

University of Hawai'i at Manoa
Sociology 333
Survey of Criminology

-Fall 2015-

MWF 12:30-1:20p, KUY 306

Instructor: Angel Camacho – M.A., Sociology; M.A., Criminal Justice

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Course Description:

Criminology is the study of law-making, law-breaking, and law-enforcement. This course surveys these fields. We will focus on major institutions, actors, and processes in American criminal justice, including the media and public perception, the police, the courts, and the prison system. We will also examine how mass incarceration reflects and reinforces racial inequalities in the United States.

Course Objective:

Crime, as it is often presented in the media, is a matter of good v. evil or right v. wrong. This course is designed to teach you how to look at crime in a more systematic way, one that relies on scientific observation and critical analysis. You will be encouraged to think critically and analyze a variety of social issues surrounding criminal behavior. Critical reading, writing and thinking skills are required of you in every facet of your lives; therefore, this class will also focus on improving these skills.

Student Learning Outcomes (SLOs):

- Apply sociological theories of crime to contemporary cases.
- Explain the multiple causes of crime.
- Describe how mass incarceration reflects and reinforces racial inequalities in the U.S.
- Describe how social institutions prevent and/or contribute to crime.

Books:

Jeffrey Reiman and Paul Leighton. 2013. *The Rich Get Richer and the Poor Get Prison: Ideology, Class, and Criminal Justice*. 10 ed. Pearson.

Michelle Alexander. 2012. *The New Jim Crow: Mass Incarceration in the Age of Colorblindness*. The New Press.

Supplemental readings will be available on Laulima or handed out in class.

Requirements:

1. **Attendance: 20%**

Attendance is mandatory and will be taken each class period. We will meet a total of 44 times throughout the semester. Thus, attendance grades will be calculated by taking the number of times you have attended class and dividing it by 44. *Excused absences will be at the discretion of the instructor. Be sure to keep and show the instructor any proof of doctor's visits, car troubles, flight itineraries, etc.*

2. **Interest Statement: 10%**

You are required to submit an interest statement in class on 9/11/15 (week 3). For this assignment you will state what topic in criminology interests you most, and why. This writing exercise is not meant to be overly exhaustive. In other words, keep your statements brief—1 page **max** (typed, double space, 12-point font, 1-inch margin). Although this assignment will be graded as 'complete' or 'incomplete,' simple statements such as, "*I'm interested in prisons,*" are unacceptable.

3. **Pop Quizzes: 20%**

Throughout the semester, ten (10) pop quizzes will be administered on unannounced days and times. The purpose of these quizzes is to determine whether or not you are keeping up with the required readings. *Make-up quizzes will only be allowed for excused absences, which will be at the discretion of the instructor.*

4. **Mid-Term Assessment: 20%**

A mid-term assessment will be administered on 10/19/15 (week 9). The mid-term will consist of 3 to 4 short essay questions. Further details TBA.

5. **Final Reaction: 30%**

For this requirement you will submit a short reaction paper (2-3 pages) in class on 12/9/15 (week 17). The topic and details of this assignment will be posted to Lualima during week 12.

***NOTE:** Late assignments will **NOT** be accepted, therefore, if you cannot make it to class for any reason, be sure to email your assignment to the TA by the start time of class on the due date reflected on the class schedule.

Grading Scale:

100—90% = A+ — A-
89—80% = B+ — B-
79—70% = C+ — C-
69—60% = D+ — D-
59—0% = F

Academic Dishonesty:

Any form of cheating or plagiarism will not be tolerated. Any student caught cheating or plagiarizing will receive an automatic zero (0) for the assignment in question. Not understanding plagiarism will not be an acceptable excuse. Please familiarize yourself with the UHM guidelines and penalties for academic dishonesty, including cheating and plagiarism. A useful resource can be found here:

http://studentaffairs.manoa.hawaii.edu/policies/conduct_code/table_of_contents.php

Expectations:

As with any learning experience, your level of engagement will determine what you get out of this course. I encourage you to make the most of this opportunity by actively participating in class, keeping up with the assigned readings, and reflecting on your own experiences. And, ask questions! If there is anything that you do not understand or that you are having trouble with, please ask for help. I want to make sure that you are learning the material and learning how to think about the material in a sociological manner.

Throughout the course, some of the topics will be sensitive, so I expect that we approach these classes with respect. While each person is entitled to an opinion, it is crucial that our discussions remain respectful. In other words, **always engage in debates about ideas, never engage in personal attacks**. I reserve the right to ask a student to leave the class if their comments are disrespectful or inappropriate in any way.

Cell phones need to be off or on silent AND **put away** during class. When you are in class be “in-class” and not somewhere else. Please do not work on assignments from other classes while in my class. Lastly, **BE ON TIME!** Again, I reserve the right to ask students who are being disrespectful to leave the class.

