

The Sociology of Crime and Criminal Law – Soc 093231

Fall 2006

Monday and Wednesday at 12:30 p.m. in Education Building 3109
Office: Robinson 118H

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Office Hours: Monday at 3:00 to 4:30 p.m., Wednesday 11:00 to 12:00 p.m. and by appointment.

COURSE DESCRIPTION

In this course we will review the fundamentals of sociology, and study the nature of crime, theories of crime, and major forms of crime. Although Criminology is interdisciplinary in nature, **we will emphasize the sociological approach** in analyzing many of the facets of crime.

PREREQUISITE

Introduction to Sociology is the prerequisite for this course.

GOALS OF THE COURSE

After successfully completing this course students should be able to:

1. Define crime and criminology from a sociological point of view.
2. Describe the basic sociological concepts and theories applicable to crime and delinquency.
3. Identify and describe the social history associated with crime in our society.
4. Understand the different ways of measuring crime.
5. Understand and explain the major forms of crime.
6. Use the basic sociological research process.
7. Use the sociological perspective to improve individual decision-making processes.

REQUIRED READINGS

1. Criminology: Theories, Patterns, and Typologies (ninth edition) by Larry J. Siegel.
2. The American Drug Scene (fourth edition) James A. Inciardi and Karen McIlrath, editors.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

1. Required reading assignments
2. Midterm exam and comprehensive final exam
3. Research project that is preceded by two proposals
4. Oral report on your research topic
5. Oral report on one or more of the Inciardi articles
6. Oral “anchorpersion” reports (news story)
7. Class discussion

EXAMS

There will be two essay exams. Part or all of the period before the exam will be spent in review. I plan to return the exams during the class that immediately follows the exam period.

In order to receive a makeup exam you must have a written excuse from a doctor noting the appropriate dates or submit a comparable written excuse. If you do not understand this policy ask me. **If you are going to miss an exam for any reason that you know about before the exam you must get it approved by me first.**

The final exam will cover the entire course, but it will emphasize the crimes covered in the second half of the course as well as theory covered in the first half.

CLASS PARTICIPATION

You are strongly encouraged to join in everyday class discussions. You will also be required to do three oral presentations. Each is described below:

- One addressing articles in Inciardi and McElrath,
- Another as anchorperson, and
- A third on your research project.

REPORT ON INCIARDI and McElrath ARTICLE

There are 41 articles in the Inciardi reader. **Everyone is required to read each article.** In addition, starting **September 20th**, each student will be assigned one or more articles (depending on the size of the class) to present to the class. Student presenters will be responsible for answering the questions below. Of course questions 5 will be much easier to address after we cover chapters 6, 7, and 8 in Siegel.

1. What information does the article give about the relationship between drugs and crime? Does it point to a $D \rightarrow C$ relationship, a $C \rightarrow D$ relationship, or another? If it does not give direct information on drugs and crime, can you make any speculation based on the article?
2. What is the main thesis of the article? Do you agree with the thesis?
3. What policy implications if any does the article infer or suggest? Again, do you disagree?
4. Which theory or type of theory does the article support or correspond with?
 - Is coming from a positivistic or a classical perspective?
 - Is the perspective taken in the article basically sociological or is it biological, psychological or another or combination?
 - If it is sociological does it correspond with one of the sociological theories we emphasized from Siegel's chapters 6, 7, and 8? If so, which one (s)?

Please do not read from the book when you present. You may use notes but no book. Try to summarize.

