

PBJ 333 – CRIME THEORIES AND VICTIMIZATION

MWF 11:30 a.m. – 12:25 p.m.

Lanigan Hall – Room 102

Spring 2016

Professor: Dr. Jaclyn Schildkraut
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Office Hours: MW 10:15 – 11:15 a.m., W 12:30 – 1:30 p.m., or by appointment

COURSE DESCRIPTION

An examination of the causes of crime and crime victimization and an analysis of competing explanations of crime and the impact of crime on crime victims. This course draws on perspectives advanced by a number of diverse fields of inquiry, including biology, psychology, sociology, and the political and economic sciences. Prerequisites: PBJ 101 or instructor approval.

COURSE LEARNING OBJECTIVES

By the end of this semester, you will:

- Explore various views and models about criminal behavior
- Understand the impact of theories and research on policies
- Become aware of causes and consequences of criminality
- Develop critical thinking, listening, and writing skills
- Apply theoretical concepts to society and crime

REQUIRED TEXTBOOK

Miller, J.M., Schreck, C.J., Tewksbury, R., & Barnes, J.C. (2015). *Criminological Theory: A Brief Introduction* (4th Edition). Upper Saddle River, NJ: Pearson Education, Inc.

ISBN-13: 978-0-13-3351237-3

Additional Readings:

1. Atchison, A.J., & Heide, K.M. (2011). Charles Manson and the Family: The application of sociological theories to multiple murder. *International Journal of Offender Therapy and Comparative Criminology*, 55(5), 771-798.
2. Durkin, K.F., Wolfe, T.W., & Clark, G. (1999). Social bond theory and binge drinking among college students: A multivariate analysis. *College Student Journal*, 33(3), 450-461.
3. Fox, K., Nobles, M., & Akers, R.L. (2011). Is stalking a learned phenomenon? An empirical test of social learning theory. *Journal of Criminal Justice*, 39(1), 39-47.
4. Ruddell, R., & Decker, S.H. (2005). Kids and assault weapons: Social problem or social construction? *Criminal Justice Review*, 30(1), 45-63.
5. West, A.D. (2005). Horton the elephant is a criminal: Using Dr. Seuss to teach social process, conflict, and labeling theory. *Journal of Criminal Justice Education*, 16(2), 340-358.

Additional readings will be available on the Blackboard website prior to the start of the term. They will need to be read prior to the start of class for the day assigned (please refer to the class schedule). This material will be discussed in class and covered on the exams.

COURSE POLICIES

Attendance and Participation

Attendance and class participation is mandatory and will be taken into consideration in the grading process. Students should come to each class prepared to engage in class exercises and discussions, and having completed the assigned readings. Attendance is defined as coming to class, prepared, on time, and staying for the duration of the entire class period. Participation means actively engaging in the course discussion and contributing over the course of the semester. The material covered in class will come from a variety of sources beyond just your textbook readings. Therefore, poor attendance and/or participation will have a negative impact on your grade.

Attendance: You are expected to attend every class. If you do miss a class, please make sure that you obtain the information covered from a classmate.

Excused absences must be arranged for in advance or documented in writing. Examples of excused absences are illness; family emergencies; obligations beyond your control, such as a job interview; and participation in SUNY Oswego athletic events. You will be required to provide satisfactory documentation of such absences.

Arriving Late/Leaving Early: Late attendance and leaving early is discourteous to the instructor and other students and demonstrates a lack of responsibility. Please do not come in late or leave early without prior approval from the instructor. If you arrive to class more than ten (10) minutes late or leaving early without prior arrangement, this will be deemed an unexcused absence.

Blackboard System

This course makes use of the Blackboard system. Over the course of the semester, I will post announcements, the syllabus, PowerPoints, review sheets, class handouts, related media discussed in class, and assignments on Blackboard. Some items 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 an email receipt for the submission. Save this email receipt. If I do not receive an assignment, and you cannot provide this email receipt, 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.

Cell Phone Policy

Cell phones will be turned off during class and will be placed face down on the desk in front of you. There will be NO text messaging. If there is an exigent circumstance in which a student is expecting an urgent call or message, see me before class to discuss this. Cell phones will be relinquished to the professor while students take exams if found to be in use.

