



Course website for [SOC371: Criminology](#)

University of Washington

Charles Lanfear

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SOC 371: Criminology

Summer 2020

Instructor: [Charles Lanfear](#) Office: 255 Savery Hall

Class Meetings

Lecture Zoom: Monday / Wednesday 9:40-11:50

Office Hours: Tuesday: 12:00 - 1:30

Overview

This course provides an introduction to sociological criminology. We begin by defining crime and law, then surveying criminology's classical foundations. The majority of the course will then be spent studying modern sociological theories of crime. This course emphasizes the underlying causal models of these theories, corresponding assumptions, and levels of explanation—structural, neighborhood, group, and individual. We will study these theories mainly with primary source material—the words of the original theorists and later contributors. We will also relate these theories to real-world social problems and policies, such as policing, mass incarceration, gun violence, genocide, and segregation.

Course Objectives

- Provide you with an understanding of basic theories, concepts, and methods used by criminologists.
- Show you how criminological theories apply to real-world phenomena.
- Make you a critical consumer of claims about crime and crime policies in the news, social media, and political campaigning.
- Develop your critical and analytical skills through discussion and written assignments.

Course Website

clanfear.github.io/SOC371/

The course website is accessible without a UWnetID and features all of the slides, links to readings, and assignments. Note many readings are, however, pay-walled and require a UWnetID to access. [See this page for instructions for adding a UW Library proxy to your browser for off-campus access to articles.](#)

Course Canvas

The course Canvas will be used to access some readings, post discussion questions, and submit assignments. Do not use Canvas messages for communication with the instructor—it will not be monitored.

Course Requirements

Grades will be assessed with the following breakdown:

Item	Number	Percent of Grade
Course Participation	18	10
Discussion Questions	16	20
Midterm Exams	2	40
Final Exam	1	30

A score of at least 95% will guarantee a 4.0 in the course. Every 2.5 percentage points below 95 will correspond to a .1 difference in the final grade (e.g. 90/100 is a 3.8).

Participation

Students are expected to complete readings and engage in discussion. Given the disruption presented by COVID-19, alternate evaluation (e.g. a 1-page reading and discussion response) is possible for students unable to attend a given synchronous lecture. Students must contact the instructor prior to absences to be considered for alternate evaluation.

Discussion Questions

Students will be required to submit at least two discussion questions via Canvas prior to each lecture meeting. These questions will be used to facilitate post-lecture discussion. Questions should be open-ended and reflect engagement with the material—that is, they delve deeper into ideas presented in the reading or raise critical questions. Questions are due by 6 PM the day before (i.e. 6 PM Sunday for Monday lecture’s readings). If there are multiple readings, each question should address a different reading.

Exams

There will be two midterm and one final exam. Exams will focus on application of concepts rather than regurgitation of knowledge. Consequently, they are open book and you will have at least a day to work on them. The format will consist of a number of short answer and essay questions. Students are expected to reference course readings with clear citations, e.g. “Shaw & McKay (1942) proposed delinquent subcultures as a mechanism for stability in neighborhood crime rates.” Students may refer to other materials, but should do so sparingly and not the exclusion of relevant course material.

Course Texts and Readings

There is no textbook for this course. Rather, there are two required books documenting important studies in criminology—books you are likely to find on the shelf of a respectable criminologist. Both books are freely available as eBooks through the UW library and affordable in print.

- [Divergent Social Worlds \(2010\) Ruth D. Peterson & Lauren J. Krivo](#)
- [Darfur and the Crime of Genocide \(2009\) John Hagan & Wenona Rymond-Richmond](#)

Other readings will be available via files posted on Canvas and links on the course website. These readings will primarily be academic journal articles. Note that journal articles are targeted at academic audiences. It is likely you will find them challenging to read and may not understand everything discussed—this is fine! Allot yourself more time for article reading than you would for a textbook chapter of comparable length. At the end of each lecture you will also receive a brief overview of what to expect and look for in the readings for the next lecture. If you find an article—or section of an article—particularly challenging or unclear, please contact the instructor, come to office hours to chat, or bring it up in discussion.

