Criminology is the study of law-making, law-breaking, and law-enforcement. This course surveys these three fields. Unit I focuses on major institutions, actors, and processes in American criminal justice, including policing, prosecution, criminal defense, judging, jury trials, and plea bargaining. Unit II examines American criminal justice in comparative perspective. It describes how America is exceptional and attempts to explain why. Unit III explores two forms of state-killing: capital punishment, and killing by police. Prerequisite: SOC 100, or any 200-level SOC course, or junior standing, or consent of the professor.

There are three required books in addition to other required readings that will be announced in class, assigned by email, or posted on Laulima. The class format combines lecture and discussion. Students are expected to do all of the assigned readings and to come to class prepared to discuss them. The professor will call on students in class, and there will be occasional pop quizzes.

Learning Objectives: To help students develop the ability to think clearly & independently about crime-related issues, and the ability to live confidently, courageously, and hopefully.

Books (available in paperback)


Scott Turow, Ultimate Punishment: A Lawyer’s Reflections on Dealing with the Death Penalty (Farrar, Straus and Giroux, 2003).

Grading: Exam 1=40 pts, Exam 2=30 pts, Exam 3=20 pts, Attendance, Participation, Quizzes, & Assignments=10 pts: 90-100 pts=A, 80-89=B, 70-79=C, 60-69=D, 59=F.

Note: (1) Students who cheat or plagiarize in any way will receive an F for the course; see here for rules regarding academic honesty: https://www.hawaii.edu/eli/useful-information-for-students/academic-honesty; (2) The professor will make reasonable accommodations for students with a certified disability (UH Kokua Program, tel 808-956-7511). If you believe you need an accommodation, please contact the professor during the first week of the semester. (3) An exam will be administered at the end of each unit, and one or more of the exams will be take-home.
Spring 2018 COURSE SCHEDULE for SOC 333: SURVEY OF CRIMINOLOGY*

UNIT I: AMERICAN CRIMINAL JUSTICE: Weeks 1-7, M January 8 to W February 21; Read Amy Bach, Ordinary Injustice: How America Holds Court (2009), Introduction, Ch.1-4, and Conclusion (pp.1-266).


UNIT III: STATE-KILLING: Weeks 14-17, M April 9 to W May 2; Read Scott Turow, Ultimate Punishment: A Lawyer’s Reflections on Dealing with the Death Penalty (2003), Ch.1-15 and Preamble to Illinois Report (pp.3-125).

*Other required readings will be announced in class, assigned by email, or posted on Laulima. Documentary films will also be shown in class during the semester – dates & details to be announced.