

SOCIOLOGY 371 CRIMINOLOGY

COURSE DESCRIPTION:

This course seeks to develop a *sociological* framework for examining crime. Consequently, we will spend most of our time presenting and evaluating sociological theories of criminal behavior. We will begin by discussing the classical school of criminology, the theoretical framework underlying our legal system. We will then develop a legalistic definition of crime, and show how it follows from the ideas of the classical school. We will discuss trends in crime and incarceration and present the logic for controlling crime using punitive methods. Finally, we will present sociological theories of crime at the structural level, the neighborhood level, and the individual level. We will apply these theories to urban crime and genocide in Darfur. Throughout the course, we will emphasize developing *critical thinking skills* when evaluating policy, theory, and research pertaining to crime. This means going beyond memorizing theory and research, and being able to critique and evaluate ideas. Students will have opportunities to apply critical thinking skills in discussions and writing assignments.

COURSE OBJECTIVES:

- Provide you with an appreciation of a sociological perspective on the study of crime.
 - Provide you with an understanding of basic theories, concepts, and research methods used by criminologists.
 - Show you the connection between sociological theories and ideas and real-world phenomena.
 - Allow you to simulate the work of social scientists by applying theoretical tools to case studies and other data.
 - Make you a critical consumer of media reports and politicians' claims about crime and crime policies.
 - Develop your critical and analytical skills through oral participation and written assignments.
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Syllabus

[Sociology 371 Course Syllabus](#)

Website

<http://faculty.washington.edu/matsueda/courses/371/web371.htm>

Time & Location

TTh 11:30-12:20pm in Johnson 102

Instructors

[Ross L. Matsueda](#)

[Anquinette Barry](#)

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Office Hours

Mon, Tue 1-2pm
227 Savery Hall

Tue 1-2pm 250
Savery Hall & by
appointment

Lecture Slides

[Lecture 1: Introduction to the Course](#)

[Lecture 2: The Classical School](#)

[Lecture 3: Definition of Crime and Criminal Law](#)

[Lecture 4: Trends in Violence and Incarceration](#)

[Lecture 5: Rational Choice and Deterrence](#)

[Lecture 6: Criminal Careers and Selective Incapacitation](#)

[Lecture 7: Social Disorganization and Cultural Transmission](#)

[Lecture 8: Urban Underclass, Social Capital, Collective](#)

[Efficacy](#)

[Lecture 9: Differential Association Theory](#)

[Lecture 9: Code of the Street](#)

[Lecture 10: Differential Social Organization & Genocide in
Darfur](#)

Readings

[Trevino, A. Javier. 1996.](#) “Cesare Beccaria: Legal Reformer.” Pp. 13-20 in *The Sociology of Law: Classical and Contemporary Perspectives*. New York: St. Martin’s Press.

[Radzinowitz, Sir Leon. 1966.](#) *Ideology and Crime*. New York: Columbia University

[Sutherland, Edwin H. 1944.](#) “Is ‘White Collar Crime’ Crime?” *American Sociological Review* 10:132-139.

[Rosenfeld, Richard. 2002.](#) “Crime Decline in Context.” *Contexts* 1:25-34.

[Western, Bruce, and Becky Pettit. 2002.](#) “Beyond Crime and Punishment: Prisons and Inequality.” *Contexts* 1:37-43.

[Tonry, Michael, and Matthew Melewski. 2008.](#) “The Malign Effects of Drug and

Crime Control Policies on Black Americans.” *Crime and Justice* 37:1-44.

[Tonry, Michael. 2008.](#) “Learning from the Limitations of Deterrence Research.” *Crime and Justice* 37:279-311.

[Sherman, Lawrence A., and Richard A. Berk. 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.

[Blumstein, Alfred, and Jacqueline Cohen. 1987.](#) “Characterizing Criminal Careers.” *Science*, 237:985-991.

[Shaw and McKay. 1969.](#) “Juvenile Delinquency and Urban Areas.” Pp. 13-19 in *Classics of Criminology*. Edited by J. E. Jacoby. Prospect Heights: Waveland.

[Shaw and McKay. 1969](#) “Differential Systems of Values.” Pp. 193-200 in *Classics of Criminology*. Edited by J. E. Jacoby. Prospect Heights: Waveland. Peterson, Ruth D., and Lauren J. Krivo. 2010. *Divergent Social Worlds*, pp. 1-70.

[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.

[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.

[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.*

[Wilson and Kelling. 1982.](#) “Broken Windows: The Police and Neighborhood Safety.”

[Keizer, Kees, Siegwart Lindenberg, and Linda Steg. 2008.](#) "The Spreading of Disorder." *Science* 322:1681-1685.

[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.

[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.

[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.

[Matsueda, Ross L. 2006.](#) "Differential Social Organization, Collective Action, and Crime." *Crime, Law and Social Change* 46:3-33.

Book Review

[Assignment \(Note: Due Date is June 6\)](#)

Model of a Book Review:

Matsueda, Ross L. 2009. ["Toward a New Criminology of Genocide: Theory, Method, and Politics."](#) *Theoretical Criminology* 13:495-502.

Writing & Tutoring

[The Department of Sociology Writing Center](#)

[The Clue Writing and Tutoring Center](#)

[McNair Graduate Advisors](#)

[The Office of Minority Affairs and Diversity Instructional Center](#)

[The Office of Minority Affairs and Diversity Writing Center](#)

[The Elements of Style by William Strunk, Jr.](#)

Examinations

All exams will be objective, a combination of multiple choice questions and short answer questions. The final will be cumulative, but emphasize the material after the second exam.

First Exam: Thursday April 18, 2013 in Lecture
[Distribution of Scores for First Exam](#)

Second Exam: Tuesday, May 14, 2013 in Lecture
[Distribution of Scores for Second Exam](#)

[Final Exam: Wednesday, June 12 4:30-6:20pm in Johnson 102](#)
Distribution of Scores for Final Exam

Study Guides

[Study Guide for the First Exam](#)

[Study Guide for the Second Exam](#)

Study Guide for the Final Exam