Content Warning

The content in this course engages with many emotionally and intellectually challenging topics, such as racism, sexism, violence, incarceration, and genocide. I will do my best to make the classroom environment a welcoming environment for confronting these topics. Do not hesitate to reach out if you have questions or concerns about encountering any course material.

Contacting the Instructor

You are encouraged to contact me via email with questions or concerns. Note, it may take up to 48 weekday hours to respond to your email.

Course Outline

Date	Topic and Readings
Mon, Jun 22	Introduction and Overview of Criminology No assigned reading
Wed, Jun 24	Classical Criminology (1) Trevino, A. Javier. 1996. "Cesare Beccaria: Legal Reformer." Pp. 13-20 in <i>The Sociology of Law: Classical and Contemporary Perspectives</i> . New York: St. Martin's Press. (2) Radzinowicz, Sir Leon. 1966. <i>Ideology and Crime</i> . New York: Columbia University. Pp. 1-28
Mon, Jun 29	Definitions of Crime and Criminal Law (1) Kauzlarich, David, and David O. Friedrichs. 2005. "Definitions of Crime." Pp. 273-275 in <i>Encyclopedia of Criminology</i> . Edited by Richard Wright and J. Mitchell Miller. New York: Routledge. (2) Hemmens, Craig. 2005. "Defenses to Criminal Liability: Justifications and Excuses;" Pp. 377-380 in <i>Encyclopedia of Criminology</i> . Edited by Richard Wright and J. Mitchell Miller. New York: Routledge
Wed, Jul 1	Trends in Crime, Violence, Incarceration (1) Rosenfeld, Richard. 2002. "Crime Decline in Context." <i>Contexts</i> 1:25-34 (2) Western, Bruce, and Becky Pettit. 2002. "Beyond Crime and Punishment: Prisons and Inequality." <i>Contexts</i> 1:37-43.
Mon, Jul 6	Measuring Crime and Policing (1) Loftin, Colin and David McDowall. 2010. "The Use of Official Records to Measure Crime and Delinquency." <i>Journal of Quantitative Criminology</i> 26(4):527-532. (2) Ehrenberg, Rachel. 2012. "Reliance on Raw Statistics Makes City Crime Rankings Misleading." <i>Science News</i> 181(12):9
Wed, Jul 8	Rational Choice and Deterrence 1 (1) Marshall, Chris E. 2002. "Deterrence Theory." Pp. 512-515 in <i>Encyclopedia of Crime and Punishment</i> . Edited by D. Levinson. Beverly Hills: Sage (2) Levitt, Steven D. 2002. "Deterrence." Pp. 435-450 in <i>Crime: Public Policies for Crime Control</i> . Edited by J.Q. Wilson and J. Petersilia. Oakland, CA: ICS press

Date	Topic and Readings
	Rational Choice and Deterrence 2
Mon, Jul 13	<p>(1) Berk, Richard A. 1984. "The Specific Deterrent Effect of Arrest for Domestic Assault." Pp. 357-361 in Classics of Criminology. Edited by J. E. Jacoby. Prospect Heights: Waveland</p> <p>(2) Cohen, Lawrence & Marcus Felson. 1979. Social Change and Crime Rate Trends: A Routine Activity Approach. American Sociological Review 44 (4): 588-608</p>
Wed, Jul 15	<p>Criminal Careers, Selective Incapacitation, and Mass Incarceration</p> <p>Blumstein, Alfred, and Jacqueline Cohen. 1987. "Characterizing Criminal Careers." Science, 237:985-991</p>
	Control Theory and the Life Course
Mon, Jul 20	<p>(1) Hirschi, Travis. [1969] 2001. Causes of Delinquency. New Brunswick, N.J: Transaction Publishers. Chapter 2</p> <p>(2) Sampson, Robert J., and John H. Laub. 1990. "Crime and Deviance over the Life Course: The Salience of Adult Social Bonds." American Sociological Review 55:609-27.</p>
	Social Disorganization 1
Wed, Jul 22	<p>(1) Shaw and McKay, "Juvenile Delinquency and Urban Areas." Pp. 13-19 in Classics of Criminology. Edited by J. E. Jacoby. Prospect Heights: Waveland.</p> <p>(2) Shaw and McKay, "Differential Systems of Values." Pp. 193-200 in Classics of Criminology. Edited by J. E. Jacoby. Prospect Heights: Waveland.</p>
Mon, Jul 27	<p>Social Disorganization 2</p> <p>Peterson, Ruth D., and Lauren J. Krivo. 2010. Divergent Social Worlds. Pp. 1-70</p>
	Urban Underclass, Social Capital, and Collective Efficacy 1
Wed, Jul 29	<p>(1) Sampson, Robert J., and William J. Wilson. 1994. "Race, Crime and Urban Inequality." In Crime and Inequality. Edited by J. Hagan and R. Peterson. Stanford: Stanford University Press</p> <p>(2) Sampson, Robert J. 2006. "Social Ecology and Collective Efficacy Theory." Pp. 132-140 in The Essential Criminology Reader. Edited by S. Henry and M.M. Lanier. Boulder, CO: Westview.</p>
Mon, Aug 3	<p>Urban Underclass, Social Capital, and Collective Efficacy 2</p> <p>Peterson, Ruth D., and Lauren J. Krivo. 2010. Divergent Social Worlds. Pp. 71-125</p>

