

**SOC 431**  
**Analysis in Criminology/Juvenile Delinquency**  
**Spring 2011**

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**Office Hours:** MWF 10 - 10:30AM

Crime is a central issue in our society. Our newspapers are saturated with it; our police fight it; our communities grieve it; our politicians campaign against it; our scholars and “bar-room” philosophers debate its origins; our imaginations fear it. Crime seems to be everywhere. But is it? How much crime is there? How likely is it that you will be a victim of some criminal act? This course attempts to understand crime scientifically. To this end, we will analyze the empirical patterns of crime (how much crime is there? Who commits it? Who are the victims?), as well as theoretical attempts to explain these patterns. Criminal behavior is diverse, as are the explanations of it. Moreover, we will address efforts to control crime within a “free society.”

The course consists of four broad sections. The first begins with basic definitions of law, crime, criminal types, the differentia of criminal behavior, and measurements of crime. The second section analyzes the empirical patterns of violent, economic, normative, “white collar,” and “organized” crime in modern America. A range of sociological theories of crime is presented in the third section, and the final section covers issues of crime control.

**TEXT REQUIREMENTS**

1. Crime and the American Dream (Wadsworth Series in Criminological Theory) by Rosenfeld  
ISBN: 0534619584

2. Rich Get Richer and The Poor Get Prison: Ideology, Class, and Criminal Justice 8<sup>th</sup> or 9<sup>th</sup> edition by Reiman  
ISBN: 0205461727

**STUDENT EVALUATION**

Your grade will consist of three writing assignments which must be a minimum of 5 pages each (15 points each), a final paper which must be a minimum of 10 pages (30 points) and five in-class pop quizzes (5 points each). I will handout information on writing assignment guidelines two weeks before the first assignment is due.

There is a total of 100 points in the class. Final grades will be determined using a 90%, 80%, 70% etc. scale.

**LECTURE HALL BEHAVIOR EXPECTATIONS**

You are responsible for knowing the material and announcements presented during lectures whether or not you attend class.

Please arrange with another student to get missed notes and announcements. Please do not disrupt other students' ability to hear lectures (e.g., do not arrive late or leave early, remain quiet during lectures, be prepared to take notes before lectures begin, do not read or talk during lecture, sit in a seat, do not begin packing your belongings before class ends)

If you are a student with special needs or circumstances, have emergency medical information to share with me, or need special arrangements in case the building must be evacuated, please see me as soon as possible.

**SOME IMPORTANT ITEMS:**

- NO TEXTING EVER - you will be asked to leave class if spotted**
- NO MAKE UPS FOR QUIZZES**
- NO EXTRA CREDIT IS AVAILABLE FOR THIS COURSE UPON REQUEST**
- NO GRADE NEGOTIATING**

**Doing well in this class:** In order to do well in this class, it is important that you a) attend all the lectures, pay attention and take notes, and (b) do all required readings

It is critical that you do the readings. Doing the readings will help you to better understand lectures and focus your paper topics to the relevant areas that we have been covering.