Communications:

E-mail is a good way to reach me. Monday through Friday I generally respond within 24 hours. If you e-mail me after 5pm on Friday, I may not respond until Monday morning. Sometimes questions and concerns come up that are best discussed in person. If it turns out you have such questions or concerns, we'll find a time to meet—either during office hours or at another mutually convenient time. Lastly, I would like to avoid receiving e-mails with questions that can be answered with a close reading of the syllabus.

Facing Challenges?

If you have things going on in your life which will affect your ability to do your best, then let me know as soon as possible—don't wait! You may not be responsible for your circumstances, but you are responsible for letting me know you need help or support.

Disabilities

Please notify me if you have any particular needs. UHM strives to maintain a barrier-free environment so that students with disabilities can fully access classes, programs, services and other campus activities. If you need any assistance please contact the KOKUA Program at 808.956.7511 or you can visit their website at:

<http://www.hawaii.edu/kokua/>

Syllabus:

The instructor reserves the right to make changes to the syllabus at any time. If I make changes, I will send out an email informing you of the amendment. **It is your responsibility to check your email for announcements, updates, and general class correspondence.**

SOC 333 Tentative Class Schedule

My goal is to keep pace with the class schedule, but throughout the semester there may be times when we explore topics that require more or less time than I have scheduled for them. We should feel free to explore these issues fully without the anxiety of having to keep strictly to the schedule.

*Note: All readings should be completed ***prior*** to the date reflected on the class schedule.

Week	Date	Topic	Readings
1	8/24	Introductions	N/A
	8/26	3 Theoretical Approaches to Sociology	N/A
	8/28	Personal Interest in Criminology	N/A
2	8/31	What Causes Crime?	Kenneth Westhues – “Mobbing and the Virginia Tech Massacre” http://www.arts.uwaterloo.ca/~kwes/thue/vtmassacre.htm
	9/2	Mass Media and (Mis)Information & Crime Data	Gamson et al.—“Media Images and the Social Construction of Reality,” <i>Annual Review of Sociology</i> , pp. 373-391
	9/4	Classical, Biological, Psychogenic Explanations of Crime	
3	9/7	NO CLASS: Labor Day	
	9/9	<u>Sociological Explanations of Crime:</u> Social Strain Theory	Paternoster & Mazerolle – “General Strain Theory and Delinquency: A Replication and Extension,” <i>Journal of Research in Crime and Delinquency</i> , pp. 235-263
	9/11	Cultural Transmission Theory	Interest Statement Due
4	9/14	Social Learning Theory	
	9/16	Social Control Theory	
	9/18	Labeling Theory	Bernburg, Krohn and Rivera – “Official Labeling, Criminal Embeddedness, and Subsequent Delinquency: A Longitudinal Test of Labeling Theory,” <i>Journal of Research in Crime and Delinquency</i> , pp. 67-88

5	9/21	Radical/Conflict Theory	
	9/23		Colvin & Pauly – “A Critique of Criminology: Toward an Integrated Structural-Marxist Theory of Delinquency Production,” <i>American Journal of Sociology</i> , pp. 513-551
	9/25	Rational Choice/Deterrence Theory	
6	9/28	Feminist Theory	
	9/30		Annette Jolin – “On the Backs of Working Prostitutes: Feminist Theory and Prostitution Policy,” <i>Crime & Delinquency</i> , pp. 69-83
	10/2	Socio-Economic Class & The Criminal Justice System	<i>The Rich Get Richer...</i> : Intro
7	10/5		<i>The Rich Get Richer...</i> : Chapter 1
	10/7		
	10/9		
8	10/12		<i>The Rich Get Richer...</i> : Chapter 2
	10/14		
	10/16		
9	10/19	Mid-Term Assessment	
	10/21		<i>The Rich Get Richer...</i> : Chapter 3
	10/23		
10	10/26		
	10/28		<i>The Rich Get Richer...</i> : Chapter 4 & Conclusion
	10/30		
12	11/2	Race & The Criminal Justice System	<i>The New Jim Crow</i> : Introduction & Chapter 1
	11/4		
	11/6		
13	11/9		<i>The New Jim Crow</i> : Chapter 2
	11/11	NO CLASS: Veteran’s Day	
	11/13		
14	11/16		<i>The New Jim Crow</i> : Chapter 3
	11/18		
	11/20		
15	11/23		<i>The New Jim Crow</i> : Chapter 4
	11/25		
	11/27	NO CLASS: Thanksgiving Holiday	
16	11/30		<i>The New Jim Crow</i> : Chapter 5
	12/2		
	12/4		

17	12/7		<i>The New Jim Crow: Chapter 6</i>
	12/9	Final Reaction Due	