

CRIME AND CRIMINAL BEHAVIOR

(Sociology 438 - 3 credits)

Class Time: 12:10 - 1:00^{pm}, Monday - Friday, Social Sciences #338/330
Professor: James W. Burfeind, Ph.D.
Telephone: 243-4811 (office and voice mail), 243-5281 (Sociology Department Office)
e-mail: james.burfeind@umontana.edu
Office: Social Science Building #331
Office Hours: Monday: 2:10 - 3:10^{pm}, Tuesday: 9:30 -10:30^{am}; Wednesday & Friday: 2:10 - 3:45^{pm}; and by appointment

REQUIRED TEXTS:

Criminological Theory: Past to Present—Essential Readings (3rd edition). Francis T. Cullen and Robert Agnew. 2006. Los Angeles, CA: Roxbury.
A Pocket Style Manual (5th edition). 2008. Hacker, Diana. New York, NY: Bedford/St. Martin's.

COURSE OBJECTIVES:

This is an upper division and graduate-level course that will allow students to study the major theoretical explanations of crime and criminal behavior. More specifically:

- ❖ Students will read original work in criminological theory.
- ❖ Students will develop comprehension skills by identifying and analyzing key theoretical concepts, propositions, and arguments.
- ❖ Students will develop oral discussion skills by participating regularly in class discussion.
- ❖ Students will develop writing skills by writing concise summaries of criminological theories and by drafting and rewriting an article review.

EXPECTATIONS AND REQUIREMENTS:

1. **Class Preparation and Participation – Reading and Discussion:** This course is intended to be a seminar where students learn through *reading* and *discussion*. A seminar is very different from a traditional lecture course. Students are expected to come to class prepared and ready to ***actively participate in class discussion***. Such participation is based on the expression of ***informed ideas***, rather than personal or popular opinion. All class members are expected to participate in discussion in ways that reflect an understanding of the reading material. Some of you who are not comfortable speaking in front of a group will have to "push" yourselves. Class participation is worth 100 possible points toward your final grade – one-third of your grade. There are 40 class sessions. With a base of 20 points, you will be awarded 1 point for attendance and 1 point for participation, if your participation reflects the readings.

Assigned readings are mainly from the text or from pdf files available from my Web page: http://www.umt.edu/sociology/faculty_staff/burfeind/. These Online readings are noted on the class schedule as "Web," with the author's name and year of publication. Two class readings are on reserve in the Sociology Seminar Room.

2. **Summaries of Assigned Readings:** In order to promote class preparation, you will be required to turn in **20, one-half page summaries** of the assigned readings. Each summary must be no longer than one-half page (typed, 12 point font, 1 inch margins, and single spacing). Summaries should identify the reading's key ***concepts*** and ***causal argument***. Provide a full reference to the reading at the top of the summary, using the ASA style. Summaries will be accepted only on the day the reading assignment is discussed. Each summary will be scored on the basis of 5 points (100 total possible points). Five points will be awarded if your summary shows excellent understanding of the reading, 4 points for above average understanding, 3 points for average understanding, 2 points for limited understanding, and 1 point for turning in something that "misses the boat." **Organization, development, and writing style** (clarity, grammar, mechanics, and punctuation) will be considered in scoring your summaries. Please proof read your papers.

3. **Awkward Sentences:** The “Writing Skills” section of the course will involve a review of Hackler’s *Style Manual* (2008) and the rewriting of awkward sentences that you provide. By 11:00^{am} on each of these class sessions, you will have to submit several poorly written sentences, as assigned. As a class, we will diagnose and rewrite each of these sentences to better understand key writing skills. The sentences that you provide for three class periods will be worth 5 points for each day (15 total possible points).

4. **Journal Article Review:** This assignment is a three page assessment of a journal article, written in the last two years, that deals with some theoretical area of criminological study. Look at several criminology journals or do a topical search (using *Academic Search Premier, Annual Reviews, JSTOR, Social Sciences Full Text, and Sociological Abstracts*) and find several articles that deal with the same theoretical topic. The articles should strike your interest and you must be able to read and understand them.

After selecting several journal articles, review them and choose one on which to write an article review. Read the article carefully, taking note of its organization, research question, theoretical basis, methods, findings, and conclusions. Then write a review of the article, providing both a summary and assessment of the article. You will want to provide reference support for the points of assessment that you make. Include a reference page for any reference used in your assessment. Be sure to include page references for quotations and a reference page.

The resulting article review should be about three pages in length. The paper must be typed, double spaced, and free from grammatical and spelling errors. Use of the ASA style is expected. **Organization, development, and writing style** (clarity, grammar, mechanics, and punctuation) will be considered in scoring your paper. The integrated review is worth 70 possible points toward your final grade. **Begin your paper early in the semester!!** In order to encourage you to do that, I have established a number of deadlines:

References and abstracts of 3 articles:	September 14, 2007
Copy of article for review:	September 21, 2007
Introduction, outline, and reference list:	October 26, 2007
First draft of paper:	November 16, 2007
Second draft of paper:	November 23, 2007
Final paper:	December 4, 2007

5. **Presentation of Journal Article Review:** All students will present their paper to the class in one of the scheduled sessions. Presentation will be scored on the basis of 15 possible points.

6. **Academic Misconduct:** All students must practice academic honesty. Academic misconduct is subject to an academic penalty by the course instructor and/or a disciplinary sanction by the University. All students need to be familiar with the Student Conduct Code. The Code is available for review online at: http://life.umt.edu/vpsa/student_conduct.php.

