



## **SOC 3561-001 & CRIM 3561-001: Criminology**

Fall 2024  
Tue & Thu, 2:00-3:20pm  
Room: M LI 1130

**Instructor:** Chiara Clio Packard

**Pronouns:** she/her/hers

**Email:** chiara.packard@soc.utah.edu (*include "SOC 3561" or "CRIM 3561" in the subject line*)

**Office Location:** TBD (*office building has undergone construction*)

**Office Hours:** Tue & Thu, 11:30am - 12:30pm

**Teaching Assistant:** Sebastian Miscenich

**Pronouns:** he/him/his

**Email:** sebastian.miscenich@soc.utah.edu

### **Required Materials**

Criminology: A Sociological Understanding [8<sup>th</sup> edition] by Steven E. Barkan (ISBN-13: 9780137636181)

*All other readings and course materials will be provided on Canvas.*

### **Course Description**

Why do people commit crimes? What is crime and how does its definition change across time and space? How does the criminal legal system in the United States work to address crime and how has this system changed over time? In this course, we will address these and other questions regarding crime, its causes, and society's response to crime. We will explore several key areas of criminology: the history of criminology, prominent theories explaining why crime occurs, typologies of crime, and the criminal legal system. Importantly, we will take a sociological approach to the study of criminology, examining how crime is socially constructed and how punishment is not just a mechanical response to crime, but rather a social and political process.

### **Learning Outcomes**

By the end of this course, students will be able to...

1. Describe major theories of crime in the field of Criminology.
2. Describe the strengths and weaknesses of these theories based on social science research.
3. Define and identify various types of crimes and their prevalence.
4. Critically analyze systems of punishment in the United States.
5. Evaluate media portrayals of crime using a critical and sociological lens.
6. Describe variations in crime and punishment by race, ethnicity, gender, and class.

## Class Expectations and Environment

Students are expected to read the assigned textbook and supplemental materials each week and come to class prepared to discuss the material (plan to read ~40 pages each week). I will provide some lecture content and clarify concepts for students, but a good portion of class time will be reserved for small group and class-wide discussions and activities.

It is my goal to make every student in this class feel included and welcome and to create a scholarly environment in which we respect our differences, consider alternative viewpoints, and support our arguments with evidence. However, I need your help to achieve that goal:

1. Respect your classmates, your instructor, and yourself. Provocative ideas and questions are encouraged; do not be afraid to voice your opinion because it may be different. However, intentional insults, animosity, or disrespect will not be tolerated. Remember to discuss and critique *ideas* and never *people* themselves.
2. Do not hesitate to ask questions. We all have different backgrounds and experiences, and your questions may spark conversation or bring to light different perspectives.
3. Never assume what other individuals are thinking or what groups they represent.
4. If someone says something that offends you or makes you feel uncomfortable, I encourage you to respectfully voice your concern in class. These moments can be good learning experiences for all of us. If you do not feel comfortable doing so, please come talk to me about it.
5. We are building a conversation. To that end, try whenever possible to respond to the person who spoke right before you rather than saying something disconnected. If you have contributed a lot in one discussion, make space for others to contribute.
6. Refrain from packing up or leaving until class is over.

Finally, we will be discussing some challenging topics in this class that can be emotionally disturbing and triggering, such as crime, sexual violence, police brutality, and drug use. I take students' wellbeing very seriously and I encourage you to come speak to me if you are concerned or need support. However, students should also take this into consideration before enrolling in the course. Consider contacting the [Counseling Center](#) for support if necessary.

## Course Assignments

### *Attendance and Participation*

Students are required to attend class and should come prepared to participate in discussions about the assigned readings and other course material. To participate effectively, you must do the readings carefully. I appreciate your contribution regardless of its correctness; focus instead on thinking critically about the concepts, attempting to apply them, and engaging your peers in the conversation. Your participation grade will be based on attendance, your contributions to in-class discussions, your participation in in-class activities, and your punctual arrival to class. **Students can miss up to four classes without it affecting their grade.** If you need to seek an ADA accommodation to request an exception to this attendance policy due to a disability, please contact the [Center for Disability and Access](#) (CDA).

## *Weekly Quizzes*

Every Tuesday, students will take an open-book Canvas quiz at the beginning of class based on the readings for that week. The quiz will begin at 2:00pm sharp and end at 2:10pm. Please note that to take the quizzes, you will need to access Canvas using a computer or phone. Plan ahead. In total, there will be 12 quizzes throughout the semester (see course schedule below). Your two lowest quiz grades will be dropped.

