

University of Colorado at Boulder
Department of Sociology

SOCY 2044
Crime and Society

Fall 2008
Tuesdays & Thursdays, 11:00am to 12:15pm
Location: Hellems 211

Professor **Dr. Hillary Potter**
E-mail Hillary.Potter@colorado.edu
Website <http://spot.colorado.edu/~potterh>
Office Number 303-492-8864
Fax Number 303-492-8878
Office Hours **Tuesdays, 9:30am to 10:30am
and by appointment**
Office Location Ketchum 211
Mailing Address Department of Sociology
University of Colorado at Boulder
Ketchum 219, UCB 327
Boulder, CO 80309-0327

Teaching Assistant **Jo Painz**
E-Mail Painz@colorado.edu
Office Hours **Tuesdays, 12:30pm-2:30pm**
Office Location Ketchum 35

COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course is an introductory examination of crime and crime control in the United States. The course serves to debunk myths about criminality, the criminal justice system, and the prevalence of criminal offenses, and to provide an academic understanding of the subject matter. The continuum of the criminal justice system from police, through the courts, to corrections is surveyed. The course examines how these components and agents of the system are affected by public opinion, media representations, policy, and politics. In addition, the course provides a brief overview of the patterns of crime commission and victimization and the theories explaining crime causation.

TEACHING DELIVERY

This class will incorporate several teaching methods. Each of these teaching methods is important to the learning process in this course. Some of the more common methods to be used in this class are as follows:

Lectures

Traditional lecture will be used to assure that all students are fully aware of the information the instructors wish the students to grasp.

i>Clickers

A student response system, or “clickers,” will be integrated into the course to foster participation from all students in the class. According to Educause, “The system allows for active participation by all students and provides immediate feedback to the instructor – and the students – about any confusion or misunderstandings of the material being presented” (7 *Things You Should Know About Clickers*, available at <http://www.educause.edu/ir/library/pdf/ELI7002.pdf>).

In-Class Writing Exercises

Short in-class writing assignments (to be written in small groups or individually) may be used to generate critical thinking on a specific topic and to encourage class participation.

Documentary Films

Documentary films will be shown throughout the course to provide visually stimulating examples for several course topics. These screenings are to be treated as “lectures” for the course, and should be taken as serious subject matter that may be included in class exams.

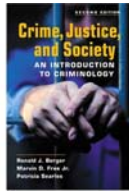
Class Discussions

Even though the class is fairly large, students are strongly encouraged to participate in discussion of the daily topics by providing their insights and asking questions for clarification or rhetorical contemplation.

STUDENT DISABILITY SERVICES

Students desiring a reasonable accommodation under the Americans with Disabilities Act must contact Professor Potter immediately to discuss their needs and seek assistance at the Disability Services Office, located at Willard Administrative Center, Room 322, 303-492-8671 (voice/TTY), DSinfo@colorado.edu.

TEXTBOOK



Ronald J. Berger, Marvin D. Free Jr., and Patricia Searles (2005). *Crime, Justice, and Society: An Introduction to Criminology* (Second Edition). Boulder, CO: Lynne Rienner Publishers.

COURSE WORK REQUIREMENTS

The course workload and percentage points are distributed as follows:

Assignment	% Points
Attendance and i>Clicker Participation	14
Papers	20
Reflection on Crime Papers = 10%	
Music & Crime Paper = 10%	
Examinations	66
Examination 1 = 22%	
Examination 2 = 22%	
Examination 3 = 22%	
Optional Final Examination = 22%	
	100

Attendance

Students are expected to attend every class. Attendance will be recorded via the i>clickers. Students must attend regularly to guarantee her or his place in this course during the first two weeks of the semester. If a student fails to attend during this time, he or she may be administratively dropped from the course. (Specifically, missing two or more classes during the first two weeks of class may cause a student to be withdrawn.) Student grades will not begin to be penalized for absences until after missing three classes. For excused absences, documentation is to be submitted to the teaching assistant (T.A.). Students should confer with the instructors outside of class sessions after an absence to find out if any handouts were provided or films were screened. Students are not to notify the instructors of absences before the anticipated missed class. During office hours or at a meeting time agreed upon between the student and the professor or T.A., the absentee student will be provided with any handouts. The majority, if not all, of the videos to be shown in this course are owned by the professor and will be placed on reserve in Norlin Library (Media Library section) for a two-week period following the viewing of the video. The professor will not provide students who miss classes with notes or copies of PowerPoint presentations. Typically, the professor’s notes and PowerPoint presentations are heavily supplemented with oral lecture and are practically useless to students without notes taken by class attendees. Therefore, it is strongly suggested that each student assemble class companions with whom to exchange lecture notes in the event a class is missed. The following are some legitimate reasons for missing a class, along with their corresponding required documentation:

