

COMMUNITIES AND CRIME

Spring Semester 2005
CJS 4323, Section 001, Call 14010

Class: R 4:00 – 6:45 CB 1.108
Office Hours: T/R 12:30 – 1:30

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COURSE INFORMATION

Description

This course provides students with an opportunity to examine more closely those criminological theories that shape our thinking about the distribution of crime across communities. As such, we will concern ourselves with the more macro theories. These theories attempt to describe why levels of crime are higher in one area than another. They do not attempt to explain why one person commits a crime and another doesn't.

Objectives

Students will become acquainted with the theories that address macro-level variation in crime and their place in the general body of criminological literature. Students will be able to demonstrate their knowledge through articulating the integration of their thoughts and theory in assignments.

Requirements

Required Texts

Kelling, George L. and Catherine M. Coles. (1996). Fixing Broken Windows.

Kotlowitz, Alex. (1991). There Are No Children Here: The Story of Two Boys Growing Up in the Other America.

Tonry, Michael H. and Albert J. Reiss (Eds.). (1986). Communities and Crime.

Resources

This class will make extensive use of **WebCT** for posting grades and resource materials, and this will require that you activate your NetID. **WebCT** is accessible at <http://webct.utdallas.edu>. If you have difficulty, see http://www.utdallas.edu/distlearn/students/webct_login.htm or call the help desk at **(972)883-2911**.

Prerequisites

CJS 3302 (Advanced Criminal Justice) or CJS 3303 (Advanced Criminology)

WARNING! You *must* be able to write at a college level. If you cannot, and you do not seek remedial assistance, it will impact your grade! DO NOT FEAR! Remedial help *is* available. See me if you're concerned about your abilities.

EXPECTATIONS

You Want To Learn

I expect that you want to learn the material in this class. Whether this is a required course for your major or an elective you've chosen, I assume you want to get something out of the experience. If you do not want to learn, please do not come to class – your distractions are a disservice to those hard-working students who want to learn. Disruptive behavior will be referred to the Dean of Students for handling under the disciplinary code.

You Will Ask For Help

More than likely, at least one of you will be stumped at one point or another in this class. This course builds upon itself from day one, so if you find yourself lost after day 3, you'll likely be lost (and miserable) for the rest of the semester. As I said earlier, if you're having trouble with a concept, you're likely not the only one. Raise your hand in class and I'll take as much time as you, and others, need to clarify and make the point clear. Likewise, I'm available during the office hours listed above, or by appointment. The bottom line is ***SPEAK UP!*** I can't help you if you don't ask!

You Will Not Cheat (A.K.A. Academic Dishonesty)

The surest way to torpedo your academic career is to cheat. Midterm and final in this course are open book and open note, so cheating (a.k.a. academic dishonesty) for our purposes means using your neighbor (with or without his or her permission) during an exam. I don't mind if you work with each other to prepare for a paper or to study, but do make sure that you learn something from the exchange. If I suspect any cheating the exams, the case will be referred to the Dean of Students for investigation.

Because this course is based, in part, on your writing, you should familiarize yourself with plagiarism guidelines. When writing papers for this class, you must appropriately cite material taken from another source. If the words you type were written by someone else, they belong in quotation marks with an appropriate citation. If, on the other hand, the words are yours but the ideas they express belong to one or more others, then quotation marks are not needed, but the original authors must be given credit for their work. All instances of plagiarism will be referred to the Dean of Students.

You Will Come to Class

Class attendance is essential. It is also your responsibility, so I do not take attendance. Whether or not you attend, ***you*** are responsible for all material delivered in class. This will probably include: deviations from the published texts, notification of errors in the text, rescheduled or cancelled tests, announcement of extra credit opportunities, etc. You can avoid many headaches by checking with a friend (or me) to see what you missed.

GRADING

Grades in this class are based on the work that you do. There will be ***NO*** end of semester extra-credit assignments made on an individual-student basis. This does not preclude extra-credit opportunities that present themselves on occasional quizzes or exams.

Grade Structure

Grades in this class come from your performance on a midterm and final exam, paper, and class participation. Grades are structured as follows:

Midterm Exam	30%
Final Exam	35%
Writing Exercise	20%
Reading Quizzes	10%
Presentation	5%
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Total	100%

Letter grades will be assigned on the following point scale.