Students who use cell phones or other electronic devices in class, in violation of this policy, will have 2 points deducted from their final course average for each day that a violation occurs.

Use of Laptop Computers

Laptop computers, iPads, and other forms of computers and electronic devices are strictly prohibited in class. See above cell phone policy regarding violations.

Assignments and Assigned Readings

Please make sure that you have completed all assigned readings prior to the assigned class period. All assignments will be due at the beginning of the class period on the assigned date. Any assignments turned in after the start of the class period will be considered late. Late assignments will not be accepted unless prior arrangements have been made.

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 come discuss this with me during office hours or by making an appointment. I am happy to meet with you to discuss your performance and help you work towards your desired grade, or you may contact me via Blackboard course mail. Grades will not be discussed through your personal email account.

Office Hours

Office hours are available for you to address questions, concerns, and any issues you may wish to discuss about the course. Please do not hesitate to take advantage of this time, especially if you are experiencing a problem with the course. The sooner we address a problem, the more likely we are to resolve it favorably. If you are unable to meet during the office hours for any reason, please feel free to contact me to arrange an appointment.

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 or speak with me at the end of class or during office hours. At times, I may forward those messages that deal with class content to the TAs if it can ensure faster response time. I will not forward any with sensitive information without your consent.

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.

University Closings

School closings will be communicated through the SUNY Oswego homepage and local media. Students can call the Oswego Information Line at (315) 312-3333. SUNY Oswego participates in the New York Alert emergency messaging system. This system allows University Police and the SUNY Public Affairs office to contact students in the event of emergencies, including campus-wide closing due to inclement weather. Participation in this system can be set up through the personal information page of students' myOswego accounts. If I must cancel class, I will post a sign on the door, add a message on our course website (Blackboard), and/or send a class email as soon as possible.

Non-Discrimination Policy

SUNY Oswego values the contributions to learning for its members that result from maintaining a diverse student body, faculty, and staff. The goal of SUNY Oswego is to nurture members' abilities and capacities for appreciation of living and working together in a diverse learning environment. Members must not expose others to discriminatory acts of any form related to gender, race, nationality, ethnicity, sexual orientation, marital status, age, or disability since such acts, either active or passive, create a hostile environment.

Members of the college community who experience or observe discrimination, an incident of sexual discrimination, sexual assault, sexual harassment, interpersonal violence, or exploitation, whether occurring on or off campus, should immediately report the incident. For further information on this policy, and reporting procedures, access the following link:

<http://www.oswego.edu/about/titleix/discriminationpolicy.html>

GRADING

Your grade in this course will be based upon the following (details for all assignments below):

Exams (4 @ 50 points each):	200 points
Theory Application Paper:	100 points
Article Discussion / Blog Posts (2 @ 50 points each):	100 points
In-Class Activities (5 @ 10 points each):	50 points
Attendance and Participation:	50 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

There will be 4 exams throughout the semester. The final examination will not be cumulative but will be held during the final examination period. Each exam will be composed of multiple choice questions, as well as short answer or essay responses. All material covered in class (lectures, supplements, etc.), as well as your assigned readings, is subject to be on the exam.

No textbooks or notes may be used on the exam. I will provide you Scantron forms for the exams. Both the exam and Scantron must be turned in. Failure to turn in the original exam with your name on it will result in a zero (0) for the test.

Promptness is important on exam days, as it is both distracting and unfair to your fellow students. **If you arrive after the exam has begun, you will not be permitted to take the exam.** Further, you will not be permitted to make up the exam without verifiable documentation of an emergency (at the instructor's discretion), and will receive a zero (0) for the exam.

If you miss an exam without a prior arrangement, you must provide me with verifiable proof for your reason within 24 hours of missing the exam, and the verifiable proof must be dated the day of the exam. It is also your responsibility to set up a time to take a make-up exam. Please note that not all excuses for a missed exam warrant the opportunity to take a make-up exam. If I deem the circumstances warrant a make-up exam, the make-up exam must be completed within one week of the original test date. If you do not follow this policy, or cannot provide me with a verifiable reason for missing the exam, you will receive a score of zero (0) for the exam.

