

SOCY 2044
Crime and Society

Spring 2010
Tuesdays & Thursdays, 11:00am to 12:15pm
Class Room: Hellemes 252

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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 prevalence of criminal offenses, and the criminal justice system, and to provide an academic understanding of the subject matter. The course provides a brief overview of the patterns of crime commission and victimization and the theories explaining criminal behavior. In addition, 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.

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.

Guest Lectures: Criminal justice professionals and ex-felons may be utilized a few times throughout the course to offer their assessments about crime and the criminal justice system. Like the documentaries, the guest lectures are to be highly regarded and will be included on the course 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.

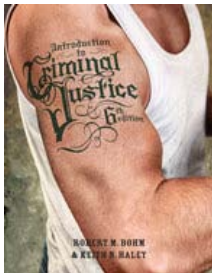
STUDENT DISABILITY SERVICES

Students desiring a reasonable accommodation under the Americans with Disabilities Act must contact the professor 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. Additional information can be found at <http://www.colorado.edu/disabilityservices/>.

If a student has a temporary medical condition or injury, please see the University guidelines at <http://www.colorado.edu/disabilityservices/go.cgi?select=temporary.html>.

Students requiring exam accommodations due to disabilities must review the University policy (<http://www.colorado.edu/disabilityservices/handbook/handbook6.html>). Students requiring exam accommodations must coordinate with the professor one to two weeks prior to the exam.

TEXTBOOK



Robert M. Bohm and Keith N. Haley
Introduction to Criminal Justice (Sixth Edition, 2010)
McGraw-Hill

COURSE WORK REQUIREMENTS

The course workload and percentage points are distributed as follows:

<i>Assignment</i>	<i>% Points</i>
Attendance & i>Clicker Participation	10
Assessments	6
Syllabus Quiz = 1	
Student Information Survey = 1	
Reflection on Crime 1 = 2	
Reflection on Crime 2 = 2	
Papers	30
Midterm Research Paper = 10	
Final Research Paper = 20	
Examinations	54
Examination 1 = 18	
Examination 2 = 18	
Examination 3 = 18	
Optional Examination 4 = 18	
	100

Attendance, Reading Assignments, and i>Clicker Participation

Students are expected to attend every class. During the first two weeks of the semester, students must attend regularly to guarantee their place in this course. Missing two or more classes during the first two weeks of class may cause a student to be administratively withdrawn. Students who miss classes during the first two weeks because they were not enrolled in the class will *not* receive credit for the missed days.

Each student must have purchased an i>clicker at the campus book store and have registered the clicker through *CUConnect* by 11:00am, Tuesday, January 19, 2010. The frequency on the clicker must be set to that assigned to the classroom at the start of *each* class. The 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 writing utensils to every class, it is just as necessary to bring the clicker. The clicker should operate for 200 hours before the batteries need to be replaced, but students should carry an extra set of

AAA batteries. No excuses will be accepted for failing to bring the clicker to class or for having a non-working clicker. For most of the class sessions, attendance will be recorded via the clickers. It is the responsibility of the student to notify the teaching assistant (T.A.) immediately before class begins or immediately after class ends that the student failed to bring her or his clicker or if the student's clicker is not working. Doing so will assure that said student will at least receive credit for having attended class. Student grades will not begin to be penalized for absences until after missing two classes.

For excused absences, documentation is to be submitted to the T.A. within one week of the absence. University policy regarding religious observances requires that faculty make every effort to deal reasonably and fairly with all students who, because of religious obligations, have conflicts with scheduled exams, assignments, or required attendance. During the first two weeks of the semester (by Friday, January 22, 2010), any student requesting to have an excused absence due to religious obligations must give a note to the professor specifying the religious affiliation and the religious holiday (e.g., Chinese New Year, Naw Ruz, Pesach). The following are some legitimate reasons for missing a class, along with their corresponding required documentation:

<i>Legitimate Absence</i>	<i>Proof Needed for Legitimate Absence</i>
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. Documentation for pre-scheduled meets must be provided during the first two weeks of the semester.
Religious holiday	Note from student specifying religious affiliation and religious holiday (to be provided during the first two weeks of the semester).

