

## CRIMINOLOGY 204

**Dr. McGucken**

**OFFICE: MATHER MEMORIAL**

ROOM 223D

Phone: 368-8847

Email: [exm54@case.edu](mailto:exm54@case.edu)

**OFFICE HOURS: MWF 9:00-9:30**

**MF 3:00-4:00**

**OTHER TIMES BY APPOINTMENT**

### **COURSE DESCRIPTION**

The purpose of this course is to integrate the study of crime with the general sociological approach to social behavior. The object of criminology is persistent advancement in the development of valid information regarding crime and society. Criminologists are interested in the details of crime events, in the characteristics of offenders and victims, and the disposition of criminals and treatment of victims as part of the administration of justice. Criminologists study crime, criminals, and criminal behavior with the aim of achieving a scientific understanding of these phenomena. As is the case with any of the social and behavioral sciences, the goal of criminology is to enable us to explain, to predict, and, in some cases to affect the values and behavior of those who make, apply, or break criminal laws.

When people read about crime in their daily newspapers or watch the television coverage of crimes on the evening news, their interest is likely to be rather general. They may be curious about what occurred, the identities of the criminal and the victim, whether or not a suspect was arrested, and what will happen to the person or persons accused of the crime. The fact that crime has become an aspect of everyday life for all of us has helped the development of preconceived ideas about crime. The preconceptions must be put aside if we are to be open to the considerable amount of knowledge criminologists have accumulated since the field began to take form over a century ago. The content of this course is structured around the major perspectives, issues and diverse concerns that characterize contemporary criminology. The purpose of this course is to provide the student with an understanding of the nature and extent of crime, the development of specific objectives of this course include the development of greater skills in analyzing and critiquing information about crime and crime policy, and creating a better understanding about crime statistics, crime typologies, and correlates of crime. Additionally, relatively new areas of criminological concern such as women and crime, community involvement, fencing, corporate deviance, and victimology are briefly explored.

By examining research on crime in only one society we cannot hope to understand all aspects of the phenomenon. In order to better understand the U.S. crime scene, a brief cross-cultural study is undertaken of major aspects of the criminal justice systems such as the Japanese KOBAN, and the Swedish prison system.

## **COURSE REQUIREMENTS**

### **TEXT**

Criminology by Conklin (2007) 9<sup>th</sup> Edition

Relevant articles from criminology journals will be used as additional reading materials. Some will be distributed in class by the instructor.

### **EXAMS**

There will be three exams of varying weight. Exams will cover lectures, class discussions, readings, and handouts. Exams may be a combination of true/false, short answers, and brief essays. NOTE: the tests will provide choices

Students should be aware of and follow the **Academic Honesty and Integrity Policy**.

### **TAKE HOME ASSIGNMENT**

Two Article reviews 3 pages each. PAPER DUE the 26<sup>th</sup> of April.

Additional details concerning this assignment will be provided in the near future. The instructor will give examples of the type of work required, and will work with students individually in order to assist in the development of the project.

### **GRADING**

Your grade in this class will be based on three exams, your take home assignment, and your class attendance.

Exam #1	20%
Exam #2	25%
Exam#3	30%
Take Home Assignment	15%
General Evaluation	10%

It is the student's responsibility to complete all assignments on time and to attend class prepared to discuss and apply the appropriate readings. If illness or other circumstances prevent compliance with these expectations, the student should notify the instructor as soon as possible. The main format used in this class will be lecture-discussion. In my lectures I will provide a considerable amount of material not included in the readings. It is important to keep up with the lectures, readings, and class discussions. Regular attendance and having read and thought about each reading before coming to class is expected. There usually is an important link between your participation in class and what you will get out of your studies. Of course, as students will express their thoughts, questions, and concerns, we shall all be courteous and respectful of each other's views and opinions. YES, CLASS ATTENDANCE IS EXPECTED.

## TENTATIVE COURSE OUTLINE

### WEEKLEY TOPICS AND READING ASSIGNMENTS

*Please note: Students are responsible for any syllabus changes announced in class*

Week	Topics	Chapters
Week 1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•Organizational Meeting</li> <li>•Introduction &amp; Overview</li> <li>•Concepts of Crime, Law, and Criminology</li> <li>•A Brief History of Criminology</li> <li>•The Criminological Enterprise: Statistics, Sociology of Law, Theory, Typologies, Victimology</li> </ul>	Conklin 1
Week 2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•Crime Statistics</li> <li>•The Measurement of Crime</li> <li>•The Dark Figure of Crime</li> <li>•The Limits of Statistical and Field Data</li> <li>•Gathering Data</li> <li>•Explaining Crime Trends</li> </ul>	Conklin 2 Handouts
Week 3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•The Costs of Crime</li> <li>•Conventional, White Collar, Street Crimes               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•Which is more serious?</li> <li>•Which is more costly?</li> </ul> </li> <li>•A typology of Crime</li> <li>•Burglary</li> <li>•Arson</li> <li>•Crimes of Violence               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•Robbery</li> <li>•Domestic Violence</li> </ul> </li> <li>•Legal &amp; Formal Control of Domestic Violence</li> </ul>	Conklin 3

