

**Sociology 372 (001): Criminology**  
**Fall 2008**

**Class time and place:** ASA 0118C; Tuesday/Thursday 11:00 a.m.-12:15 p.m.

**Instructor:** Jessica Abbott, M.A.

**Instructor's Office:** Faner Hall 3427

**Instructor's Contact information:** Phone: 453-7624; Email: ab1227@siu.edu

**Office Hours:** Tuesday 12:30-2:30; Wednesday 1:00-3:00; Thursday 12:30-2:30

**Course Description:**

This course is designed to give students general knowledge of criminology. Using sociological theory and methods to guide our study of the causes and consequences of crime, we will explore various issues including but not limited to public opinion regarding crime, news media coverage of crime, actual types of crime (violent, property, and white-collar crime), and the prosecution of and punishment for crime. You all will leave this course with knowledge of the aforementioned topics and simple understanding of quantitative data analysis and interpretation.

**Required Texts:**

Barkan, Steven E. *Criminology: A Sociological Understanding, 4<sup>th</sup> edition*. Pearson Prentice Hall.

Messner, Steven F. *Criminology Using MicroCase Explorit, 5<sup>th</sup> edition*. Thomson Wadsworth.

**Course Requirements:**

**EXAMS:**

There will be two exams, a mid-term and a final. The mid-term exam, worth, 100 points, will consist of multiple choice and true/false questions. The final exam will essentially be a term paper (7-10 pages) on one or more of the topics we have covered this semester. Before the exam is due, I will distribute the exam. Do not worry—I'll make sure you have plenty of time to complete it. The exam will be due by the slotted date and time you would normally take it (this date and time to be announced later). The final exam, like the mid-term, is worth 100 points.

**WORKBOOK AND OTHER ASSIGNMENTS:**

In addition to two exams, there will be a total of 10 assignments, worth 10 points each (total of all assignments=100 points). Six of these assignments will come from the *Criminology Using Microcase Explorit* workbook. These assignments are due on the class session after we go over them, most often on the following Tuesday. Additionally, three assignments can be done at any time during the semester, and must be turned in when you turn in your final exam. For these three assignments, you will pick any three academic articles associated with any topic we cover, and summarize their findings and/or theoretical contributions. Within the first week of classes this semester, I will demonstrate how to obtain articles using SocIndex. You can also meet with me during my office hours or by appointment for any questions you may have. Like the workbook assignments, article summaries are worth 10 points each. The last assignment will be a

critical thinking exercise to be announced in class (see tentative schedule below). It too is worth 10 points.

**PARTICIPATION:**

100 points will come from your own participation. For this class, participation is defined as your active discussion in class. You **MUST** participate in classroom discussion in order to receive all 100 points.

**Grading:**

|                |            |
|----------------|------------|
| Mid-term exam: | 100 points |
| Final Exam:    | 100 points |
| Assignments:   | 100 points |
| Participation: | 100 points |
| Total:         | 400 points |

**GRADE SCALE**

360-400 = A  
320-359 = B  
280-319 = C  
240-279 = D  
Below 240=F

**Attendance and Participation:**

It is necessary to attend class and participate. Though I will no take attendance in this course, I will gauge class participation. You must bring your own novel ideas to class and discuss them with your classmates. Interaction is the key to understanding the concepts, facts, theories, etc. we cover in this class. Your own participation in classroom discussion is very important, and if you fail to bring some discussion to class, you will not receive full participation credit.

**Classroom Respect:**

Since this class is discussion-based, it is important that we respect one another and their opinions. I will not tolerate name-calling and remarks lacking in taste. So that discussion is at its best and with minimal interruptions, all those engaged in discussion should treat every individual and group (even the “criminals” of which we will often speak) with respect. In addition to offering respect to everyone, I ask that while class is in session, all cell phones be silenced so as to avoid interruption of lecture and/or discussion.

**Plagiarism:**

Plagiarism is taking someone else’s work and using it as if it were your own. For more information on plagiarism, consult *The Little, Brown Handbook*. Plagiarism is unacceptable in this course. If you believe you have mistakenly plagiarized on an assignment or the final exam, please see me and we can work together to fix it.

## Tentative Schedule

August 19-21

Introduction to the Course

August 26

(B) Chapter 1: Criminology and the Sociological Perspective

August 28

(M) Getting Started

September 2

(B) Chapter 2: Public Opinion, the News Media, and the Crime Problem

September 4

(M) Chapter 4: Crime and Public Opinion

(M) Chapter 5: Fear of Crime

September 9

(B) Chapter 3: The Measurement and Patterning of Criminal Behavior

September 11

(M) Chapter 1: The Geography of Official Crime Rates

September 16

(B) Chapter 4: Victims and Victimization

September 18

(M) Chapter 2: Victimization Surveys

September 23

(B) Chapter 5: Explaining Crime: Emphasis on the Individual

September 25

(B) Chapter 6: Explaining Crime: Emphasis on Social Structure

September 29

(B) Chapter 6, continued

October 2

(M) Chapter 8: Social Disorganization and Property Crime

October 7

(B) Chapter 7: Sociological Theories: Emphasis on Social Process

October 9

(M) Chapter 7: Social Psychological Processes...

October 14

(B) Chapter 8: Sociological Theories: Critical Perspectives

October 16

Review for Mid-Term

October 21

Mid-Term Exam

October 23

Guest Speaker, Melencia Johnson: "Women Offenders"

October 28-30

Film/Discussion

November 4

Out-of-class assignment (TBA)

NO CLASS—Work day

November 6

Assignment due

(B) Chapter 9: Violent Crime: Homocide, Assault, and Robbery

November 11

(B) Chapter 10: Violence Against Women and Children

November 13

(B) Chapter 10, continued

November 18

(B) Chapter 12: White-Collar and Organized Crime

November 25-27

Thanksgiving Holiday

NO CLASS!

December 2

(B) Chapter 16: Prosecution and Punishment

December 4

FINAL EXAM REVIEW

December 8-12  
FINAL EXAM WEEK (final exam TBA)