

Professor S.M. Rodriguez

Fall 2017

T/R 9:35-11:00am, Adams 212

Office Hours: T/R 11:30am-12:30pm and by Appointment Davison Hall 205E

This introductory course will provide a foundational knowledge of crime, criminality and justice in our current time. It will focus on the United States, but include comparative cases from around the world that will allow students to understand the social constructions of crime and the criminal, and the ways in which discipline and correction have developed. As this is a survey course, students will discover a breadth of crimes and related issues by the end of the semester. There are various learning objectives associated with this course. By the end of the course, students should be able to:

- 1) Describe the emergence and purpose of law and crime according to criminological and sociological theory.
- 2) List the basic criminological methods and sources of data for the study of crime.
- 3) List the components of the criminal justice system and articulate the development of discipline, corrections and justice in the United States.
- 4) Interrogate various classes of crime, victimization and perpetration.
- 5) Critically interrogate the idea of the criminal.
- 6) Evaluate mass incarceration, its timeline and effects on American society.

There are various required readings for this course, but only two texts that students will need to purchase or rent. The reading list for this course will be considered a “living document” and is posted and updated regularly on Blackboard. Students must refer to this reading list to stay up to date on the assignments for the class.

Texts to Purchase or Rent:

Criminology: A Sociological Approach

AUTHOR: BEIRNE & MESSERSCHMIDT

EDITION: 6TH (2015)

PUBLISHER: OXF

ISBN: 9780199334643

The New Jim Crow

AUTHOR: ALEXANDER

EDITION: 12

ISBN: 9781595586438

Grading:

30% - Criminal Autobiography

10% - Contribution

20% - Reading Quizzes

20% - Midterm Assessment

20% - Final Project and Presentation

Fall Calendar:

September

Week 1: Introduction to Criminology and the Justice System

Week 2: Criminology as a Social Science and Early Perspectives

Week 3: Rational Choice and Strain Theories

Week 4: Labeling Theory

Reaction Paper 1: Honors Option

October

Week 5: Conflict Theory and Critical Perspectives

Week 6: Drug Crimes, *begin NJC*

Midterm Assessment

Week 7: Property Crimes

Week 8: Violent Crimes

Criminal Autobiography due

November

Week 9: Youth Justice

Reaction Paper 2: Honors Option

Week 10: Political Violence

Week 11: White Collar Crime

Week 12: Global Criminology and Final Presentations

December

Week 13 Presentations Cont.: *Human Trafficking, Cyber Crime: Hacking*

Presentations Cont.: *Animal Abuse, Commercial Vice, War Crimes, Torture*

Reaction Paper 3: Honors Option

Assignments

Reading Quizzes – 20%

We will engage with many texts in this course. As our time in class will be based equally in lecture and discussion, it will be important for you to stay abreast of the readings. Therefore, you will need to complete the readings listed for the week *before* the assigned day. You will not know the date of the quizzes ahead of time, so I recommend attending every class. An unexcused absence on a quiz day will be recorded as a 0; there is no opportunity to make up a quiz missed for an absence not cleared ahead of time or for an excusable, documented reason. At the end of the semester, I will drop one 0 (or your lowest score), regardless of whether it was attempted or you missed the quiz.

The quizzes are pass-fail. So if a quiz has five questions, and you miss one, you receive 100%. If it has five questions and you miss three, you receive 0%. The reading quizzes are simple and factual; they are not to judge whether or not you fully understand the concepts. You will pass as long as you have done the reading! A sample question may be:

1. This week's reading, "Between 'Oriental Depravity' and 'Natural Degenerates'" described and analyzed a case that occurred, in which a man of South Asian descent had:
 - a. been accused of having a sexual relationship with a young person.
 - b. imprisoned an elderly woman in his basement.

Criminal Autobiography – 30%

The midterm will be a reflective project in which students are asked to create an autobiographical profile questioning the role of the “criminal” label in their lives. A rubric specifying how to create the portfolio will be posted on Blackboard.

Final Project and Presentation – 20%

In the final project, students will need to research, write about, and present a modern or contemporary crime in small groups with their peers. Successful groups will integrate their choice of theories, perspectives and methods learned in this course. A rubric specifying how to write the final project and present the information will be posted on Blackboard.

Midterm Assessment -20%

There will be a midterm assessment that examines students’ mastery of the early topics. This assessment is to serve as a guide for students, so that they may understand their performance in the class early in the semester.

Contribution – 10%

Each student will be graded according to the their/his/her participation in and contribution to the class. This grade will consider the regularity of the following factors: 1) student attendance; 2) contribution to discussion and peer learning; 3) informed responses during seminars. It should be obvious that you have read and digested assigned materials before class, or that you have prepared questions or notes for the points that you’ve found confusing.

This grade will be negatively impacted by: 1) in-class cell phone use; 2) private conversations and inattentiveness; 3) unexcused absences and tardiness; 4) disrespectful commentary to peers.

Reaction papers - (Honors Option)

The goal of a reaction paper is to 1) synthesize the information presented from the assigned materials of the topic; 2) discuss its relevance or importance by connecting it to an aspect of criminality that one may witness today; 3) present a reaction that explains the student’s relationship to the issues and what has been learned. Each essay should be 3 double-spaced pages long.