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪Victimless Crimes</li> </ul>	
Week 4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪The War on Drugs</li> <li>▪The British Example</li> <li>▪Distribution of Crime</li> <li>▪The Relationship of Variables (such as Age, Class, Neighborhood) to Certain Types of Crime</li> </ul>	Handouts Conklin 4
Week 5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪Gender and Crime</li> <li>▪A Historical Overview of Female Criminality</li> <li>▪Trends in the Types of Crime that Women Commit Most Often</li> <li>▪Societal Reaction to Women Criminals</li> <li>▪Exam Review</li> <li>▪<b>EXAM # ONE</b></li> <li>▪<b>FRIDAY</b></li> </ul>	Handouts
Week 6	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪Theories of Crime Causation</li> <li>▪Organized Crime</li> <li>▪Feminist Criminology</li> </ul>	
Week 7	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪Social Control Theory</li> <li>▪Age-Graded Theory</li> <li>▪Neutralization Techniques</li> </ul>	Conklin 7
Week 8	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪Learning Theories</li> <li>▪Differential Association</li> <li>▪Labeling</li> <li>▪Community</li> <li>▪Peers</li> <li>▪Culture</li> </ul>	Conklin 8
Week 9	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪Opportunities and Crime</li> <li>▪Rational Choice and Routine Activities</li> <li>▪Facilitating Factors</li> </ul>	Conklin 9
Week 10	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪Chronic Offenders, Delinquents, Careers</li> <li>▪Criminal Career: Robbers</li> <li>▪<b>EXAM # TWO</b></li> <li>▪<b>FRIDAY</b></li> </ul>	Conklin 10
Week 11	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪Traditional Views of Organized Crime and Recent Interpretations</li> <li>▪Internal Workings of Organized Criminal Networks</li> </ul>	Conklin 11

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•RICO</li> </ul>	
Week 12	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•Interpol and Global Cooperation</li> <li>•The Police and Community Reaction to Crime</li> <li>•Community Dispute Resolution</li> <li>•Programs and Public Policy</li> <li>•The Fear of Crime</li> <li>•Community Notification of Ex-Offenders' Residence</li> <li>•Police and the Japanese Example of Community Policing</li> </ul>	Conklin 12 Handouts
Week 13	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•The Criminal Justice System</li> <li>•Police</li> <li>•Courts</li> </ul>	Conklin 13
Week 14	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•Prisons</li> <li>•Types of Incapacitations</li> <li>•Japan and Imprisonment</li> <li>•Sweden and Punishment</li> <li>•Punishment and Deterrence, Retribution, Rehabilitation</li> </ul>	Conklin 14 Handouts
Week 15	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•Retribution—A system of Just Deserts</li> <li>•Community Alternatives</li> <li>•Crime, Politics, and Alternative Approaches to Crime Control</li> <li>•Solving the Crime Problem</li> <li>•FINAL EXAM DURING EXAM WEEK</li> </ul>	Conklin 15

## LIST OF RELEVANT SOCIOLOGY JOURNALS

*American Journal of Sociology*  
*American Sociological Review*  
*British Journal of Criminology*  
*Crime and Delinquency*  
*Crime, Law and Social Justice*  
*Criminal Justice and Behavior*  
*Criminology*  
*Deviant Behavior*  
*The Gang Journal: An Interdisciplinary Research Quarterly*  
*Journal of Addictive Diseases*  
*Journal of Child Sexual Abuse*  
*Journal of Contemporary Criminal Justice*  
*Journal of Criminal Justice*  
*Journal of Criminal Law and Criminology*  
*Journal of Drug Issues*  
*Journal of Offender Rehabilitation*  
*Journal of Research in Crime and Delinquency*  
*Journal of Social Issues*  
*Journal of Youth and Adolescence*  
*Just Quarterly*  
*Law and Human Behavior*  
*Law and Society Review*  
*Police Studies: An International Journal of Research and Policy*  
*Prison Journal*  
*Social Forces*  
*Social Problems*  
*Sociological Focus*  
*Sociological Inquiry*  
*Sociological Review*