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 (some handouts will also be available on *CULearn*). 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 (Circulation Desk, on the first floor) for the remainder of the semester 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 often insufficient 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. Using the discussion tool on *CULearn* can also facilitate getting to know classmates.

Students are responsible for all material covered in class and listed on the *Class Schedule* (final page of this syllabus). 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. Beginning January 19, 2010, 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.

Assessments

There are four “assessments” in this course, which will count for a total of 6% of each student's final grade.

Syllabus Quiz

Each student is required to complete the syllabus quiz, available in *CULearn*, by 11:00am, Tuesday, January 19, 2010. No points will be awarded for quizzes completed after January 25. This assessment is worth 1% of the course grade.

Student Information Survey

Each student is required to complete the student information survey, available in *CULearn*, by 11:59pm, Thursday, January 21, 2010. No points will be awarded for surveys completed after January 28. This assessment is worth 1% of the course grade.

Reflection on Crime Assessments

There are two “reflection on crime” assessments for this course.

The first assessment, which is available in *CULearn*, is to be completed by 11:00am, January 14, 2010. This assessment 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. This assessment will help the instructors gain insight into students' perceptions of "crime and society."

Toward the end of the semester, students must respond to similar questions posed in the original reflection. This second assessment will also be worth 2% of the overall grade. This assessment is not so much about what students think; rather, the purpose is to show how students critically engaged with the material that was presented during the course of the semester. Some of the questions on this assessment will be graded based on relaying the information that was imparted during the semester. The second assessment will be available in *CULearn* beginning Tuesday, April 27, and is to be completed by 10:00am, Tuesday, May 4, 2010.

Examinations

There are four examinations in this course. The first three exams will be administered throughout the semester (Feb. 11, Mar. 18, and Apr. 22) 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, and will be administered during Finals Week on Tuesday, May 4, 2010, from 4:30pm to 7:00pm (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 54% of each student's final grade. Each exam is weighted equally (18% each). There are no make-up exams. The *only* students who will be accommodated with alternate exam times will be those with certified documentation from Disability Services. 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 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.

Research Papers

There are two research papers to be written for this course. The midterm research paper, due March 2, is worth 10% of the total grade, and the final research paper, due April 27, is worth 20%.

Midterm Research Paper

Each student is to research and write a paper on a type of crime, which is worth 10% of the total grade. The paper will focus on a specific crime. Students are to choose any *one* crime listed on page 37, Table 2.1, of the textbook. (Note: Do not choose one of the "crime types," which are listed in bold, but a *specific* crime. Do not use crimes from the "organized crimes" section.)

The paper is to include the following:

- A legal definition of the crime.
- The trends of the specific crime during the past 4 decades (1970s through 2000s) and the frequencies for the most recent year of available statistics for the United States and for one other country.
- Focusing on U.S. society, discussion of *one* social issue or dilemma with the crime (see pages 28-29 of textbook on social definitions of crime). This is to be the majority of the paper; this discussion should be at least 75% of the paper content. At least one of the required scholarly references must be used for this segment of the paper.

Students are to follow these additional guidelines for the midterm research paper:

- The paper needs to be typed using a 12-point font and double spacing.
- The paper is *not* to include a separate cover page, but must include the following at top of the first page: (a) student name and (b) the crime discussed in paper.
- Two (2) scholarly publications must be used in the paper. Class lectures should not to be used as a source *unless* the information is *not* available elsewhere.
- The paper must properly cite sources using *only* ASA-style. A separate references page is *not* to be included, but scholarly references used in the paper must be properly cited at the end of the paper under the heading "References."
- The paper must be 500-800 words. The student's name, paper title, and references list are not to be included in the paper word count.
- Students must review and follow "Professor Potter's Paper Pet-Peeves" (available in *CULearn*).

The midterm research paper is to be submitted by 11:59pm on Tuesday, March 2, 2010, in *CULearn* only. The grade for the paper will drop one letter grade for each day it is late. Papers will be checked for plagiarism.

Final Research Paper

Each student is required to write a final research paper taking a position on a particular issue. Students are to select a contemporary issue within the area of crime, criminality, or the criminal justice system.