Legitimate Absence	Proof Needed for Legitimate Absence
Illness	Note from a certified medical professional or recognized spiritual healer
Death in the family	Note from a family member and funeral information
Work (should be of an urgent nature)	Note from a supervisor
NCAA or Collegiate Sports Club athletic meet	Note from a coach. <i>Documentation for regularly scheduled meets must be provided during the first two weeks of the semester</i>
Religious holiday	Note from student specifying religious affiliation, religious holiday, and corresponding activities <i>(to be provided during the first two weeks of the semester)</i>

Reading Assignments and i>Clicker Participation

Students are responsible for all material covered in class and listed on the *Class Schedule* (see below). Prior to each class, students are expected to read the assigned material and be prepared with questions or comments and ready to respond to the readings. It is widely held in academia that students should spend at least two hours studying outside of class for every hour in class. That is, *each week six hours of study time should be devoted to this course.*

By the second week of class (September 2) each student must have purchased an i>clicker at the campus book store and have registered the clicker through CUConnect. Instructions on how to register the clicker can be found at <http://www.colorado.edu/its/cuclickers/students/register.html>. The frequency on the clicker must be set to that assigned to the classroom at the start of each class.

The i>clicker is to be treated as one of the many “school supplies” that are used by students. Just as it is necessary to bring paper and pens/pencils to every class, it is just as necessary to bring the clicker. No excuses will be accepted for failing to bring the clicker to class. The clicker should operate for 200 hours before the batteries need to be replaced, but students should carry an extra set of AAA batteries just in case.

Beginning September 2, 2008, each class – with the exception of exam days – will incorporate some form of questions that students must respond to by using their i>clickers. The questions will be based on the daily readings, current and previous lectures, and student opinions. Points will be assigned to these questions.

Papers

There are two paper assignments in this course, which will count for a total of 20% of each student’s final grade.

Reflection on Crime Papers

On the first day of class, students will be directed to respond in writing to the following questions:

1. Describe what first comes to mind when you hear the word “crime.”
2. Do you think that crime overall is increasing or decreasing?
3. In your opinion, what types of crimes occur the most? (i.e., have the highest frequency)
4. What types of crimes are you most concerned about? Why?
5. If you had to give a general “profile” of a typical criminal what would you say?
6. Do you think that the procedures and laws that are currently in place effectively address crime? Why or why not? If you think that the procedures and laws are ineffective, what changes would you recommend?

This paper will not be graded per se, but will be worth 2% of the overall grade. Each student will be given credit for honestly and thoroughly answering the questions posed above. These papers will help the instructors gain insight into students’ perceptions of “crime and society.” Students must keep this paper (i.e., not throw it away) after it is returned to them.

Toward the end of the semester, students must write another reflection paper, which will be worth 8% of the overall grade. This paper is not so much about what students think, rather, the purpose of this paper is to show that students can critically engage with the material that was presented during the course of the semester.

1. For the first component of the paper, each student is to revisit the answers to the questions that were posed on the first day of class and make any changes as needed, keeping in mind what was learned during this class. (2-3 pages)
2. For the second component of the paper, each student is to reflect upon how his or her perceptions of crime in society have or have not changed given the material learned during the course of the semester. (2-3 pages)

Students are to follow these additional guidelines:

- Cite lectures and/or readings that are pertinent to the paper.
- The final paper needs to be typed using a 12-point font and double spacing, with a Works Cited page (a.k.a., References; Bibliography). The paper must be 4 to 6 pages in length. The Works Cited page is not to be counted as part of the paper length.
- Students must review and follow “Professor Potter’s Paper Pet-Peeves” available in *CULearn* for this course.
- The paper is to be **submitted by Tuesday, December 9, 2008, by 11:59pm in CULearn only**. The grade for the paper will drop one letter grade for each day it is late.

