

# EXTENT OF CRIME AND CRIMINALS

Fall Semester 2005

POEC 6307, Section 501, Call 13280

SOC 6301, Section 501, Call 13669

Class: Thursday 7:00 – 9:45, FO 3.616

Office Hours: Monday/Thursday 6:00 – 6:55

E-mail via WebCT

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## COURSE INFORMATION

### Description

This course provides students with an overview of crime, its victims, and its offenders, with an emphasis on “what we know” and “how we know it.”

### Objectives

The student will become acquainted with the various tools and reports used to understand the phenomenon of crime in the United States (and to some extent, globally). Students will develop a critical framework for the evaluation and understanding of information about crime.

### Requirements

#### Required Texts

Kappeler, Victor E. and Gary W. Potter, *The Mythology of Crime and Criminal Justice*, 4<sup>th</sup> Edition, Waveland, 2004.

Sacco, Vincent F., *When Crime Waves*, Sage, 2005.

Pattillo, Mary, David Weiman, and Bruce Western (eds.), *Imprisoning America: The Social Effects of Mass Incarceration*, Russell Sage Foundation, 2004

Conklin, John E., *Why Crime Rates Fell*, Allyn & Bacon, 2003.

#### Resources

**Internet:** 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](http://www.utdallas.edu/distlearn/students/webct_login.htm) or call the help desk at (972)883-2911.

**Library:** This course will require you to go to the library, conduct research, and retrieve and summarize relevant materials. This means an academic library, not your local public library. This means journal articles, not Time and Newsweek. If you doubt your ability to conduct academic library research, please attend one of the free classes offered by UTD’s McDermott library (see [http://www.utdallas.edu/library/services/lib\\_classes.htm](http://www.utdallas.edu/library/services/lib_classes.htm)).

# **EXPECTATIONS**

## **My Expectations**

This is graduate school. Many of you will understand these points implicitly. Some of you will not.

## **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 confused at one point or another in this class. 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 Participate...Responsibly**

We will be discussing important and timely topics about crime, victims, and offenders. These topics will often be controversial and emotionally charged. I expect that you will share your opinion with the class. You are free to disagree with me or a classmate, and are expected to share your disagreement. I simply ask that you make your disagreement known in a fair and civilized manner that promotes discussion (rather than conflict) and the free exchange of ideas. Be aware that what you say may change someone's mind, and be open to the fact that what they say may change yours. This class is as much about learning to clearly and concisely make an argument as it is about the content in the class.

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

The surest way to torpedo your academic career is to cheat. For our purposes, academic dishonesty means using any prohibited materials, your neighbor's work (with or without his or her permission), or otherwise misrepresenting work done by others as your own (e.g., improper citation, copied answers, etc.). Supplying your work to others for their submission constitutes cheating as well. If I suspect any cheating on quizzes, the exam, or other assignments, the case will be referred to the Dean of Students for investigation.

## **You Will Come to Class**

Class attendance is essential. It is also your responsibility. Whether or not you attend, **you** are responsible for all material delivered in class. This will probably include: deviations from the published text, notification of errors in the text, rescheduled or cancelled assignments, announcement of extra credit opportunities, etc. You can avoid many headaches by checking with a friend (or me) to see what you missed. Remember, this class meets once a week. If you miss one class, you're missing a week's worth of material.

## 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 the midterm and final exams, and the paper. Grades are structured as follows:

Final Exam	35%
Group Discussion	15%
Participation / Evaluation Assignment	10%
Paper	40%
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Total	100%

Letter grades will be assigned on the following point scale.

90% and above	A
80% through 89%	B
70% through 79%	C
Below 70%	F

### Final Exams

There will be one comprehensive final examination given on the date of the final exam assigned to our class.

**The final examination will be worth 35% of your overall grade.**

### Paper

There will be one paper due toward the end of the semester. The paper assignment will be handed out during September.

**The paper assignment will be worth 40% of your overall grade.**

### Group Discussion

Each week, a group of students will be responsible for leading class discussion. In addition to summarizing the readings assigned for the day, the group will be responsible for introducing and summarizing two external, academic resources. Each student participating in leading the discussion will be assigned an individual grade based on instructor and peer evaluation.

**The group discussion will be worth 15% of your final grade.**

### Participation / Evaluation Assignment

In addition to reading, students will be responsible for bringing one non-academic resource to class for discussion and relation to the material that has been read. Your performance on this task, throughout the semester, will be worth 10% of your final grade.

**The Participation / Evaluation assignment will be worth 10% of your final grade.**

## Grading Policies

### Missed Quizzes or Exams / Late Assignments

Arrangements to take an exam outside of the regularly scheduled time must be made *prior* to the exam. This rule applies whether you intend to miss for personal reasons, academic reasons, or sanctioned school 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 will result in a quiz or exam score of 0. Makeup exams, while covering the same material, may differ in design and organization from the in-class exam. I reserve the right to change this policy, offering a single makeup time for all students, if I believe students are abusing this privilege.

### Reporting Grades

To respect your privacy, your grades will not be posted publicly, nor will they be provided by e-mail or telephone. Your grades for each assignment, quiz, or exam will be entered into **WebCT**. As soon as I enter them, you will have access to them. Do not call to ask for your grade, or ask when grades will be posted.

## TENTATIVE SCHEDULE

This tentative schedule is *TENTATIVE*, subject to change with minimal notification. I reserve the right to change the dates for lectures, exams, and assignments from those shown below. All changes will be announced in class. It is your responsibility to listen for them.

#	Date	Reading Assignment	Group
1	8/18	Introduction	
2	8/25	Sacco Chapters 1-4	AD
3	9/1	Sacco Chapters 5-8	BE
4	9/8	Conklin Chapters 1-5	CF
5	9/15	Conklin Chapters 6-10	AE
6	9/22	Kappeler & Potter Chapters 1-4	BF
7	9/29	Kappeler & Potter Chapters 5-8	CD
8	10/6	Kappeler & Potter Chapters 9-12	AF
9	10/13	Kappeler & Potter Chapters 13-15	BD
10	10/20	Pattillo, Weiman, and Western Chapters 1-4	CE
11	10/27	Pattillo, Weiman, and Western Chapters 5-7	ACE
12	11/3		
13	11/10	Pattillo, Weiman, and Western Chapters 8-9	BDF
14	11/17		
		<b>Final Exam</b>	