

Criminology II (LAS 316)
Instructor: I. Murrant

COURSE DESCRIPTION

A course that explains trends in crime in reference to official and unofficial reporting. Emphasis will be placed on definitions, measurement and explanation of the Crime from a rationale and opportunity.

COURSE GOAL

To provide basic information on how crime is defined, the situations in which they occur and the structure of criminal opportunities. Why and how the outside environment influences criminal activity.

TEXT

Nettler, Gwyn. Explaining Crime, McGraw Hill

Hagen, John. The Disreputable Pleasures, McGraw Hill

EVALUATION

Two Compulsory Tests	40%
One Major Project on Crime Patterns in the Region	25%
In-class quizzes given randomly	15%

The major tests and assignment must be completed to be eligible for exemption from Final Exam.

Final Exam may be written to improve mark for student doing poorly.

There will be no make up tests!

Office Hours: Monday 1:30 - 2:30 p.m.
Tuesday 2:30 - 3:30 p.m.
Friday 10:30 -11:30 a.m.

For other times, appointments are needed.

COURSE OBJECTIVES

- I. a) Define crime
b) Define violence

The student will be able to:

- define crime in legal, historical and
public perceptual terms

Lecture
Discussion/film

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II. Counting Crime

- a) official agencies
- b) non-official agencies
- c) first person accounts
- d) victimization
- e) observational data
- f) studys

The student will be able to:

- define the different methods of gathering crime statistics
- demonstrate an understanding between the different methods
- explain the pros and cons of each method
- define which method is best in which settings

III. Observation

- a) nature of official statistics
- b) manipulation of statistics

The student will be able to:

- define the process by which official statistics are recorded
- define how statistics are used to the benefit of those involved

IV. Unofficial Crime

- a) direct observation
- b) indirect observation

The student will be able to:

- define direct observation methods
- define indirect observational methods

V. Victims

- a) why survey victims?
- b) correlation of victim surveys with official statistics

The student will be able to:

- define who is a victim
- define victimless crimes
- discuss the relationship between victim surveys and official

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VI. Self Reports

- a) How Self Reports work
- b) Criticism of Self Reports
- c) Reliability and Validity

The student will be able to:

- define self reports
- discuss how self reports work
- discuss problems with self report surveys
- define validity and reliability
- discuss how V & R are used

VII. Class Project

- a) Discuss report
- b) How to evaluate
- c) What do we wish to observe
- d) Allotment of time and location of study
- e) How marks will be allotted

The student will be able to:

- demonstrate the ability to work on their own in gathering material for class study a) from official methods b) unofficial methods

PART II - SOCIAL LOCATION OF SERIOUS CRIME

VIII. Age and Sex

- a) Correlates of Crime
- b) Cause of Crime
- c) Female/Male offender
- d) Age rate and Crime

The student will be able to:

- discuss crime correlates
- define cause of crime
- define female offender
- discuss age and criminal acts

IX. Wealth

- a) Status and Wealth
- b) White collar crime
- c) Computer crime
- d) Blue collar crime

The student will be able to:

- discuss how status and wealth effect criminal activity
- define white collar crime
- define blue collar crime

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X. **Ethnicity and Urbanization**

- a) Culture contact and Crime
- b) Ghettos and Slums
- c) Ghettos and Crime
- d) Density of Population

The student will be able to:

- discuss how cultural contact effect crime
- define ghettos and slums
- discuss the relation between ghettos and slums

XI. **Rational Crime** (Honest Crooks)

- a) Rational vs. Moral
- b) Crime in Politics
- c) Crime in Industry
- d) Crime in the Boardroom
- e) Economic Crime

The student will be able to:

- define honest crooks
- discuss and debate the justification of crime versus the moral righteousness