Music and Crime Paper

Images of crime are found in many forms of entertainment and news media. One of these media includes the music we listen to every day. Students are to locate the lyrics to a song that discuss crime, criminal offending, and/or the criminal justice system. The entire focus of the song must be on crime-related issues. The lyrics may be from any genre (e.g., country/western, hip hop, rock) and any time period. **Students are to consult the list of songs to not be used, which is located on CULearn.**

Each student must write a paper based on the chosen lyrics. The paper must provide:

1. A summary of the story told in the lyrics.
2. A sociological evaluation of the lyrics using readings from the course. The sociological evaluation should consider
 - a. crime causation theories,
 - b. crime control effectiveness,
 - c. political influence, and/or
 - d. public opinion about crime and criminal justice.
3. A comparison between the lyrics and the reality of crime and the criminal justice system. That is, how consistent are the lyrics with what we know about crime and criminal justice?

Students are to follow these additional guidelines:

- Cite lectures and/or readings that are pertinent to the paper.
- The paper needs to be typed using a 12-point font and double spacing, with a Works Cited page (a.k.a., References; Bibliography). The paper must be 4 to 6 pages in length. The Works Cited page and the copy of the song lyrics are not to be counted as part of the paper length.
- Students must review and follow “Professor Potter’s Paper Pet-Peeves” available in CU Learn for this course.
- The paper (with attached song lyrics) is to be **submitted by Thursday, November 20, 2008, by 11:59pm in CULearn only**. The grade for the paper will drop one letter grade for each day it is late.

Examinations

There are four examinations in this course. The first three exams will be administered throughout the semester (Sept. 30, Oct. 28, and Dec. 4) during the regularly scheduled class time. Each of these exams will cover three separate areas of the course. The fourth exam will be cumulative of the entire course content. This exam will be administered during Finals Week on Tuesday, December 16, 2008, from 7:30am to 10:00am (in the same classroom). These exams will consist of multiple-choice questions.

Only three exams will count toward the overall exam grade, for a total of 66% of each student’s final grade. Each exam is weighted equally. If a student misses any of the first three exams he or she must take the final exam. A student who misses more than one exam is expected to drop the class. If a student takes the first three exams, she or he may also take the final and the lowest of the four exam grades will be dropped.

Each student is to report to each exam with at least two Number 2 pencils and a reliable eraser. In order to take advantage of the professor’s special “gimme,” students must arrive no later than 11:00am on exam days. Students must use restroom facilities prior to entering the classroom on exam days. Students shall leave the room on exam days only after completing and turning in the exam *or* if the student *truly* (and under dire circumstances) must relieve himself or herself.

GRADING

Overall course grades will be assigned on the following scale:

Grade	Overall %	Grade	Overall %	Grade	Overall %	Grade	Overall %
A	93-100%	B	83-86.9%	C	73-76.9%	D	63-66.9%
A-	90-92.9%	B-	80-82.9%	C-	70-72.9%	D-	60-62.9%
B+	87-89.9%	C+	77-79.9%	D+	67-69.9%	F	0-59.9%

Students may consult with the T.A. or professor throughout the semester to determine where they stand in the course. It is preferred that this be done during office hours. Detailed grade information *will not* be provided via e-mail or phone.

STUDENT BEHAVIOR GUIDELINES

The CU-Boulder Honor Code

Academic dishonesty will not be tolerated. Students are encouraged to review the Honor Code booklet at <http://www.colorado.edu/academics/honorcode/files/honor%20code%20booklet.pdf>. The Honor Code mission reads as follows:

As citizens of an academic community of trust, CU-Boulder students do not lie or cheat whether they are on campus or acting as representatives of the university in surrounding communities. Neither should they suffer by the dishonest acts of others. Honor is about academic integrity, moral and ethical conduct, and pride of membership in a community that values academic achievement and individual responsibility. Cultivating honor lays the foundation for lifelong integrity, developing in each of us the courage and insight to make difficult choices and accept responsibility for actions and their consequences, even at personal cost.

Respect

Respect of others is not only expected, but required. This includes valuing others' opinions, no matter how wrong some may believe those views to be, and allowing others to speak without interruption. Naturally, racial or sexual harassment or other forms of harassment will not be tolerated and will be dealt with authoritatively. The University of Colorado at Boulder policy on Discrimination and Harassment (<http://www.colorado.edu/policies/discrimination.html>), the University of Colorado policy on Sexual Harassment, and the University of Colorado policy on Amorous Relationships applies to all students, staff, and faculty. Any student who believes she or he has been the subject of discrimination or harassment based upon race, color, national origin, sex, age, disability, religion, sexual orientation, or veteran status should contact the Office of Discrimination and Harassment (ODH) at 303-492-2127 or the Office of Judicial Affairs at 303-492-5550. Information about the ODH and the campus resources available to assist individuals regarding discrimination or harassment can be obtained at <http://www.colorado.edu/odh>.