Assignment of Students to the Inciardi and McElrath Articles

<u>Article #</u>	<u>Author</u>	<u>Student</u>	<u>Tentative Date of Presentation</u>
1.	<u>Weil</u>		
2.	<u>Lindesmith</u>		
3.	<u>Goode</u>		
4.	<u>Hirsch</u>		
5.	<u>Keire</u>		
6.	<u>Friedman</u>		
7.	<u>Siegal</u>		
8.	<u>Peele</u>		
9.	<u>Wechsler</u>		
10.	<u>Nichter</u>		
11.	<u>Anslinger</u>		
12.	<u>Grinspoon</u>		
13.	<u>Elwood</u>		
14.	<u>Halnon</u>		
15.	<u>Lindesmith</u>		
16.	<u>Inciardi</u>		
17.	<u>Preble</u>		
18.	<u>Pierce</u>		
19.	<u>Broadhead</u>		
20.	<u>Musto</u>		
21.	<u>Inciardi</u>		
22.	<u>Surratt</u>		
23.	<u>Miller</u>		
24.	<u>Jenkins</u>		
25.	<u>Hunt</u>		
26.	<u>Saum</u>		
27.	<u>Mattison</u>		
28.	<u>Lankenau</u>		
29.	<u>Bellis</u>		
30.	<u>Nurco</u>		
31.	<u>Inciardi</u>		
32.	<u>Goldstein</u>		
33.	<u>Maher</u>		
34.	<u>Rosenbaum</u>		
35.	<u>NIDA</u>		
36.	<u>Dole</u>		
37.	<u>Gannfield</u>		
38.	<u>Nadelmann</u>		
39.	<u>Reuter</u>		
40.	<u>Inciardi</u>		
41.	<u>Wilson</u>		

ANCHORPERSON FOR A DAY

Each Monday starting **September 18th** I would like one or two students--see Anchorperson Schedule--to bring in a newspaper, magazine or internet article and do two things. Briefly summarize the article and tell how it relates to class. Again, try to summarize it but you may have to read parts. Look for articles on crime and its causes rather than reactions to crime. I will also bring in articles. I would hope to keep the discussions to five to fifteen minutes. The idea behind this exercise is to **show the relevance of the theoretical points we will be covering in class and in our readings to what is happening around us.** If you fail to do your assignment it will negatively impact your class participation grade.

SCHEDULE OF ANCHORPERSONS

1. Monday, September 18 - _____
2. Monday, September 25 - _____
3. Monday, October 2 - _____
4. Monday, October 9 - _____
5. Monday, October 16 - _____
6. Monday, October 23 - _____
7. Monday, October 30 - _____
8. Monday, November 6 - _____
9. Monday, November 13 - _____
10. Monday, November 20 - _____
11. Monday, November 27 - _____
12. Monday, December 4 - _____

REPORT ON RESEARCH PAPER

Sometime between November 6th and December 13th you will share part of the information you are working on for your research paper. You can plan on presenting near the time we will be addressing “your crime” in class. This is a brief presentation, no more than 10 minutes. You will be our "specialist" on this type of crime. Items you should address:

1. The crime you are studying.
2. Information available: for example frequency, arrests, victim reports, characteristics of offenders and victims, and other data where available and applicable.
3. Reliability of available information.
4. The theory you are using to explain your crime.
5. A grade for the theory you chose. Grade your theory on how well it helped explain your crime. Give your theory a letter grade (A through F) with a plus or minus if appropriate and explain why you gave the grade.
6. Any personal observations about your research if any.

PASS/NO CREDIT, INCOMPLETES, ACADEMIC HONESTY AND WITHDRAWAL

College policy covers these points pretty well, but I will discuss my application of the policies the first day. If you have any questions or doubts about how I see the policies please ask me. I will not give an incomplete to a student who has not talked to me first--if at all possible--and where we have not worked out a mutually agreed upon contract. Anyone who violates the academic honesty policy will receive an “F” for a final course grade.