To supplement the paper discussion, students may also participate in or observe an activity within the field of “criminal justice” to be incorporated into the paper. The activities include going on a police ride-along, sitting in on criminal court proceedings, or touring a jail or prison. (Several correctional facility tours will be scheduled by the professor, but students may also schedule their own tours if they are able to do so.) Any other experiential activities should first be cleared with the professor. Proof of an experiential activity done without the professor must be submitted with the paper.

The paper will present an arguable opinion about the chosen issue, *and* incorporate existing scholarly research to support the argument.

Students are to follow these additional guidelines for the final research paper:

- The paper needs to be typed using a 12-point font and double spacing.
- The paper must have a cover page that includes student name and a paper title.
- At least four (4) scholarly publications must be used for papers that *do not* include an experiential component. At least one (1) scholarly publication must be used for papers that include an experiential component.
- The paper must properly cite resources using *only* ASA-style. A separate “References” page is to be included at the end of the document (not in a separate file). Class lectures should not to be used as a source *unless* the information is *not* available elsewhere.
- The paper must be 1700-2000 words. The content on the cover and references pages are not to be included in the paper word count.
- Students must review and follow “Professor Potter’s Paper Pet-Peeves” (available in *CULearn*). Students should also review the document titled “Writing a Position Paper” (also available in *CULearn*).

The final research paper is to be submitted by 11:59pm on Tuesday, April 27, 2010, in *CULearn* only. The grade for the paper will drop one letter grade for each day it is late. Papers will be checked for plagiarism.

GRADING

Overall course grades will be assigned on the following scale:

<i>Grade</i>	<i>Overall %</i>	<i>Grade</i>	<i>Overall %</i>	<i>Grade</i>	<i>Overall %</i>	<i>Grade</i>	<i>Overall %</i>
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 will be able to monitor their grades throughout the semester on *CULearn*. 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. The research papers will be closely checked for plagiarism using the SafeAssign program through *CULearn*.

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 he or she 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 exam days.*) If a student needs to leave class early, she or he 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/Remote 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 PDA. Laptops may be used in this course, but *only* for the purpose of taking notes. Accessing the Internet should *only* occur at the request of the professor. *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. Likewise, resting one's head on the desk is disrespectful to the professor. 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	Topic	Readings ¹	Written Work Due ²
T – Jan 12	<i>Crime and Justice in the United States</i>	Syllabus	
R – Jan 14		Page 3-25, 52-53	Reflection on Crime Assessment 1
T – Jan 19	<i>Crime Definitions</i>	Pages 27-37	Syllabus Quiz
R – Jan 21			Student Information Survey
T – Jan 26			
R – Jan 28			
T – Feb 2			
R – Feb 4	<i>Crime Measurement</i>	Pages 38-51, 53-59	
T – Feb 9			
R – Feb 11			Examination 1
T – Feb 16	<i>Crime Causation</i>	Pages 61-77	
R – Feb 18		Pages 78-82	
T – Feb 23		Pages 82-85	
R – Feb 25		Pages 86-97	
T – Mar 2	<i>Criminal Law</i>	Pages 99-139	Midterm Research Paper
R – Mar 4	<i>Cops</i>	Pages 143-203	
T – Mar 9		Pages 205-247	
R – Mar 11		Pages 249-284	
T – Mar 16			
R – Mar 18			Examination 2
T – Mar 23	<i>Spring Break</i>	<i>No Classes</i>	<i>Spring Break</i>
R – Mar 25			
T – Mar 30	<i>Courts</i>	Pages 505-530	
R – Apr 1		Pages 287-338	
T – Apr 6		Pages 341-374	
R – Apr 8	<i>Corrections</i>	Pages 377-426, 438-441, 535-541	
T – Apr 13		Pages 442-457	
R – Apr 15		Pages 430-438	
T – Apr 20		Pages 459-502, 531-535, 542-544	
R – Apr 22			Examination 3
T – Apr 27	<i>Conclusions</i>	Pages 547-567	Final Research Paper
R – Apr 29		Pages 567-585	
T – May 4 4:30-7:00pm			Reflection on Crime Assessment 2 Examination 4

¹ Textbook readings are to be completed by the start of class on the specified day.

² Please consult descriptions of assignments in this syllabus and in *CULearn* for time of day each assignment is due.