

PBJ 330 – CRIME AND THE MEDIA
(Online Session: July 25 – August 12, 2016)
Summer IV 2016

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Office Hours: Virtual – by appointment only. Please email me to set up a time to meet. I will be available to meet via Skype or by phone.

*Please note that over the break, I will not have access to my office phone or related voice messaging system. For a guaranteed response, please send all communication via email to the address above or through the course mail feature in Blackboard.

COURSE DESCRIPTION

Crime is among the top concerns of the American public. Public opinion polls consistently indicate that crime is one of the most pressing problems facing our country, politicians frequently rely on the public's fear of crime to pass crime legislation, and community-level neighborhood watch groups are formed in response to concerns about crime and safety. This course is designed to facilitate discourse regarding the perceptions of race, socioeconomic status, community, crime, violence, and victimization that is shaped by or impacted by the media. This course critically examines the relationship between the media, the criminal justice system, and crime in our society. Real cases from today's headlines will be used to stimulate class discussions of various forms of media.

COURSE LEARNING OBJECTIVES

By the end of this semester, you will:

- Learn the potential impact of the media on crime, the justice system, and society.
- Understand the media's critical role in shaping perceptions about this nation's criminal justice system and crime more generally.
- Consider how news organizations construct crime stories, and how the reliance on police and court sources for crime information affects the images presented about crime.
- Understand how media images are used to portray crime.
- Examine how media images can directly influence how the public thinks about crime, politicians formulate policy, and criminal justice professionals dispense justice.

REQUIRED TEXTBOOK

Surette, R. (2015). *Media, Crime, and Criminal Justice: Images, Realities, and Policies* (5th edition). Stamford, CT: Cengage Learning. **ISBN-13: 978-1-285-45905-9**

The publishers of this book also have an e-Book rental option available. You may rent a digital copy of the textbook here: <http://www.cengagebrain.com/shop/search/9781285459059>.

COURSE POLICIES

“Attendance” / Participation

While there is no formal attendance taken, as students are able to work through each module of the course at their own pace, it is imperative to one's success in the course that they be actively participating in class discussions and the course more generally. Signing in once a week will not be considered active participation, and may result in a deduction to your grade.

Classroom Conduct

All students are required to act and speak in a civil and courteous manner toward one another and toward the instructor at all times. Disagreeing opinions are both welcome and encouraged, provided that they are presented in a professional and respectful tone. Disruptive, rude, or discourteous behavior on the part of any student can result in their dismissal from the course and filing charges under the University rules and regulations.

Blackboard System

This course makes use of the Blackboard system. Your assignments, exams, and class discussions will take place in this online forum. Some of your tasks for the semester are set to release on certain dates. Please inform me as soon as possible of any technical difficulties not remedied by Blackboard's help feature. To be successful in the course, you will need access to reliable internet service.

When you submit an assignment, you will receive a confirmation message on your screen after a successful submission. Save this confirmation receipt (either print it or save to your computer as a PDF). If I do not receive an assignment, and you cannot provide this confirmation, you will not receive credit for the assignment. Be sure to allow yourself adequate time to complete the assignment. Technology failure is not an accepted excuse for missing an assignment.

Assignments

Please make sure that you have completed all assignments prior to the due date listed on the syllabus and/or on the Blackboard course site. Late assignments will not be accepted for any reason. This intensive, very short course must be completed between July 25, 2016 and August 12, 2016. This course has been designed to cover a semester's worth of content in three weeks. To successfully complete this course, the successful student should be prepared to put forth a minimum of four (4) hours of work per day. Of course, more or less may be necessary, based on the pace at which you work individually. In total, there will be 11 short quizzes (the lowest score is dropped), three timed exams, weekly discussions, and one multimedia presentation. No assignments will be accepted past 11:59 p.m. on August 12, 2016. One module per week must be completed. To avoid any issues, all work can be turned in early.

Submission Guidelines

APA formatting and writing guidelines should be followed for all written assignments. For assistance with APA formatting, visit <https://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/560/01/>. The Penfield Library also has helpful resources here: <http://libraryguides.oswego.edu/citingsources>.