Grading Chart

A = 94+

A- = 90 - 93

B+ = 87 - 89

B = 84 - 86

B- = 80 - 83

C+ = 77 - 79

C = 74 - 76

C- = 70 - 73

D+ = 67 - 69

D = 61-66

F = <60

Extra Credit Opportunities:

There will be several extra credit opportunities throughout this course. Successful students will take advantage of these opportunities long before the end of course – as no opportunities are guaranteed to open later in the semester. There will be a “living document” with these opportunities on Blackboard under the “Documents” tab.

An opportunity example for this semester is:

For an additional point on your final grade, watch the first season of *The Night Of*, write a three-page paper using concepts from the course.

Academic Honesty:

By enrolling in this course, you are agreeing to the following code of conduct. Any and all instances of plagiarism – intentional or not – will be penalized in this class.

Misunderstanding plagiarism will not be excusable in this course. You may read the following for definitions and guidelines to identify any possible infraction:

<http://www.accreditedschoolsonline.org/resources/preventing-plagiarism/>

Hofstra University Honor Code: “As a member of the Hofstra community I pledge to demonstrate integrity and ethical behavior in all aspects of my life, both inside and out of the classroom. I understand that I am accountable for everything I say and write. I will not misrepresent my academic work, nor will I give or receive unauthorized assistance for academic work. I agree to respect the rights of all members of the Hofstra community. I will be guided by the values expressed in the P.R.I.D.E Principles. I accept the responsibility to follow this Honor Code at all times.”

Deadlines and Grading Policies

University deadlines can be found here:

<http://www.hofstra.edu/studentaffairs/studentervices/academicrecords/academic-records-fall-2017-calendar.html>

In this course, no late work will be accepted without proof of an excused absence. Absences can be excused for religious observances, university-related athletic participation, jury duty, surgery, medical appointments, funerals, military service and death in the family. Documentation for medical events may not be provided by family members, regardless of the family member’s occupational status.

Honors Option

The honors option for this course follows [Model 2 of the Honors Grading Policy](#). This is explained below:

The second model treats the honors work as separate and apart from the regular class work. On this model the student receives the grade s/he earns on the regular assignments (papers, tests, etc.) while the honors work is evaluated independently. If the honors student does not complete or only completes honors work poorly, then the professor has the option of not awarding honors

credit for that additional work, simply by contacting HUHC to that effect. The additional honors option work and HUHC honors credit are thus severed from the student's performance in the regular class. The student could still possibly receive an A for the course, but no honors credit. This scenario might be based either on performance (i.e. non-performance) or on circumstances (student cannot complete additional work for other reasons).

Guidelines Related to Absences for Religious Observances

Any student who must miss class in order to observe a religious holiday retains that right in this course and University, which respect all faiths. However, all students are expected to complete all assignments and examinations. Therefore, all students must notify the professor ahead of missing class in order to ensure that we can coordinate any make up work. **Failure to notify the professor before two weeks of the event can forfeit a student's right to make up the work.**

Student Access Services (SAS):

Students with learning disabilities must inform me within the first week of the start of class. If you believe you need accommodations for a disability, please contact for Student Access Services (SAS). In accordance with Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 and the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, qualified individuals with disabilities will not be discriminated against in any programs, or services available at Hofstra University.

Individuals with disabilities are entitled to accommodations designed to facilitate full access to all programs and services. SAS is responsible for coordinating disability-related accommodations and will provide students with documented disabilities accommodation letters, as appropriate.

Please note that accommodations may require early planning and are not retroactive; please contact SSD as soon as possible. *All students are responsible for providing accommodation letters to each instructor and for discussing with them the specific accommodations needed and how they can be best implemented in each course.*

Student Policy Prohibiting Discriminatory Harassment, Relationship Violence and Sexual Misconduct

Hofstra prohibits sexual and other discriminatory harassment, stalking, domestic and dating violence, sexual assault and other sexual misconduct (collectively, "Gender Based Offenses"). If you or someone you know believes they have been subjected to any of these Gender Based Offenses, help is available. To make a report, please contact the Title IX Coordinator at (516) 463-5841 or TitleIXCoordinator@hofstra.edu.

Tuesday

Thursday

September

5th

7th

Week 1

BB

12th

14th

Week 2

CSA - Chapter 1

CSA - Chapter 2

19th

21st

Week 3

CSA - Chapter 4

CSA - Chapter 5.4

26th

28th

Week 4

CSA - Chapter 7

RP 1 Due

October

3rd

5th

Week 5

CSA - Chapter 6

Midterm Assessment

10th

12th

Week 6

NJC- Introduction

NJC - Chapter 1

17th

19th

Week 7

No Class

NJC - Chapter 2

24th

26th

Week 8

NJC - Chapter 3

CSA- Chapter 10 (optional)

Criminal Autobiography Due

31st

Week 9

NJC - Chapter 5 Film: 13th

November

2nd

Week 9

CSA - Chapter 11

7th

9th

Week 10

CSA - Chapter 13

BB article

RP 2 Due

14th

16th

Week 11

BB article

21st

23rd

Week 12

CSA - Chapter 12 class online

No Class

28th

30th

Week 13

CSA - Chapter 14

Presentations

1: Serial Murder, Mass Murder

December

5th

7th RP 3 due

Week 14

Presentations

Presentations

1: Prostitution, Cyber Crime, Animal Abuse

1: War Crimes, Domestic Terrorism