GRADES:

Your grade for the course will be based on the total number of points earned throughout the semester. There are 300 total possible points with grades calculated on a straight percentage basis, no pluses or minuses.

	<u>Points</u>
Class Participation:	100
Summaries of assigned readings (20 @ 5 points)	100
Awkward Sentences	15
Journal article review:	70
<u>Class Presentation of Paper:</u>	<u>15</u>
TOTAL POINTS:	300

CLASS SCHEDULE

<u>DATE</u>	<u>TOPIC</u>	<u>ASSIGNMENT</u>
<u>SECTION I: WRITING SKILLS</u>		
Sept 2	Clarity	Hacker: 1-19
4	Grammar	Hacker: 21-56
7	Labor Day Holiday – No Class	
9	Punctuation	Hacker: 58-78
9	Mechanics	Hacker: 80-90
11	Organization and Development	<i>Web: Burfeind & Bartusch (2011: Ch. 1)</i>
<u>SECTION II: INTRODUCTION TO CRIMINOLOGICAL THEORY</u>		
14	Reference and Abstract of Three Possible Articles for Article Review Due	
14	Criminological Theory and Research	<i>Web: Burfeind & Bartusch (2011: Ch. 1)</i>
16	Constructing Theory	<i>Web: Laub & Sampson (1991)</i>
18	Classical and Positivist Criminology	Chapters 1 & 2; <i>Web: Burfeind & Bartusch (2006: Ch. 7)</i>
<u>SECTION III: FOCUSING ON THE INDIVIDUAL</u>		
21	Copy of Article for Review Due	
21	Deterrence and Rational Choice Theory	Chapters 37 & 38
23	Nature <i>and</i> Nurture	Plomin & Ashbury (2005)
21	Biological Influences	Chapters 5
28	Individual Traits	Chapter 3
30	Personality	Chapter 6
Oct 2	Developmental Criminology	Chapters 43 & 44
<u>SECTION IV: SITUATIONAL ASPECTS</u>		
5	Situational Inducements; Techniques of Neutralization	<i>Web: Briar & Piliavin (1965);</i> Chapter 11
7	Adverse conditions	<i>Web: McCarthy & Hagan (1992)</i>
9	Routine Activities	Chapter 39; <i>Web: Osgood et al (1996)</i>
12	Phenomenological Considerations	<i>Reserve: Katz (1988, Ch.1 & 2)</i>
<u>SECTION V: SOCIAL RELATIONSHIPS</u>		
14	Social Bond	Chapter 20
16	Social Support	Chapter 49
19	Life-Course	Chapters 22 & 45
25	Self-Control	Chapter 21
23	Differential Association and Social Learning	Chapters 10 & 12
<u>SECTION VI: SOCIETAL FORCES</u>		
26	Introduction, Outline, and Reference List Due	
26	Social Disorganization	Chapter 7
28	Collective Efficacy	Chapters 8 & 9
30	Strain & Opportunity	Chapters 15 & 16
Nov 2	General Strain Theory	Chapter 19
4	Crime and the American Dream	Chapter 18
6	Subculture	Chapter 13 & 14
9	Labeling	Chapter 24
11	Veteran's Day Holiday	
13	Crime, Shame, and Reintegration	Chapter 25
16	First Draft of Article Review Due – Peer Review	
18	Economic Conditions	Chapters 27 & 29
20	Age Structure	<i>Reserve: Greenberg (1977)</i>
23	2nd Draft of Article Review Due – Peer Review	
25 & 27	Thanksgiving Holiday	
30	Power-Control	Chapter 23
Dec 2	Gender	Chapters 36, 33, & 34
<u>SECTION VII: STUDENT PRESENTATIONS</u>		
Dec 4	Article Review Due	
December 4, 7, 9, and 11 Student Presentations		

REFERENCES

Pdf's on Burfeind's Webpage

- Briar, Scott and Irving Piliavin. 1965. "Delinquency, Situational Inducements, and Commitment to Conformity." *Social Problems* 13:35-45.
- Burfeind, James W. and Dawn Jeglum Bartusch. 2011. *Juvenile Delinquency: An Integrated Approach* (2nd edition). Sudbury, MA: Jones and Bartlett Publishers.
- Laub, John H. and Robert J. Sampson. 1991. "The Sutherland-Glueck Debate: On the Sociology of Criminological Knowledge." *American Journal of Sociology* 96:1402-1440.
- McCarthy, Bill and John Hagan. 1992. "Mean Streets: The Theoretical Significance of Situational Delinquency Among Homeless Youths." *American Journal of Sociology* 98: 597- 627.
- Osgood, D. Wayne, Janet K. Wilson, Patrick M. O'Malley, Jerald G. Bachman, and Lloyd D. Johnson. 1996. "Routine Activities and Individual Deviant Behavior." *American Sociological Review* 61:635-655.627.
- Paternoster, Raymond. 1989. "Decisions to Participate and Desist from Four Types of Common Delinquency: Deterrence and the Rational Choice Perspective." *Law and Society Review* 23:7-40.
- Plomin, Robert and Kathryn Ashbury. 2005. "Nature and Nurture: Genetic and Environmental Influences on Behavior." *ANNALS of the American Academy of Political and Social Sciences* 600:86-98.

On Reserve in Seminar Room

- Greenberg, David. 1977. "Delinquency and the Age Structure of Society." *Contemporary Crisis: Crime, Law, and Social Policy* 1.
- Katz, Jack. 1988. "Righteous Slaughter," and "Sneaky Thrills." Chapters 2 and 3 in *Seductions of Crime: Moral and Sensual Attractions in Doing Evil*. New York, NY: Basic Books.