

University of North Florida
Department of Criminal Justice
Spring, 2009
SYLLABUS

Course Number and Title	Crime in America CCJ 2002-10732
Class meeting Time Location	Tuesday 6:00-8:45 PM Building 39, 1016
Professor	Ted Wallman
Office Hours	Tues & Thurs. 1:00-2:45PM, 4:40 PM -5: 45 PM and by appointment. Bldg. 51/2305
Communications	Telephone: 221-9724 E-Mail: sue-ted@comcast.net and – t.wallman@unf.edu
Text Book	Crime and Criminology 12 ed. Reid, Sue Titus. Oxford Press

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

I. Purposes and Objectives

Crime is a serious problem in America. Americans express a great deal of concern about crime and go to great lengths to protect themselves from it. Politicians often talk about fighting crime during political campaigns because they know that citizens will respond positively to this, and legislatures sometimes allocate vast sums of public money to fight crime.

In spite of all the concern about crime, few Americans really understand much about the causes of crime or how our criminal justice system actually operates. This course is designed to address that lack of understanding. This is a *general education course* which will endeavor to help students to:

**think critically* about crime rather than just accept whatever family, friends, politicians or the media tell us;

**know more about the social world in which we live, in this case specifically about the crime all around us and the criminal justice system which attempts to respond to it; and*

**value ethical behavior in one's self and others, especially as it becomes clear how crime harms both self and others, and how the efforts to combat crime cost society in ways which reduce our abilities to do other things we might wish to do for ourselves and our children in the future.*

To achieve these ends, this course will cover: (1) what we know about the nature of the crimes which are committed in the U. S. today; (2) what we know about the criminals who commit them; (3) what we know about who is victimized; (4) how experts have tried to explain *why* crimes are committed; and (5) how our system of justice works. To accomplish these goals will entail an intensive investigation of these topics.

The four general objectives for this course:

- (1) To help students understand the **social context** of crime and of crime control efforts;
- (2) To give students a broad understanding of the **basic facts and figures** which comprise **the body of knowledge** in the field of criminology/criminal justice.
- (3) To give students a basic understanding of **the operation of the criminal justice system**, and the balance between our desires for **freedom** versus **security**; and
- (4) To help students understand the importance of, and to enhance their skills at, **critical thinking** in the study of criminology/criminal justice.

III. Class Format -

This class will meet once per week for two hours and 45 minutes. A break will be provided for 5 minutes about mid way through our time period. Students are expected to arrive on time and to remain until the class is dismissed. Class content will include lectures and 1 video.

Much of the material presented during the lecture class will NOT come from the textbook. The lecture information and textbook are intended to complement each other. Success in this course will be based upon regular attendance to take good lecture notes in addition to the reading assignments.

Audio recording of the lectures or presentations is NOT authorized without express permission from the Professor. Students who are unsure about how to take good lecture notes are encouraged to go to the Academic Center for Excellence (620-2766), which has free seminars on note taking, and study habits, as well as other assistance for students. The Professor can also assist students who feel that they are not achieving their highest levels of success in this course, so all students are encouraged to seek help from me at any time.

IV. Attendance and Classroom Behavior

It is assumed that all students will attend all lectures, be in class on time and in attendance in class the entire time. Research has proven that student grades earned are in direct relation to their attendance behavior. A record will be kept of attendance to monitor your class performance. It is imperative in large classes that everyone contributes to maintaining proper decorum; by turning off cell phones and other electronic devices.

If you have an emergency or special circumstance that results in absences or an inability to take a test at the scheduled time and date it is imperative you inform me as soon as possible. Make up tests will be taken under advisement to determine if I will approve doing so. Re-scheduled exams will only be permitted for *extraordinary* circumstances and will require official documentation (a doctor's note, work supervisor's written request, etc.). *Be very certain about this: Any student missing a scheduled exam without prior permission will receive a grade of zero for that test*

V. Examinations - 2 TESTS and the FINAL

There will be three **examinations**, administered on the dates noted on your Course Schedule. Each examination is worth 100 points, and they will be averaged to determine the final grade earned for the course. The first two exams will cover the assigned textbook readings and classroom presentations up to that point since the last test. The final exam will cover assigned subject matter dating from the second test plus some significant comprehensive course subject matter addressed earlier in the course. Exams will be completely comprised of objective questions (true-false and multiple choice.) and will be taken on Scantron sheets provided by the student. Further information about the Scantron sheets will be provided in class.

Each student should create a unique identification code comprised of 3 alphabet letters and 3 numbers (abc123), to identify their test grade when test results are distributed in class. This information should be added to the Scantron form along with your name.

VI. Grading Summary

The **grading summary for this course** is as follows:

The Professor will utilize pluses and minuses when calculating final grades for this course. The final grading scale is as follows:

93-100 = A
90-92 = A-
87-89 = B+
83-86 = B
80-82 = B-
77-79 = C+
76-70 = C
69-60 = D
Below 60 = F

*******Please note that cheating of any kind will constitute a violation of the University's Academic Integrity Policy and will result in a grade of "F" for the entire course.*******

VII Course Schedule

It should be noted that the course schedule, policies, and assignments are subject to change in the event of extenuating circumstances or by mutual agreement between the instructor and the students.

"Crime in America" - REVISED - COURSE SCHEDULE

<u>Date</u>	<u>Topics</u>	<u>&</u>	<u>Reading Assignment</u>
Week 1	Introduction & course overview. The origin and purpose of law, Concepts of crime and law and Doing Criminology		Reid, ch.1.
Week 2	Measurements of Crime and its impact. Characteristic of Offenders, Victims, and criminology research.		Reid, ch. 2
Week 3	The CJ System components and functions. The process from arrest to the Court decision, Constitutional rights of accused and victims		Reid, ch. 11
Week 4	Criminological theories, Biological and psychological,		Reid, ch 3
Week 5	Examination # 1 (2/ 3/09) – first half of class time Sociological theories- the “structure”		Reid, ch 5
Week 6	Sociological theories- the “process”. Violent crime types and data		Reid, ch. 6 & 7
Week 7	Violent crimes continued: domestic, terrorism, hate, stalking etal		Reid, ch. 7
Week 8	Property and White collar Crimes (which is the more harmful and why)		Reid, ch. 8 & 9
Week 9	Drug trafficking, abuse, and organized crime (Is the problem under control?) Our international and domestic activities to control the supply and demand.		Reid, ch 10

Week 10 **Examination # 2 (first half of class time- 3/10/09)**

Police – history of development, functions and activities.

Reid, ch. 12

Week 11 **Spring Break (March 16-20)**

Week 12 The Court System & Process: Juvenile court system; origin, purpose and practices and the death penalty

Reid, ch. 13

Week 13 Prison & Jails: history, types, purpose, practices and legal rights

Reid, ch. 14

Week 14 Community Corrections: probation, intermediate sanctions and parole.

Methods for evaluating the criminal justice and its future. Summary and conclusions

Reid, ch. 15

Week 15 **Final exam – Tuesday, April 14**