

SOC 3561-001 /CRIM 3561-001, Criminology

Spring 2023

SW 134

TuTh 10:45 AM - 12:05 PM

Instructor: Katie Durante, Ph.D.

Pronouns: she/her/hers

Office: S BEH 313 or Zoom

Office Hours: After class or by appointment

Email: katherine.durante@soc.utah.edu

When possible, I will reserve minutes after class for any questions. Please message me to schedule a meeting on Zoom or in person. For general questions about the course, please reach out to the TA first.

Teaching Assistant: Zoë Bergman

Pronouns: She/her/hers

Email: zoe.bergman@utah.edu

Course Description:

Who are you more likely to be victimized by— a stranger or someone known to you? How realistic are TV crime shows? These and other questions regarding crime, its context, and its causes will be answered in this class.

This course concerns the sociological study of crime and the criminal legal system in the United States. Throughout the semester we will examine the causes of crime, theories of crime reduction, and how racial, ethnic, social class, gender, and media biases impact our understanding of crime. We will examine a variety of perspectives to help us understand the complexity of the crime problem.

Course Objectives:

By the end of the semester, students should:

1. Develop a sociological perspective on the study of crime, including how crime is socially constructed.
2. Understand the intersections of race, ethnicity, social class, gender, and crime.
3. Develop an ability to critically analyze and evaluate media reports on crime.
4. Gain knowledge of the specific theories which seek to explain criminalization, criminality, and crime.

5. Make connections between criminological theories, research, and public policies.

Required Texts:

Title: *Criminology: A Sociological Understanding*

Author: Steven E. Barkan

Edition: 7th

Statement of Respect:

We will be reading about and discussing controversial topics that some may have strong opinions about before coming into the course. We must remember to be respectful to one another and recognize that our views tend to be informed by our own life experiences. Therefore, we can and should expect individuals to have different experiences and diverging viewpoints. We should respectfully engage and strive to learn from one another. Racist, sexist, xenophobic, or homophobic language will not be tolerated.

The expectation is that we engage with the material from the perspective of social scientists. This means that our arguments should be backed up with references or citations. Strong arguments have evidence/data to support them. This is especially true when discussing controversial social issues.

Class Schedule:

Module	Dates	Overview (see Canvas module for full assignment details!)
Module 1	Week 1: 1/9 – 1/14	<p><i>The Sociological Perspective of Crime</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Introductions & Syllabus • Chapter 1: Criminology and the Sociological Perspective
Module 2	Week 2: 1/15 – 1/21	<p><i>Public Perceptions and Measurements of Crime</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Chapter 2: Public Opinions, the News Media, and the Crime Problem • Chapter 3: The Measurement and Patterning of Criminal Behavior <p>Assignment 1 Due on 1/21</p>
Module 3	Week 3: 1/22 – 1/28	<p><i>Victims and Victimization</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Chapter 4: Victims and Victimization
Module 4	Week 4:	<i>Classical Theories of Crime</i>

	1/29 – 2/4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Chapter 5: Classical and Neoclassical Perspectives
Module 5	Week 5: 2/5 – 2/11	<p><i>Biological and Psychological Theories of Crime</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Chapter 6: Biological and Psychological Explanations
Module 6	Week 6: 2/12 – 2/18	<p><i>Sociological Theories of Crime: Social Structure & Process</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Chapter 7: Sociological Theories: Emphasis on Social Structure • Chapter 8: Sociological Theories: Emphasis on Social Process
Module 7	Week 7: 2/19 – 2/25	<p><i>Sociological Theories of Crime: Critical & Feminist Perspectives</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Chapter 9: Sociological Theories: Critical Perspectives <p>Assignment 2 due on 2/25</p>
Midterm	Week 8: 2/26 – 3/4	Midterm Exam Week
	Week 9: 3/5 – 3/11	Spring Break – No Class, Nothing Due
Module 8	Week 10: 3/12 – 3/18	<p><i>Violent Crime</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Chapter 10: Violent Crime: Homicide, Assault, and Robbery
Module 9	Week 11: 10/30 – 11/5	<p><i>Violence Against Women</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Chapter 11: Violence Against Women
Module 10	Week 12: 3/19 – 3/25	<p><i>Property Crime</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Chapter 12: Property Crime and Fraud
Module 11	Week 13: 3/26 – 4/1	<p><i>Crimes of the Upper Class</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Chapter 13: White-Collar and Organized Crime • Chapter 14: Political Crime
Module 12	Week 14: 4/2 – 4/8	<i>Consensual Crime & Vice</i>

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Chapter 15: Consensual Crime
Module 13	Week 15: 4/9 – 4/15	<p style="text-align: center;"><i>Crime Control, Policing, & Punishment</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Chapter 16: Dilemmas of Crime Control in a Democratic Society Chapter 17: Prosecution and Punishment
Module 14	Week 16: 4/16 – 4/22	<p style="text-align: center;"><i>Crime Reduction</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Chapter 18: Conclusion: How can we Reduce Crime? <p>Assignment 3 due on 4/22</p>
Finals Week	Week 17 4/23 – 4/29	Final Exam & Goodbyes

Note: The instructor reserves the right to change the schedule for any reason

Assignment Descriptions:

Short Writing/Research Assignments

You will have 3 short writing assignments (2 double-spaced pages) across the semester that cover the following topics: the perceptions v. reality of crime in the United States, criminological theory through fiction, and public policy & crime reduction. Assignment details can be found in Canvas.