GRADING

Your exam grades and paper grade in this course will be given in numerical form. Your final grade will be converted to letter using the following equivalencies: A = 100 TO 92; A- = 91 TO 90; B+ = 88 TO 89; B = 82 TO 87; B- = 80 TO 81; C+ = 78 TO 79; C = 72 TO 77; C- = 70 TO 71; D+ = 68 TO 69; D = 62 TO 67; D- = 60 TO 61; F = BELOW 60; P = 60 OR ABOVE; and NC = 59 OR BELOW

Your **final grade for the course** will be calculated using the following

1. The midterm and the final 33.3% each for a total of 67%
2. The research paper will count a total of 33.3%. Your **proposals** will not count in your final average like the exams and paper, but **if you fail to hand in either proposal by the date called for your grade for the research paper will be lowered ten points for each lateness.**
3. Class participation may influence your final class grade. I will use the following scheme:

A	for class participation	= +2	to final course grade
B	“	= +1	“
C	“	= +0	“
D*	“	= -1	“
F *	“	= -2	“

*You can receive D or F if you do not do any of the oral reports.

If you have excessive class cuts, you will miss an immeasurable part of the course. Therefore, **if you miss four or more classes the highest grade you will be eligible to receive will be a C. If you miss ten or more classes you will not pass the course.**

Grades for research papers handed in late will be lowered five points each day they are late. Late papers will be accepted for a limited time only.

<u>CLASS MEETINGS</u>	<u>TEST, REV'WS</u>	<u>PAPER</u>	<u>TOPICS</u>	<u>LJS</u>	<u>Inciardi</u>
1. W Sep 6		Plan	Syllabus		
2. M 11		Research	Course Overview & Intro to Soc 1 – Bring LJS text		
3. W 13		ASAP!	Drugs and Crime	LJS 449 – 456	xv - xviii
4. M 18			Intro to Crime	1	
5. W 20			Intro to Crime	1	30,31,32,33-Drugs & Crime
6. M 25			Social Structural Theory	6	
7. W 27				6	38,39,40,41-Policy
8. M Oct 2		Proposal #1 Due	Social Process Theory	7	
9. W 4				7	1,2,3,4,5,6-Theoretical Pers's
10. M 9			Conflict Theory	8	
11. W 11			Bio/Psych Theory	5	7,8,9-Alcohol
12. M 16			Victims, Choice	3,4	
13. W 18	REVIEW				10-Tobacco
14. M 23	MIDTERM				
15. W 25		Workshop			11,12,13,14-Marijuana
16. M 30		Proposal # 2 Due	Measuring Crime	2	
17. W NOV 1					15,16,17-Narcotics
18. M 6			Violent Crime	10	18,19-Narcotics
19. W 8					
20. M 13			Violent Crime	10	20,21,22-Cocaine
21. W 15					
22. M 20					23,24-Other Stimulants
23. W 22					
24. M 27					
25. W 29			Property Crimes	11	25,26-Hallucinogens
26. M Dec 4			White Collar Crimes	12	
27. W 6			Organized Crimes	12	27,28,29-Other Psychoact'e
28. M 11		Paper Due	Public Order Crimes	13	
29. W 13		Review			34,35,36,37-Prv.,Intrv.,Trt
30. W 20	Final @ 12:30				

(no page 10)

Research Paper

Overview

Please read this section entirely before you begin your research project. Your work may include field research, but **talk to me first if you are interested in field research.** Field research is not a substitute for library research.

The main idea of the research paper in this course is to **apply one of the sociological theories (in chapters 6, 7, and 8) to one of the crimes (in chapters 10 - 14). You will be demonstrating how a particular theory accounts for or explains a particular crime.** You will need to make two decisions and those decisions will be written up as Proposal #1 and Proposal #2 respectively.

- Proposal #1 indicates the crime on which you intend to focus, and
- Proposal #2 indicates the theory you will be using to analyze the crime you picked. More detail below. **Be sure to do some research before you hand this proposal in because there will be no topic changes after the date proposal #2 is due.**

Suggested Sequence and Timeline

1. Scan the various crimes in Chapters 10 - 14 (LJS)
2. Prepare for and attend *Course Overview* (bring LJS!)
3. Zero in on a **specific crime** in LJS
Begin looking for other academic sources (review of the literature)
Start list of reference (bibliography)
4. Write and hand in **Proposal #1 on or before** **Oct 2**
5. Become familiar with *acceptable* (for this assignment) theories in Chapters 6 - 8
6. Return to your sources
Begin to **re-examine sources on basis of theory and its variables**
7. Write and hand in **Proposal #2 on or before** **30 Oct**
8. Write the paper in part on basis on my comments on Proposal #2
9. Give **oral report** on "your crime" when we cover it in class **6 Nov - 13 Dec**
10. Hand in paper **11 Dec**

More on the Proposals - please use the form below.