Theory Application Paper

You will be required to write a theory application paper for your term paper this semester. The paper is intended for you to apply the theories you are learning to real world situations. You will select a crime or criminal justice issue that is of interest to you. This can include a crime, trial, specific offender, policing procedures, and so forth. If you are unsure of a topic, please see me and I will be happy to help you find an appropriate issue. You will then select one of the theories we discuss in the course to explain the topic. **Your paper topic must be approved by the instructor by the date listed on the syllabus. Failure to do so will result in a five (5) point deduction from your overall paper score.**

Your paper should exhibit an overall understanding of the theory and its application. Your paper should be free of mistakes in grammar and spelling. The structure of your paper should include a brief introduction to your topic with the majority of the paper focusing on the theory you have selected and its application. Your conclusion should tie together the issue, theory, and your understanding of both. All sources, including your textbook if used to explain the theory, should be cited. This includes in-text citations as well as a reference / works cited list. All citations must follow the current APA style guide. **No more than two (2) direct quotes may be used.**

Each paper must be a minimum of **5 full pages but no more than 7 pages long**, not counting your references and cover page. All papers must be typed, double-spaced, with a standard 1" margin and 12-point font. You must also include a cover sheet formatted in APA style, including the title of the paper and your name. I will provide a rubric for you so that you know how these papers will be graded prior to handing them in.

Relevant outside sources should be used to help facilitate your application of the theory to your chosen topic. These sources **must** be academic, peer-reviewed journal articles only and a **minimum** of three (3) journal articles are required. A full list of guidelines for the paper and related sources are included with your rubric.

Your rough drafts and final papers are due by the start of class on the dates they are due (see course calendar). All papers must be uploaded through the Blackboard website under the appropriate assignment folders. **You must upload a Microsoft Word document file with the appropriate extension included in the file name (.doc or .docx). Your last name also must appear in your file name. Papers in incorrect file formats will be returned and marked late.**

Any assignments submitted after the start of class time will be considered late. Failure to submit a rough draft or submitting it late will result in a ten (10) point deduction from the overall paper grade. For the final paper, ten (10) points will be deducted for each day late, up to three (3) days after the due date. Papers submitted more than three (3) days late will not be graded.

All papers will be run through Safe Assign in Blackboard, which is a plagiarism detection software. While there will inherently be a proportion of matching (e.g., citations), your matching score should not exceed 15%. Students will be able to see this score after uploading their paper (it may take some time to process as each paper is checked against a large repository of other papers, so please plan accordingly). If the score is too high and students wish to revise and resubmit, they may do so before the deadline. High levels of matching will be considered plagiarism and will result in failing the assignment, failing the course, and/or the violation being reported to the Office of Academic Integrity for further review.

If you have any questions about this process, make sure that you have those questions answered prior to the paper's due date.

Article Discussions / Blog Postings

Over the course of the semester, you will be reading several journal articles as part of your supplemental readings. Due to the amount of material to be covered in class lectures, we may not always have time to discuss these articles at length. However, these articles are important in terms of understanding criminological theory and should have time dedicated to discussion.

For each of the following two (2) articles, you will generate a blog post on the Blackboard system. These posts should not reiterate what you read in the article, but rather focus on your understanding of the theory and how the article relates to the theory. You will want to also focus on any points you find particularly interesting, and include any questions or thoughts that come to mind as you are reading the piece. Additionally, you are required to post a comment / response to at least two (2) other students' posts by the due date. Please ensure that your comments are thoughtful and respectful.

Each initial posting should be approximately 400-500 words in length (this is about 2 paragraphs or a typed, double-spaced page) and your responses to your classmates should be at least a paragraph in length (you will not get full credit for just posting a sentence-long response). Please ensure that your questions and comments are well organized. This includes proper sentence structure, spelling, grammar, and punctuation. No shorthand or text chat will be accepted.

Your discussion posts and responses will be due by the start of class time on the date the reading is due (please refer to the syllabus). **No late posts or responses will be accepted.** Of the fifty (50) points for each assignment, up to thirty (30) points will be given for your original discussion post and up to an additional ten (10) points will be given for each of your responses to your classmates.

Articles

Due 3/2 – *Is stalking a learned phenomenon? An empirical test of social learning theory* (Fox et al.).

Due 4/18 – *Horton the Elephant is a criminal: Using Dr. Seuss to teach social process, conflict, and labeling theory* (West).

