This seminar will cover recent theories of crime and deviance. It will focus on a mix of classical and contemporary criminological theories that have generated productive empirical research. We will emphasize operationalizing theories and examining them empirically, using quantitative data, qualitative data, or a mix of each. An important objective of the course is to introduce students to significant theoretical problems that can be addressed empirically, and introduce some key methodological issues. There are no formal prerequisites for the course, but it is recommended that students have exposure to a basic criminology course and basic methods (including research design and multiple regression analysis).

COURSE OBJECTIVES:

1. In this seminar I will try to expose you to theories of crime and deviance that have generated empirical research programs. In a ten-week course, we obviously can only touch on a small number of topics, and I have tried to identify lines of research in the study of crime and deviance that are recent, important, and productive.

2. A main objective of the seminar is to help you to evaluate contemporary criminological theories and assess empirical research on theory. I will help you navigate empirical research conducted by some of the best scholars in criminology by discussing both formal and informal standards of the field.

3. The seminar is also designed to help you develop your own style of research. One of the best ways of doing so is to examine the styles of top researchers. What kinds of questions do they address? How sociological are they? How do they operationalize theoretical concepts? What data and methods do they use? What conclusions do they draw?

4. This seminar, like other graduate seminars, will also help you make the transition from student to independent researcher/scholar. This includes professional socialization into the ways of academia, as well as tips on specific tasks of academicians, such as preparing talks and power point slides, reviewing articles for journals, interpreting journal reviews, editor letters, and funding agency reviews, responding to such reviews, and writing letters of recommendation for others.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS:

1. **Seminar Paper.** An original seminar paper is required of all students. To be most efficient and productive, you should try to make this paper a part of your ongoing research—either the continuation of an idea you have had in the past or started work on in the past, or the start of a new project. If you are using a project that was started in the past, you must show me the work you have done on it to date. Also, if you wish to submit the same paper to this seminar and another course (e.g., a paper that is twice as good as the usual paper) you must get my permission and that of the other professor. Try not to write a paper simply to meet the seminar requirement. I would rather have an irrelevant paper that is productive for you than a relevant paper that merely meets the requirement. This paper can be an ongoing empirical research paper, a theoretical argumentative essay, or a research proposal. Each student is required to meet with me for a minimum of three minutes during office hours to discuss their ideas for the paper. Each student is also required to submit a two-page paper proposal by Thursday, May 7. In the paper proposal, state the problem to be addressed and arguments to be made or hypotheses to be tested, outline the sections of the paper, and provide a reading list of at least a dozen sources. After receiving feedback on paper proposals, you are strongly encouraged but not required to consult with me again during office hours. The final paper, which should be no longer than 15 pages (double-spaced, 12pt Times New Roman font), is due during finals week, Friday, April 5 at 4pm, either emailed to me or left in my mailbox in the Sociology Main Office (211 Savery Hall).

2. **Discussion Leader.** Students will take turns leading discussions of course readings. This will involve being prepared to lead discussion on the core (starred) required readings and preparing a précis on one of the noncore (non-starred) readings. A précis is a two-page single-spaced summary of the essential details of the theory, data, methods, and key arguments made in the reading. The discussion leaders will distribute the précis to all members of the seminar by the Friday afternoon prior to the seminar via email. All other seminar members will be required to read the précis, read the core required readings, and come to class prepared to join the discussion.
3. **Written Responses to the Readings.** Each week, students will prepare a written response to the set of required readings. This is a two-page, single-spaced write-up that briefly summarizes the arguments found in each reading, highlights important points or issues raised (either separately or in common across readings), and critically evaluates the studies underlying each reading. These should be emailed to me the day of class; they will be returned with brief comments via email no later than the following seminar period.

4. **Final Grades will be Based on the Following Formula:**

   \[ .50 \text{ seminar paper} + .25 \text{ other written work} + .25 \text{ oral contributions} \]

**GRADING:**

The seminar paper will determine approximately 50 percent of the grade; other written work (precis) will count about 25 percent; and oral contributions about 25 percent (but see above for the breakdown with the optional final exam).

**ACADEMIC MISCONDUCT:**

Academic misconduct, such as plagiarism, cheating, or being disruptive in class is not encouraged for this seminar.

**REQUIRED TEXTS:**

2. Kubrin, Charis E., Thomas D. Stucky, and Marvin D. Krohn. 2009. “Researching Theories of Crime and Deviance.” New York: Oxford University Press. (Chapters from this book will be used to give a background on specific theoretical perspectives for those who have not had them before.)

These are all classic works, mostly relatively recent. This seminar will touch on most of the issues that the above books go into in greater detail. They can be purchased at good prices in paperback (with quick delivery) from Amazon.

**COURSE WEBPAGE:**
There will be a webpage for this course:

http://faculty.washington.edu/matsueda/courses/517/web517.htm

Here, you can find required readings, miscellaneous postings from me about useful (and not) topics.

**SEMINAR TOPICS AND READINGS:**

Course topics will be selected from the list below. Other topics can be added or deleted by consensus of the seminar members as we proceed into the quarter. The Kubrin et al. book chapters are designed to give an overview of the perspectives, particularly for those who have not been exposed to the perspective. The starred (*) readings are required of everyone and the non-starred readings will be given a precis by the seminar leader.

**I. Introduction**

**II. Rational Choice and Deterrence**

**Required:**


**Further Reading:**


III. Differential Association vs. Control Theories

**Required:**


**Further Reading:**


IV. Life Course and Crime

**Required:**


**Further Reading:**


**V. Race, Underclass, and Crime**

**Required:**


Further Reading:


VI. Social Disorganization, Collective Efficacy and Social Capital

Required:


*Sampson, Robert J. 2011. Great American City: Chicago and the Enduring Neighborhood Effect. University of Chicago Press, Chapter 7, pp. 149-178-120, Chapter 8 (pp. 179-209), and Chapter 9 (pp. 210-233).


Further Readings:


VII. Anomie, Subcultures, and the Code of the Street

Required:


Further Reading:


**VIII. Gangs.**

*Required:*


**Further Reading:**


**IX. Gender, Feminist Theory, and Crime.**

*Required:*


**Further Reading:**


**X. Labeling Theory**

**Required:**


**Further Reading:**