Proposal #1: Should indicate the type of crime you are planning to study. This will be a very brief declaration on your part. It should include

- **The crime** on which you wish to focus--be very clear about the type of crime. Try to be very specific. Be creative. You may propose to look at a limited part of a crime. For example, not robbery in general, but robbery committed by teenage females in rural areas. If you have some kind of personal connection with a crime--like a relative who works in the criminal justice system that gave you second hand but *special* access to information about a particular kind of crime he or she works with--you may want to follow such a lead.
- Whether or not you **plan** to do (a) just library research (as I would guess 90% of you would do) or (b) library research and field research. If you choose option *b* make an appointment to talk to me.
- **Sources** of information you have found so far (references or beginning bibliography).

Reserve your crime: I would like every student to do a different crime or at least a different aspect of the crime. Therefore, I recommend that you talk to me as soon as you have decided on a crime to write on--even before you do Proposal #1. **Types of crimes will be given out on a first come first serve basis.** You may reserve a crime by talking to me. Be sure I write it down and that you still hand in Proposal #1.

After Proposal #1 you will become our resident "Crime Specialist" on that crime. This means two things:

- You will be researching (library and maybe field) this crime for your research paper, and
- You will be **making a brief oral report on the crime.**

Proposal #1 Form

Due on October 2, 2006

Name:

1. Crime:

2. Research Plan
 - a. Library

 - b. Field - Optional

3. Sources of information found so far:
 - a. Information on the crime
 - i. Data (i.e. FBI, Victim Survey, etc.)

 - ii. Studies of crime

4. Concerns or questions:

Proposal #2 should include:

- **The crime** – This will be an enhancement of what you said in proposal #1
- **The theory** you will be using to explain your crime. The choices of theories will become clear to you as we approach the midterm. **You must use one of the theories outlined in chapters 6 through 8.** You may use more than one theory, but talk to me if you want to do that. I would recommend against using more than one theory, but it can be done. You could also use one of the *developmental theories* in Chapter 9. Again, this must be done with my understanding and approval. However, I would even more firmly recommend against using theories presented in chapter 9.
- **Your readings. At least six sources of reading in the area of emphasis other than (1) our text books, (2) journalism, and (3) Websites are needed for the final paper.** This is your beginning reference section. You do not need to have all six by this point in time. Share as much as you have. Tell me very briefly what the source tells you or you believe it will tell you. This will be like an annotated bibliography. These annotations are the beginning of your paper and should point to a focus, theme, and hypothesis, what you expect to find in the area you will be emphasizing **based on what you have read thus far.** Any additional information which may help me understand where you are going and why may also be included. You also may ask questions or point out special problems you see.

Suggestions for searching for sources:

- Start with the text material in the chapters.
- Look at LJS's footnotes and references.
- Search not only for information on your limited crime but on your theory as well.
- Look not only for your specific crime but also, for information on similar or more general but related crimes. In other words, using the example from above again, robbery committed by teenage females in rural areas, start with the overall crime of robbery, work your way *down* to the more specific crime.
- Look everywhere:
 - Monographs
 - Journals
 - Mass Media. **Some of this might be acceptable; we will talk about it in class. You cannot base your entire paper on newspaper articles, but some of the national surveys done by the larger newspapers or magazines might prove helpful.**
 - Internet. You need to be cautious here as well. Like the mass media, aim for academic information. For example, information that resulted from random surveys, scientific studies, and documented works.

Proposal #2 is due after the midterm, and after we have a workshop in which you will be able to ask questions and talk about approaches.