97% and above	A+	87% through 89%	B+	77% through 79%	C+	67% through 69%	D+
93% through 96%	A	83% through 86%	B	73% through 76%	C	63% through 66%	D
90% through 92%	A-	80% through 82%	B-	70% through 72%	C-	60% through 62%	D-
						59% and below	F

Midterm Exam

There will be an in-class midterm exam, based largely on essay and short answer questions. The midterm will be worth 30% of your final grade.

Final Exam

There will be a comprehensive final examination given at the time specified in the class schedule. If there is sufficient interest (i.e., at least 5 students interested), I will be open to discussing a review session outside of class hours prior to the final exam. The final exam will be worth 35% of your final grade.

Writing Exercise

You will be asked to complete a paper, assigned before the midterm, worth 20% of your final grade.

Presentation

You will be asked to work with a small group and make one presentation during the semester. You will receive up to 25 points for this presentation, worth 5% of your final grade.

Reading Quizzes

Unless you are an extraordinary student, you will not do well in this course without doing the assigned reading. To encourage you to read, we will have seven random reading quizzes. These quizzes are designed not to test your mastery of the material, but merely your familiarity with the material. If you read, and comprehend, the material, you will do well on the reading quizzes. Your best five reading quizzes will be worth 10% of your final grade.

Grading Policies

Missed Exams

Arrangements to take an exam outside of the regularly schedule time must be made *prior* to the test. This rule applies whether you intend to miss the exam for personal reasons, academic reasons, or sanctioned school athletic events. If you demonstrate sufficient justification for rescheduling, I'll work with you to find a mutually beneficial time. If you wait to contact me until after I've given the exam or quiz, you'll need some evidence of your prior incapacitation, through no fault of your own, that

prevented you from complying with this policy. Missing an exam or the final results in a score of 0 for the missed exam or final.

Open Book Policy

In the real world, your employer will not ask you to work “without referring to your notes;” neither will I. **Your exams (midterm and final) will be open note / open book.** Resist the temptation to think these will be easy. Open book tests are generally harder because the answer is not in the book. While you may rely liberally on your notes and text for the exams, you may not rely on your neighbor (see Cheating).

Scantron Forms

Exams and reading quizzes in this class may require the use of Scantron (fill in the bubble) test sheets or blue books that you must provide (regarding Scantron, we require Scantron Form F-1712-PAR-L). These sheets are available at both the on-campus and off-campus bookstores, and require the use of a No. 2 pencil. I would suggest you resort to carrying a supply with you for every class. If you arrive on exam or quiz day without either of these items, you will not be allowed to reschedule the test, and the exam attendance policy below will be enforced.

Exam Attendance

Your punctual attendance on days of exams and quizzes is important. The exam or quiz will be handed out at the beginning of the class period, and you will have the remainder of the allotted time to complete it. If you arrive late, but before the first student has turned in the exam or quiz and left the room, you will be allowed only the remaining allotted time to complete the exam or quiz. You will not be allowed extra “make-up” time. Regarding the reading quizzes, if you arrive after I have collected the completed quizzes, you will not be afforded an opportunity to take the quiz and will receive a grade of 0. Regarding the midterm and final examination, if you arrive late, *after* the first student has turned in the quiz and left the room, you will not be allowed to take the exam, and will be required to take an alternative examination at a time of my choosing.

Identification on Exam Days

You **MUST** bring a form of photo identification with you on exam days. Examples of acceptable forms of identification are the University ID card (COMET card), or a state issued photo driver’s license. I will not allow you to turn in your exam without such identification. You will then have to take an alternative examination at a time of my choosing.

Reporting Grades

To respect your privacy, and in accordance with Texas law, your grades will not be posted publicly, nor will they be provided by e-mail or telephone. Your grades for each assignment will be entered into **WebCT**. As soon as I enter them, you will have access to them.

KEY DATES

Thursday, January 27, 2005	Field Trip (On Campus)
Thursday, March 3, 2005	Midterm Examination
Thursday, March 10, 2005	No Class (Spring Break)
Thursday, April 28, 2005	Final Exam

TENTATIVE SCHEDULE

The tentative schedule will be determined and distributed after our first class meeting.