Each assignment is worth 10% of your final grade.

In-Class Participation

Due to the pandemic, I will *not* be offering points for attendance or participation this term. Still, this is an in-person course, and if you cannot regularly attend, I encourage you to consider enrolling in the online section of this course instead. Attending class is an important part of the learning process as this course is designed for you to attend lectures and interact with your peers.

Exam Description

This course includes a Midterm and Final Exam. The exams cover material from the text, lectures/ PowerPoint presentations, and other supplemental material uploaded to Canvas. Exams consist of multiple-choice and short essay questions.

Each exam is worth 35% of your final grade.

ASSIGNMENT AND EXAM LATE POLICY

Submission portals for most assignments will be open for 24 hours *after* the due date/time. In other words, **you have a 24-hour grace period for turning in most assignments late, no questions asked.**

Please be sure to contact me in advance if you are unable to turn your assignment in within the 24-hour grace period. I do understand that things come up; open dialogue is the key to submitting late work.

In general:

- If you turn your work in *after* the grace period but before 4/15, you will receive *half credit*.
- I will *not* accept late work after 4/15. We simply have too much to grade and other tasks to complete before the semester ends, which would prevent us from wrapping up the semester in a timely manner.

There will be no late exams without prior approval.

Grading Criteria:

Grading Scale

A 93% or higher

A- 90%-92.99%

B+ 87%-89.99%

B 83%-86.99%

B- 80%-82.99%

C+ 77%-79.99%

C 73%-76.99%

C- 70%-72.99%

D+ 67%-69.99%

D 63%-66.99%

D- 60%-62.99%

F less than 60%

Grade Breakdown

Assignment	% Weighted Final Grade
Assignment 1: Perceptions of Crime	10%
Assignment 2: Understanding Criminological Theories through Fiction	10%

Assignment 3: Public Policy & Crime Reduction	10%
Midterm Exam	35%
Final Exam	35%

Required Statements:

ADA Statement

The University of Utah seeks to provide equal access to its programs, services and activities for people with disabilities. If you will need accommodations in the class, reasonable prior notice needs to be given to the Center for Disability & Access (<https://disability.utah.edu/>), 162 Olpin Union Building, 801-581-5020. CDA will work with you and the instructor to make arrangements for accommodations.

All written information in this course can be made available in an alternative format with prior notification to the Center for Disability & Access.

Academic Misconduct Statement

Per University of Utah regulations (Policy # 6-400). “A student who engages in academic misconduct,” as defined in Part I.B. and including, but not limited to, cheating, falsification, or plagiarism, “may be subject to academic sanctions including but not limited to a grade reduction, failing grade, probation, suspension or dismissal from the program or the University, or revocation of the student's degree or certificate. Sanctions may also include community service, a written reprimand, and/or a written statement of misconduct that can be put into an appropriate record maintained for purposes of the profession or discipline for which the student is preparing.” Please refer to the Student Code for full elaboration of student academic and behavioral misconduct policies (<http://regulations.utah.edu/academics/6-400.php>).

Sexual Misconduct Statement

Title IX makes it clear that violence and harassment based on sex and gender (which includes sexual orientation and gender identity/expression) is a Civil Rights offense subject to the same kinds of accountability and the same kinds of support applied to offenses against other protected categories such as race, national origin, color, religion, age, status as a person with a disability, veteran’s status or genetic information. If you or someone you know has been harassed or assaulted, you are encouraged to report it to the Title IX Coordinator in the Office of Equal Opportunity and Affirmative Action, 135 Park Building, 801-581-8365, or the Office of the Dean of Students, 270 Union Building, 801-581-7066. For support and confidential

consultation, contact the Center for Student Wellness, 426 SSB, 801-581-7776. To report to the police, contact the Department of Public Safety, 801-585-2677(COPS).

R-1 statement

As the only institution in the state classified in the highest research category (R1), at the University of Utah you will have access to state-of-the-art research facilities and be able to be part of the knowledge creation process. You will have the opportunity to do research of your own with faculty who are leading experts in their field, engaging in programs that match your research interests. Further, you will interact with and often take classes with graduate students that provide an advanced understanding of the knowledge in your field.

University Safety Statement

The University of Utah values the safety of all campus community members. To report suspicious activity or to request a courtesy escort, call campus police at 801-585-COPS (801-585-2677). You will receive important emergency alerts and safety messages regarding campus safety via text message. For more information regarding safety and to view available training resources, including helpful videos, visit utah.edu