## *Criminology Book Club: Book Review and Reflection*

Students will participate in a Criminology Book Club throughout the semester with a group of fellow students. For this book club, students will do the following:

- 1) **Read a criminology book:** You will rank the three books listed below in order of preference and submit your ranking by Thursday, Oct 17<sup>th</sup> at 11:59pm. You will then be assigned a Book Club group based on your ranking. I will do my best to make sure each student is assigned their first or second choice of book. Here are your choices:
  - a. *Punished: Policing the Lives of Black and Latino Boys* (2011), by Victor Rios
  - b. *Getting Played: African American Girls, Urban Inequality, and Gendered Violence* (2008), by Jody Miller
  - c. *Wounded City: Violent Turf Wars in a Chicago Barrio* (2016), by Robert Vargas

Accessing Book Club books: All students have Online Access to both *Punished* and *Getting Played* for free through the University of Utah Library. If you have any questions about accessing these titles, please contact the library: <https://lib.utah.edu/help/>. *Wounded City* is not available at the library. If you pick this title, you will have to purchase it separately. See [www.thriftbooks.com](http://www.thriftbooks.com) to buy an affordable used copy online.

- 2) **Write a book review:** You will write a review of your chosen book with the help of ChatGPT prior to meeting with your group. You will submit your book review by Wednesday, Nov 13<sup>th</sup> at 11:59pm. I will post additional instructions for this book review on Canvas.
- 3) **Meet with your Book Club group:** You will meet with your assigned group to discuss your book on Thursday, Nov 14<sup>th</sup> during class time. We will not have lecture that day. Your group can meet anywhere you would like, even on Zoom. Each group is required to send the instructor a selfie of their group during the book club meeting along with a list of students in attendance to receive full credit for this assignment.
- 4) **Write a reflection:** Finally, you will write a reflection based on the discussion with your fellow students during your book club meeting. You will submit your reflection by Thursday, Nov 21<sup>st</sup> at 11:59pm. I will post additional instructions for this reflection on Canvas.

## *Midterm and Final Exam*

Students will take an in-class midterm and final exam. The exams cover the material from the readings and lectures and consist of multiple-choice and short answer questions. The exams will include some questions from the weekly quizzes in addition to new questions.

# Course Schedule

## Important Dates

Tuesdays at 2:00pm: Weekly Quizzes  
 Thursday, Oct 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2:00 - 3:20pm: Midterm Exam  
 Thursday, Oct 17<sup>th</sup> at 11:59pm: Book Club book ranking due  
 Wednesday, Nov 13<sup>th</sup> at 11:59pm: Book Review due  
 Thursday, Nov 21<sup>st</sup> at 11:59pm: Book Club Reflection due  
 Tuesday, Dec 10<sup>th</sup>, 1:00 - 3:00pm: Final Exam

Dates	Topic	Reading	Assignment
<b>Week 1:</b> 8/20 - 8/22	Introduction	Syllabus	
<b>Week 2:</b> 8/27 - 8/29	The sociological perspective + Public perceptions of crime	Barkan Ch. 1-2	Quiz #1
<b>Week 3:</b> 9/3 - 9/5	Measuring of crime + Victims and victimization	Barkan Ch. 3-4	Quiz #2
<b>Week 4:</b> 9/10 - 9/12	Theories: Classical, neoclassical, biological, and psychological	Barkan Ch. 5-6	Quiz #3
<b>Week 5:</b> 9/17 - 9/19	Theories: Social structure	Barkan Ch. 7 + Anderson (1999) excerpt	Quiz #4
<b>Week 6:</b> 9/24 - 9/26	Theories: Social process	Barkan Ch. 8	Quiz #5
<b>Week 7:</b> 10/1 - 10/3	Review		Midterm on 10/3, 2:00-3:20pm
<b>Week 8:</b> 10/8 - 10/10	Fall Break!		
<b>Week 9:</b> 10/15 - 10/17	Theories: Critical	Barkan Ch. 9 + Wacquant (2002) excerpt	Quiz #6
<b>Week 10:</b> 10/22 - 10/24	Types of Crime: Violent	Barkan Ch. 10-11	Quiz #7
<b>Week 11:</b> 10/29 - 10/31	Types of Crime: Property, fraud, white-collar, and organized	Barkan Ch. 12-13	Quiz #8
<b>Week 12:</b> 11/5 - 11/7	Types of Crime: Political and consensual	Barkan Ch. 14-15	Quiz #9
<b>Week 13:</b> 11/12 - 11/14	Punishment: Policing	Barkan Ch. 16	Quiz #10 + Book Review
<b>Week 14:</b> 11/19 - 11/21	Punishment: Prosecution	Barkan Ch. 17	Quiz #11 + Book Reflection
<b>Week 15:</b> 11/26	Punishment: Mass Incarceration	Clear (2007) excerpt	Quiz #12
<b>Week 16:</b> 12/3 - 12/5	Conclusion & Review	Barkan Ch. 18	
<b>Week 17:</b> 12/10			Final Exam on 12/10, 1:00-3:00pm

*\* The reading schedule above is subject to revision, if necessary, during the semester \**

## Grading Policy

### *Grade Distribution*

A total of 1,000 points are available in this course. Final grades will be assigned according to the table below, which reflects university grade distributions and cut-off points. Final grades will not be rounded up or down. There are no extra credit activities for this course. I will try my best to return your graded assignments within one week of submission.