Proposal #2 Form

Due on October 30, 2006

Name:

1. Crime:

2. Theory

3. Sources of information found so far (attach a list if you would rather):
 - a. Information on the crime
 - i. Data (i.e. FBI, Victim Survey, etc.)

 - ii. Studies of crime

 - b. Information on the theory

 - c. Information on theory and crime

4. Concerns or questions:

The Final Paper

Your final paper should be **typed, double-spaced, with a 12 point font size, and have the pages numbered.** It should contain at a minimum:

1. An **introduction** indicating the crime, the theory, an overview of what is to come, and other pertinent material.
2. A clear summary of the **theory**, its key variables, and the reason why you are using it for this crime or why it seems to be a good fit.
3. An **account of the crime** or an explanation of the crime using your theory.
4. List of **references** - see below.
5. Your **original Proposals # 1 and # 2 with my comments** and maybe yours as well.
6. Anything else you think would be necessary.

<p>Please note: Your paper must use and cite, or reference at least six academic sources as described in Proposal # 2. If you do not understand this please ask me.</p>
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On Documentation

PLEASE NOTE: you must document your sources. No documentation = no grade. See "...a final word on footnoting, citing..." below. Again, if you do not understand talk to me. We will talk about this in class. It is essential that you understand.

On References

List all items used in your review of the literature in a section called “References.” If you use an article from a book of readings include in your references both the book of readings by the author (editor), and the article you used by author. List all items **alphabetically by author** and, within author (When you use more than one item from a single author), by year of publication. No Italics or underlining are needed. Do not use abbreviations. Use the format below:

Davis, K.

1963a “The theory of change and response in modern demographic history.” *Population Index* 29 (October): 344-356.

1963b “Social demography.” Pp. 204-221 in Bernard Berelson (ed.), *The Behavior Sciences Today*. New York: Basic Books.

Goode, W. J.

1967 “The protection of the inept.” *American Sociological Review* 32 (February): 5-19.

Moore, Wilbert E., and Arnold S. Feldman

1960 *Labor Commitment and Social Change in Developing Areas*. New York: Social Science Research Council.

Stanford, Nevitt (ed.)

1962 *The American College*. New York. Wiley.

A final word on footnoting, citing, academic honesty, and plagiarism. As a general rule, no more than 1/3 of the paper should consist of the ideas of others. The majority of the writing should reflect the student's own understanding and analysis. **However, the summary of readings would be made up largely of what others have said.**

The following comes from the "Student Sociologist's Handbook" fourth edition page 74 by Pauline Bart and Linda Frankel and **MUST BE USED** by all students in this course when writing papers.

All references to monographs, articles, and statistical sources are to be identified at an appropriate point in the text by **last name of the author, year of publication, and pagination where appropriate, all within parentheses**. Footnotes are to be used only for substantive observations, and not for purpose of citation. There is no need for "Ibid.," "op. cit.," or "loc. Cit." Specify citations of the same source in the same way as the first citation. Examples follow:

1. If the author's name is in your statement, follow it with year in parentheses. [...Duncan (1959) has proven that...]

If author's name is not in your statement, insert it at an appropriate point, the last name and year, separated by a comma. [...some have claimed (cf. Gouldner, 1963) that...]

2. Pagination (without "p." or "pp.") follows year of publication, separated by a colon. [...it has been noted (Lipset, 1996:61-64) that...]

Incorporate within parentheses any brief phrase associated with reference. [...have claimed that this is so (but see Jones, 1952:99 for a conflicting view.)]

3. With dual authorship, give both last names; for more than two use "et al." For institutional authorship, supply minimum identification from the beginning of the complete citation. [...occupational data (U.S.. Bureau of the Census, 1963:117) reveal]

4. If there is more than one reference to the same author and year, distinguish them by use of letters (a,b) attached to the year of publication, in your statement and in the references list. [...as was previously suggested (Levy, 1965a:331)...]

5. Enclose a series of references within a single pair of parentheses and separate by semicolons. [...as many have noted (Johnson, 1942; Perry, 1947; Lindquist, 1948)...]