In-Class Activities

There will be seven (7) pop quizzes over the course of the semester. These will be worth ten (10) points each, and the lowest two (2) grades will drop. These activities may be worked on independently or in groups, depending on what is best for the particular task. The goal of these activities is to facilitate the application of theories we cover in class to real-world problems. There will be no make-up opportunities for these activities, regardless of the reason, so it is important that you attend class.

COURSE SCHEDULE

M	1/25	Class introduction; Syllabus
W	1/27	Research 101
F	1/29	Theoretical Criminology: An Introductory Overview <i>Miller et al.: Chapter 1</i>
M	2/1	Classical and Neoclassical Criminology <i>Miller et al.: Chapter 2</i>
W	2/3	Biosocial Theories <i>Miller et al.: Chapter 3</i>
F	2/5	Biosocial Theories
M	2/8	Biosocial Theories
W	2/10	Psychological Theories <i>Miller et al.: Chapter 4</i>
F	2/12	Psychological Theories *** PAPER TOPICS DUE FOR APPROVAL ***
M	2/15	Psychological Theories
W	2/17	Section 1 Wrap-Up / Exam Review
F	2/19	*** EXAM 1 (Chapters 1-4) ***
M	2/22	Social Disorganization <i>Miller et al.: Chapter 5</i>
W	2/24	Social Disorganization Routine Activities Theory
F	2/26	Routine Activities Theory
M	2/29	Differential Association Theory <i>Miller et al.: Chapter 6</i>
W	3/2	Social Learning Theory <i>Blackboard Reading: Fox, Nobles, & Akers (2011)</i> *** ARTICLE BLOG POST #1 DUE ***
F	3/4	Cultural Transmission Theories
M	3/7	Cultural Transmission Theories

W	3/9	Section 2 Wrap-Up / Exam Review
F	3/11	*** EXAM 2 (Chapters 5-6 and Readings) ***
M	3/14	Strain Theories <i>Miller et al.: Chapter 7</i> <i>Blackboard Reading: Atchison & Heide (2011)</i>
W	3/16	Strain Theories
F	3/18	Strain Theories *** PAPER ROUGH DRAFTS DUE ***
M	3/21	*** SPRING BREAK – NO CLASSES ***
W	3/23	*** SPRING BREAK – NO CLASSES ***
F	3/25	*** SPRING BREAK – NO CLASSES ***
M	3/28	Control Theories <i>Miller et al.: Chapter 8</i> <i>Blackboard Reading: Durkin, Wolfe, & Clark (1999)</i>
W	3/30	*** ACJS – NO CLASSES / READING DAY ***
F	4/1	*** ACJS – NO CLASSES / READING DAY ***
M	4/4	Control Theories
W	4/6	Section 3 Wrap-Up / Exam Review
F	4/8	*** EXAM 3 (Chapters 7-8 and Readings) ***
M	4/11	Social Constructionism <i>Miller et al.: Chapter 9</i> <i>Blackboard Reading: Ruddell & Decker (2005)</i>
W	4/13	*** QUEST SYMPOSIUM – NO CLASSES ***
F	4/15	Social Constructionism *** PAPER FINAL DRAFTS DUE ***
M	4/18	Symbolic Interactionism and Labeling Theory <i>Blackboard Reading: West (2005)</i> *** ARTICLE BLOG POST #2 DUE ***
W	4/20	Symbolic Interactionism and Labeling Theory
F	4/22	Symbolic Interactionism and Labeling Theory

M	4/25	Cultural Criminology
W	4/27	Marxist and Critical Theories
F	4/29	Feminist Criminology
M	5/2	Evaluating and Integrating Theory <i>Miller et al.: Chapter 10</i>
W	5/4	Evaluating and Integrating Theory
F	5/6	Section 4 Wrap-Up / Exam Review
W	5/11	*** FINAL EXAM (Chapters 9-10 and Readings) *** NOTE: Exam begins at 10:30 a.m.

SYLLABUS DISCLAIMER

This syllabus is tentative and may change due to unforeseen circumstances. The best way to stay informed is to check e-mail and to attend class. If there are any changes to the syllabus, I will notify you in writing via Blackboard and will provide you with an updated copy.

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. If you lose your syllabus, please e-mail me and I'll send a copy to you via e-mail. 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.