cover lectures and readings about equally, but the midterms will probably focus more on the readings, the final more on lectures. Midterms will cover only lectures since the previous test, but the final will cover all lectures.

3) Writing Requirement: This is an upper division General Education course and, as such, has a 1500 word writing requirement. That means a 5 to 7 page paper depending on the font you use. The paper should be typed and double spaced. (If you try a 20 point font, figure about 25 pages...) [For example, this syllabus you are reading is done in a 10 point font, is single spaced, and is 900 words, and 3 pages long.]

Paper Topics: you have several options:

1-Book "report"

You may do an analysis of one of the following books selected for this

Land of Opportunity--Adler
The Fugitive Game--Littman
Underboss--Maas

This paper should do three things: 1) describe or summarize what happens in the book, 2) in some way, relate the book to this course, and 3) expand or focus on a particular aspect, theme, or idea in the book that particularly interests you. You may bring in outside material for this if you like.

When you write the paper, clearly divide it into 3 sections with headings: 1-Summary, 2-Relate to Course, and 3-Interesting Aspect.

Last semester, students were a little heavy on the summary, a little light on the other 2 parts. Let's see if we can correct that this semester. Your paper **MUST** have all 3 parts.

2-Research paper

Devise some sort of research effort (library or field, although I prefer the Internet; or, devise a low-cost method to make a college dorm more secure from crime; or, compare 2 neighborhoods on graffiti, litter, and broken windows, and see how this relates to their crime stats.

3-Something Else

Something crime and/or sociology related. You'll have to convince me.

On all of these, don't even **THINK** about giving me something you did or are

If you do a paper on a book (first option above) you don't need to get my

Whatever your topic, somehow relate what you are writing about to this

The paper is due NOVEMBER 24th (end of the 13th week). You may turn a

4) Grading Policy: Exams add up to 280 points, and I grade on a curve. The paper will be graded in 3 categories--very good, OK, not good. "Very good" will work to improve your grade--how much your grade will be improved depends on the quality of the paper. "OK" will not effect your grade in the course. "Not good" will hurt your grade--again, how much depends on the (lack of) quality of the paper.

5) Make-up Exams: Make-up tests are not given--if a test is missed, a paper (graded pass-fail) is assigned.

6) The Class: It is in your best interests to attend class--there is a strong correlation between attending and getting a good grade. I typically don't take attendance but I may. Arriving late, leaving early, getting up and milling around the room, reading newspapers, or eating pizza is distracting to me and to the class. Don't do it.

7) Drop Policy: The sociology department has an open drop policy which means that the course can be dropped without penalty through the 6th week of the semester.

8) Reading and Exam Schedule:

first midterm will be during the 6th week--OCTOBER 7

reading assignment:

Sense/Nonsense--chapters 1-6

Everyday Life--chapters 1-3

Poor Get Prison--intro, 1, 2

second midterm will be during the 12th week--NOVEMBER 18

Everyday Life--chapters 4-7

Poor Get Prison--3-4

Phillips--all

final--DECEMBER 14, 16

reading assignment:

Sense/Nonsense--chapters 11-14

Everyday Life--chapter 8-9

Poor Get Prison--Conclusion

9) Dates to Remember

First Exam--October 7

Paper Topic (if other than book report) to Landis--October 28

Second Exam--November 18

1500 Word Paper--November 24

Final--December 14, 16