Punctuality

Students should make every effort to attend all classes on time. In order to not disrupt class, students shall utilize the restroom and take care of other personal matters prior to or after class sessions. (This is a requirement on test days.) If a student needs to leave class early, he or she is to notify the instructors of such before the start of class.

Side Conversations

Side conversations between small groups of students make it difficult for others to actively listen and learn. Repeated warnings to students engaging in side conversations will result in the involved students being directed to leave the class session.

Wireless Communications

All communication devices must be turned off or silenced upon entering the classroom and are not to be used inside the classroom during class sessions. Aside from the obvious of speaking on wireless phones, this includes the use of text messaging on phones and other apparatuses and accessing the Internet on a laptop computer, phone, or personal digital assistant (PDA). *Any use of wireless devices or other information technology during an exam will result in a zero for the exam.*

Sleeping and Other Forms of Inattention

Falling asleep in class is not considered appropriate student behavior. Students should make the mature decision to either stay awake and alert in class or go elsewhere and get some sleep. Reading books or materials without being assigned to do so by the professor or studying for other courses during class time is also not considered appropriate student behavior. Overall, students should make every effort to pay attention, which will assist students with mastering the material. Besides, the class sessions are only 75 minutes long – but a short span of time in a 24-hour period!

Class Visitors

Family and friends of enrolled students are welcome to periodically attend a class session. Please notify the professor of class guests prior to the start of the class. Unfortunately, class visitors are limited to people/humans; animals/non-humans are not to be brought to class, unless they are used as aids for students with disabilities and these students have secured assistance from Disability Services.

PROFESSOR RESPONSIBILITY STATEMENT

As the professor for this course, I am devoted to maintaining a safe place (figuratively and literally) for students to discuss issues related to this course. It is my goal that students will not only leave the course with a better and more critical understanding of the issues addressed in the course, but that they will feel I treated them fairly and with respect regarding discussions, handling of course topics, administration of the classroom, and grading. If students have any questions or concerns about any of my statements, omissions, grading decisions, etc., I strongly encourage them to come to me with their concerns at their earliest convenience.

Hillary Potter

CLASS SCHEDULE

It is expected that this schedule will be strictly followed, but the professor may make adjustments if less or more time is needed on a particular topic and depending on student progress.

Date	Readings	Topic
Tuesday, August 26	Syllabus	Course introduction
Thursday, August 28		
Tuesday, September 2	Berger, pp. 1-13	Crime perspectives
Thursday, September 4	Berger, pp. 13-34	Crime and the social structure
Tuesday, September 9	Berger, pp. 37-59	Crime measurement methods
Thursday, September 11	Berger, pp. 59-77 (Box 2.1 optional)	
Tuesday, September 16		Crime causation
Thursday, September 18	Berger, pp. 79-111	
Tuesday, September 23	Berger, pp. 113-152	
Thursday, September 25	Berger, pp. 153-177	
Tuesday, September 30		
Thursday, October 2		Crime types
Tuesday, October 7	Berger, pp. 187-228	
Thursday, October 9	Berger, pp. 361-406	
Tuesday, October 14	Berger, pp. 229-258	
Thursday, October 16	Berger, pp. 258-269	
Tuesday, October 21	Berger, pp. 271-314	
Thursday, October 23	Berger, pp. 315-360	
Tuesday, October 28		
Thursday, October 30	Berger, pp. 409-418	Cops
Tuesday, November 4	Berger, pp. 418-433	
Thursday, November 6		Courts
Tuesday, November 11	Berger, pp. 433-450	
Thursday, November 13		Music & Crime Paper Due (Nov. 13)
Tuesday, November 18	Berger, pp. 451-482	Corrections
Thursday, November 20		
Tuesday, November 25		No class – Fall Break
Thursday, November 27		
Tuesday, December 2	Berger, pp. 483-495	
Thursday, December 4		Exam 3
Tuesday, December 9	Berger, pp. 495-502	Criminal justice system alternatives
		Reflection on Crime Paper Due (Dec. 9)
Thursday, December 11		Crime, justice, society, & media in the 21 st century
Tuesday, December 16 7:30am to 10:00am		Optional Final Exam