Extra Credit

There will be no extra credit offered during this course.

Your Grade

Please do not wait until the semester is over to be concerned about your grade. If you are concerned about your grade at any point, please do not hesitate to discuss this with me as soon as possible to help you rectify any concerns. I am happy to discuss your performance and help you work towards your desired grade.

Contacting Me

Email is the best way to get in touch with me as I am not always on campus or available by phone. Please be sure to include your name and course name in the subject line, and use professional language. I do check email regularly and multiple times per day, and will respond to you within 24 hours unless you have been notified prior that I will be unavailable. If for any reason you do not get a response within 24 hours, I most likely did not receive your email. Please feel free to resend your email.

Your Email Address

From time to time, I will e-mail the class with important information (i.e., instructions for an assignment, announcements, etc.). Emails, especially containing confidential information, only will be sent to a student's SUNY Oswego email account or via the mail tool in Blackboard. Please also be sure you make my e-mail address a safe address on your account so that my e-mails are received and not sent to junk mail.

Retention of Graded Material

Education requires evaluation, both of individual students' performance, as well as the performance of an academic program as a whole. Work you submit for grading in this course may be retained by the Department in order to assess the quality of curriculum we offer to students of Public Justice.

UNIVERSITY POLICIES

Intellectual Integrity

The College Policy on Cheating and Plagiarism applies to all assignments and exams in this course. This also includes academic dishonesty and cheating on the taking of attendance. You should familiarize yourself with that policy, which is reproduced in the College Catalogue and can be accessed in its entirety at the website address below. If it is determined that you have cheated or plagiarized on an assignment or exam in this course, the professor reserves the right to assign a grade of E for that assignment or exam, or a grade of E for the course, depending on the circumstances.

"Intellectual integrity on the part of all students is basic to individual growth and development through college course work. When academic dishonesty occurs, the teaching/learning climate is seriously undermined and student growth and development are impeded. For these reasons, any form of intellectual dishonesty is a serious concern and is therefore prohibited."

(http://catalog.oswego.edu/content.php?catoid=26&navoid=1803#inte_inte)

Disability Services

If you have a disabling condition which may interfere with your ability to successfully complete this course, please contact the Disability Support Services (DSS) located at 155 Campus Center, phone (315) 312-3358, dss@oswego.edu. Please also see me after class or during office hours to discuss your needs.

The Office of Disability Services (ODS) provides support services and adaptive technologies to students who have a legally documented disability or students who suspect that they may have a disability. Students must contact the office before adaptive services can begin. Certain services, such as alternative testing, require advanced notice and are contingent upon the student initiating the process in a timely fashion. Alternative testing may occur at a time other than the time the rest of the class is taking the exam.

GRADING

Your grade will be based upon the following assignments (details for each are below):

Exams (3 @ 100 points each):	300 points
Chapter Quizzes (10 @ 10 points each):	100 points
Multimedia Presentation	75 points
Discussion Postings / Responses	20 points
Icebreaker Activities	<u>5 points</u>
TOTAL	500 points

Final grades will be calculated as follows:

A	94% - 100%	B	83% - 86%	C	73% - 76%	D	63% - 66%
A-	90% - 93%	B-	80% - 82%	C-	70% - 72%	D-	60% - 62%
B+	87% - 89%	C+	77% - 79%	D+	67% - 69%	E	0% - 59%

Exams

Each week, there will be a timed exam to be completed in Blackboard. Each exam will consist of multiple choice style questions, also including true/false and matching options. Each exam will cover the chapters listed on the exam. They are not comprehensive in nature. There will be a time limit of one hour for each exam. Each exam must be completed in one sitting, as forced completion is required. All exams are open note and open book. However, students may **NOT** work with each other. To do well on the exams, it is recommended that all quizzes and essays leading up to the exam be completed first. It is also recommended that each chapter be read with good notes taken.