<b>Points</b>	<b>Grade</b>
970-1,000	A+
930-969	A
900-929	A-
870-899	B+
830-869	B
800-829	B-
770-799	C+
730-769	C
700-729	C-
670-699	D+
630-669	D
600-629	D-
0-599	F

### *Grade Breakdown by Assignment*

<b>Assignment</b>	<b>Points</b>
Attendance & Participation	100
Weekly Quizzes	200 (20 points each)
Book Club: Review	100
Book Club: Reflection	100
Midterm	250
Final	250

### *Regrading*

Your TA and I grade all your assignments carefully and according to our training and expertise and the quality of your work. However, if you feel a grade does not properly reflect your performance, you can formally object to the grade. Objections must be submitted to me by email *after* 24 hours and *within* one week of the grade being posted on Canvas. Written objections must state what precisely you are objecting to, and your reasons for believing the grade was inappropriate. I will then regrade your assignment as a “blank slate.” Importantly, I reserve the right to *lower* your grade if I feel the submission was too generously graded beforehand.

## **Additional Course Policies**

### *Communication*

For general questions about this course or an assignment, please reach out to your TA first. If you have more in-depth questions or concerns, please email me at any time and include “SOC 3561” or “CRIM 3561” in the subject line to ensure a timely response. I will respond to all emails within 24 hours during the week and within 48 hours on the weekend. If I have not responded within this time frame, feel free to email me a reminder. However, *please check the syllabus before emailing me or your TA with a question to ensure the information is not already contained here*. If you communicate something to me verbally, please follow up with an email so that we both have a record of that communication. These emails are also useful reminders for when I am expected to follow up on a request or question from you.

### *Drop-in Hours*

I will hold drop-in hours on Tuesdays and Thursdays, 11:30am - 12:30pm in my office. You can drop in without an appointment to ask questions, make comments, or voice concerns about anything related to class. This is your time. It is a chance for you to chat with me about anything related to the course. Use it! You can come to discuss a course assignment that you are struggling with, discuss a course topic further, or ask about additional research in a certain subfield.

### *Workload*

This is a 3-credit course, which corresponds to 9 credit hours of work per week. Therefore, students should expect to spend, on average, ~6 hours each week on coursework in addition to the ~3 hours of class. If it is taking you much longer to complete all the required readings and assignments, please come talk to me.

### *Extensions and Late Assignments*

I understand that life happens, and unforeseen challenges or personal emergencies may make it difficult to meet a deadline. Unfortunately, I cannot grant extensions for the Book Review, since this assignment must be completed prior to meeting with your book club group. If you would like an extension on the Book Club Reflection, please email me at least 24 hours ahead of the deadline to request it along with the reason you need an extension. If you do not email me ahead of time, your grade on a late assignment will drop by 20% for each day it is late.

Exam dates and times are set at the beginning of the semester and students cannot make up a missed exam. If you anticipate any issues attending an exam, let me know as soon as possible.

### *Technology*

Please respect your instructor and fellow students by refraining from distracting use of technology in class. Students may use computers in class only to take notes and access readings. However, phones must be turned off or silenced and put away unless they are being used to access Canvas for an in-class quiz. Any inappropriate use of technology in the classroom will negatively affect your participation grade.

### *Course Feedback*

I encourage and welcome your feedback on this course. I will provide you with structured opportunities to provide feedback, such as a brief mid-semester evaluation, and I also welcome more informal feedback at any time in person after class or in my drop-in hours. I truly value your honest thoughts and suggestions on how to improve the course. However, I understand that the power dynamics between student and instructor may make it difficult for you to approach me if you have any concerns. Therefore, I have also created an anonymous survey where you can submit feedback to me at any time during the semester about the readings, discussions, and/or your interactions with me or your peers. To access this survey, please click this link: <https://forms.gle/q6ER7jmCAME971eq9>. Did someone (student or instructor) say something that made you feel uncomfortable in class? Was an assignment unhelpful or unclear? Was one of the readings offensive or triggering for you? I want to know. My goal is to make you feel welcome, safe, and heard. If I deem it appropriate, I may bring up the concern in class and take steps to address it.