Date	Topic and Readings
Broken Windows and Collective Efficacy	
	(1) Wilson and Kelling, "Broken Windows: The Police and Neighborhood Safety."
Wed, Aug 5	(2) Sampson, Robert J. and Stephen W. Raudenbush. 1999. "Systematic Social Observation of Public Spaces: A New Look at Disorder in Urban Neighborhoods." American Journal of Sociology 105(3): 603-651.
	(3) Keizer, Kees, Siegwart Lindenberg, and Linda Steg. 2008. "The Spreading of Disorder." Science 322:1681- 1685
Differential Association and Code of the Street 1	
	(1) Matsueda, Ross L. 2001. "Differential Association Theory," In Encyclopedia of Criminology and Deviant Behavior, Vol.1, edited by Clifton D. Bryant. New York: Taylor and Francis.
Mon, Aug 10	(2) Anderson, Elijah. 1998. "The Social Ecology of Youth Violence." Pp. 79-104 in Youth Violence. Edited by M. Tonry and M.H. Moore. Chicago: University of Chicago Press
	(3) Matsueda, Ross L, Kevin Drakulich and Charis E. Kubrin. 2006. "Race and Neighborhood Codes of Violence." Pp. 334-336 in The Many Colors of Crime: Inequalities of Race, Ethnicity, and Crime in America, edited by Peterson, Krivo, and Hagan. New York:NYU Press
Differential Association and Code of the Street 2	
Wed, Aug 12	Hagan, John, and Wenona Rymond-Richmond. 2009. Darfur and the Crime of Genocide. Cambridge, UK: Cambridge University Press, pp. 1-103
Collective Violence 1	
Mon, Aug 17	Matsueda, "Differential Social Organization, Collective Action, and Crime." Crime, Law, and Social Change 46(1-2):3-33
Collective Violence 2	
Wed, Aug 19	Hagan, John, and Wenona Rymond-Richmond. 2009. Darfur and the Crime of Genocide. Cambridge, UK: Cambridge University Press, pp. 103-218

Late Work Policy

Late assignments will be penalized by 25% per day without official documentation of an unavoidable cause for absence or inability to complete the assignment on time. Valid unavoidable causes are limited to those described in [Student Governance Policies Chapter 112, Subsection 1.B.](#)

Accommodation

Your experience in this class is important to me. If you have already established accommodations with Disability Resources for Students (DRS), please communicate your approved accommodations to me at your earliest convenience so we can discuss your needs in this course. If you have non-disability related concerns for participating in this class—such as difficulty with course materials or the pace of the course— please contact me. I want this course to be maximally useful and accessible to all students.

Academic Misconduct

As a University of Washington student, you are bound by the university's [student conduct policy](#). Academic misconduct, including plagiarism—which includes copying any material from any source including fellow students without attribution—will be referred to the Community Standards & Student Conduct office. If you are not sure a particular practice is acceptable, please contact me via email or in office hours.

Acknowledgements

This course is based, with permission, on Dr. Ross Matsueda's University of Washington SOC371 Criminology lecture.