Chapter Quizzes

There will be 11 quizzes will be administered through Blackboard during this short course. Each quiz will be approximately ten questions, and the quiz with the lowest score will be dropped. They may be taken at any time during the week and there is no time restriction for each quiz. It may be helpful to answer the questions while doing the chapter readings. The quizzes are designed to help you prepare for the exams. All quizzes are open book. You may **NOT** work together or receive outside help on the quizzes.

Discussion Boards (Weeks 1 and 2)

Students will be required to respond to a question, problem, or issue distributed at the beginning of each module. These weekly responses or discussion posts shall be a minimum of 350 words of content and must be written in an appropriate essay format. APA style citations shall be used. Posts will be graded on quality of content and analysis, originality of thought, use of relevant literature, and organization. Essays shall be written at the upper class level, as this is an upper level college course. Please keep in mind that this is the bulk of the writing for this course.

Sources: Each post should apply relevant chapter readings and **must** include at least **two (2) scholarly resources**. The scholarly resources are in addition to applying relevant course readings. Keep in mind that for this assignment "scholarly resources" refer to literature from academic, peer-reviewed journals only. Magazines, textbooks, newspapers, internet sites, etc. will not count as a scholarly resource. The source must be properly cited within the text of the essay. A full reference list (also in APA formatting) must be included at the end.

Format: Even though these essays are relatively short, all essays should have an introduction, body, and a conclusion. The introduction should introduce the issue for discussion and provide a clear expository / thesis statement. The body of the essay should answer the question or address the problem by applying course readings and any outside sources you feel are relevant. The conclusion should briefly summarize your argument while pointing out any limitations or additional concerns that may need to be addressed.

Submission: Each initial post must be submitted no later than Wednesday of each week. This is required so that students have ample time to respond to other students' posts.

Responses: By Friday, each student is required to respond to **two (2)** other student posts. The responses shall be a minimum of 100 words each. The response should provide additional thoughts or criticisms of the original post. Contradictory evidence should be cited appropriately.

Grading: Your initial post is worth a maximum of six (6) points. Each response to other student posts is worth two (2) points each.

Presentation (Week 3)

Each student will then be required to make a short, multimedia presentation and upload it into Blackboard for all course participants to view. You will identify the issues, discuss the current and relevant literature, and provide analysis. The presentation should be 8-10 minutes in length. It must be uploaded no later than the first Monday of Module 3. The presentation may be a video, PowerPoint with audio, or any other acceptable format. It must be viewable in a standard browser or PowerPoint format. A description of the topic is provided in Appendix A. After Monday and before the conclusion of the course, each student shall view all of the presentations and provide feedback. Grades will partially be based upon this peer review.

COURSE SCHEDULE

WEEK 1: JULY 25, 2016 – JULY 29, 2016

- Complete Day 1 / Icebreaker Activities by Tuesday (July 26)
- Read Chapters 1 – 4
- Complete Quizzes 1 – 4
- Complete Discussion Post # 1 by Wednesday (July 27)
- Complete Two (2) Discussion Post Responses by Friday (July 29)
- Take Exam # 1
- Work on Multimedia Presentation

WEEK 2: AUGUST 1, 2016 – AUGUST 5, 2016

- Read Chapters 5 – 7
- Complete Quizzes 5 – 7
- Complete Discussion Post # 2 by Wednesday (August 3)
- Complete Two (2) Discussion Post Responses by Friday (August 5)
- Take Exam # 2
- Work on Multimedia Presentation

WEEK 3: AUGUST 8, 2016 – AUGUST 12, 2016

- Upload Multimedia Presentation by Monday (August 8)
- Read Chapters 8 – 11
- Complete Quizzes 8 – 11
- Watch and comment on each of the uploaded presentations by Friday (August 12)
- Take Exam # 3

SYLLABUS DISCLAIMER

This syllabus is tentative and may change due to unforeseen circumstances. Given the shortened nature of this semester combined with all assignments being submitted through the Blackboard course site, however, it is unlikely that the syllabus will change for any reason.

It is important for you to keep up with your syllabus and refer to it regularly to keep up with the course schedule and policies. A copy of the syllabus is also available on the Blackboard course site. Please note that losing your syllabus does not constitute an excuse for missing assignments or noncompliance with course policies.