### *Ethics of AI Use*

Generative Artificial Intelligence (e.g., ChatGPT) is an incredibly powerful tool that has become widely available in the past couple of years. However, you are only allowed to use this tool when expressly authorized in my assignment instructions. Please see “Academic Integrity and Plagiarism,” under the University Policies section below for additional information.

### *Preferred Name and Preferred Gender Pronouns*

Class rosters are provided to me with students’ legal name. I will gladly address you by an alternate name or gender pronoun if you wish. Please let me know of this preference early in the semester so that I can change my records accordingly.

### *Students with Children*

I am willing to make accommodations for students with parenting responsibilities. If that’s your case and you expect to need such accommodations, please let me know early in the semester.

### *Wellness and Health*

As your instructor, I value your physical and mental health and wellbeing. Please do not hesitate to reach out if you are facing any challenges that are getting in the way of your work. We can talk through how to move forward together. Importantly, there are resources at the university to support you:

1. **Counseling Services:** The University Counseling Center offers individual, group and couples counseling, as well as crisis appointments and low-cost psychiatric medication management. These services help students resolve existing problems, prevent potential problems, and develop new skills that will enrich their lives. Phone: 801-581-6826. Link: <https://counselingcenter.utah.edu/>
2. **Center for Student Wellness:** The Center for Student Wellness supports student well-being and success through holistic and comprehensive programs that center wellness, safety, and healing. Phone: 801-581-7776. Link: [wellness.utah.edu](https://wellness.utah.edu)

3. **Basic Needs Collective:** The BNC is a coordinated resource referral hub. They educate about and connect students to campus and community resources to help them meet their basic needs. As a central location for resource referrals related to food, housing, health insurance, managing finances, legal services, mental health, etc., any student experiencing difficulty with basic needs is encouraged to contact them. Drop into their office located in the Union basement or schedule with them online for an in-person or virtual visit through their webpage: <https://basicneeds.utah.edu/>
4. **Victim Survivor Advocates:** Victim-Survivor Advocates provide free, confidential, and trauma-informed support services to students, faculty, and staff who have experienced interpersonal violence (i.e., domestic and dating violence, sexual assault and rape, sexual harassment, stalking, etc.). Link: <https://wellness.utah.edu/victim-survivor-advocacy/>
5. Please refer to the University of Utah's **Student Support Services** page to check out additional resources on campus if you feel like you need extra support in academics, overcoming personal difficulties, or finding community: <https://studentaffairs.utah.edu/>.

If you need any help navigating these various resources, please let me know. I would be happy to meet with you individually to talk through them.

## **Additional University Policies**

### *Accessibility and Accommodations*

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 this class, reasonable prior notice needs to be given to the Center for Disability & Access, 162 Olpin Union Building, (801) 581-5020. CDS 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.

*Given the nature of this course, attendance is required and adjustments will only be permitted as required by Policy 6-100(III)(O). If you need to seek an ADA accommodation to request an exception to this attendance policy due to a disability, please contact the [Center for Disability and Access](#) (CDA). CDA will work with us to determine what, if any, ADA accommodations are reasonable and appropriate.*

In compliance with ADA requirements, some students may need to record course content. Any recordings of course content are for personal use only, should not be shared, and should not be made publicly available. In addition, recordings should be destroyed at the conclusion of the course.

### *University Safety*

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 <https://safeu.utah.edu>



### *Addressing Sexual Misconduct*

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, 383 South University Street, 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).

### *Academic Integrity and Plagiarism*

It is expected that students adhere to University of Utah policies regarding academic honesty, including but not limited to refraining from cheating, plagiarizing, misrepresenting one's work, and/or inappropriately collaborating. This includes the use of generative artificial intelligence (AI) tools without citation, documentation, or authorization. Students are expected to adhere to the prescribed professional and ethical standards of the profession/discipline for which they are preparing. Any student who engages in academic dishonesty or who violates the professional and ethical standards for their profession/discipline may be subject to academic sanctions as per the University of Utah's Student Code: <https://regulations.utah.edu/academics/6-410.php>

### *Drop/Withdrawal Policies*

Students may drop a course within the first two weeks of a given semester without any penalties. Students may officially withdraw (W) from a class or all classes after the drop deadline through the midpoint of a course. A "W" grade is recorded on the transcript and appropriate tuition/fees are assessed. The grade "W" is not used in calculating the student's GPA. For deadlines to withdraw from full-term, first, and second session classes, see the U's Academic Calendar.