

# **Criminology**

Sociology 155  
Summer, 1999

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Office Hour: 12:30 – 1:20 pm M, W  
or by Appointment

Almost each time we read the newspaper or turn on the TV, we find stories about crimes ranging from sensational murders to petty vandalism. What is the common denominator among the many different behaviors that we call crimes? How and where do people carry out these criminal behaviors? Why do people commit crimes? How does society react to crimes and criminals? Do various crime policies make a difference? In this course, you will be presented with conflicting pieces of evidence and competing explanations dealing with these questions. Ultimately, you will be exposed to a sociological perspective in understanding these rather complicated issues. This new “lens” will help you debunk old myths and develop critical thinking about crimes.

Because the duration of this class is only six weeks instead of the regular fifteen weeks, the course is designed in a rather intensive matter. For each class, you will have plenty of material to read. You must read ahead; otherwise, you will not have enough information to participate in the class discussion. “Shooting from the hips” will only make you look like an “uninformed citizen.” Every two weeks, we will have an exam; this is another reason why you need to keep up with the readings. Normally, I will start the class with a brief introduction to the scheduled subject matter, then I will proceed with a class discussion. I often quiz students orally to make sure that they are prepared and understand what is being discussed. There will be other teaching materials introduced depending on the progress we make in this course. These may include extra reading materials, videos, and guest speakers. These different kinds of activities will keep your mind fresh in each of our three-and-half-hour long classes.

## **Required Text:**

Introduction to Criminology, 1996. 7<sup>th</sup> edition, by Hugh Barlow, New York: Harper-Collins.

## **Exams:**

There will be three multiple choice exams—two midterms and a cumulative final. The midterms each count for 25% of the final grade; the cumulative final counts 40%. The test questions will come from the text, lecture, and any other material introduced in class. To give you an idea of what the test questions are like, I will read 4-to-5 questions at each class. Make-up tests are not given, unless a documented medical emergency prevents students from taking the scheduled exams.

## **Attendance and participation:**

It is in your best interest to attend class—there is a strong correlation between regular class attendance and a good grade. You are also encouraged to actively participate in class discussion and other class activities. Due to their disruptive impact on classroom dynamics, several types of behavior will be discouraged and even lead to dismissal from classroom: arriving late, leaving early, getting up and milling around the room, reading newspapers, “chowing down,” and other “anarchistic” behaviors. These types of behavior will lead to a reduction of your attendance and participation grade, which is 10% of your final grade.

**Reading Schedule:**

June 28

Introduction and Chap. 1: Crime and Criminality

June 30

Chap. 2: Getting a Line on Crime

Chap. 3: Murder & Assault

July 7

Chap. 4: Sexual Assault

Chap. 5: Robbery

**July 12**

Chap.6: Nonviolent Theft

**Exam #1 (25%)**

July 14

Chap. 7: Occupational Crime

Video: Other People's Money

July 19

Chap. 8: Organized Crime

Chap. 9: Public Order Crime--Consensual Sex Offenses

July 21

Chap. 10: Public Order Crime—Drug and Alcohol Offenses

Video: War on Drugs

**July 26**

Chap. 11: Policing Society

**Exam #2 (25%)**

July 28

Chap. 13: Punishing the Criminal Offender

Chap. 14: The Foundation of Modern Criminology

August 2:

Chap. 15: Crime and Social Structure

Chap. 16: Crime and Social Process

**August 4**

Chap. 18: General Theories of Crime

**Exam #3 (40%)**