

# Criminology

CRIM 330 | Spring 2024

## BASIC CLASS INFORMATION

---

<b>Instructor:</b>	Kyle Maksuta
<b>Time:</b>	Online (Asynchronous)
<b>Location:</b>	Finley C. Grise Hall 0132
<b>Email:</b>	kyle.maksuta@wku.edu
<b>Office:</b>	Grise Hall 111
<b>Office Hours:</b>	Tuesday and Thursday 10:00 am – 11:30 am

## REQUIRED BOOKS AND RESOURCES

---

Zito, C. Rena. (2022). *Engaged Criminology: An Introduction*. Thousand Oaks, CA: SAGE Publications, Inc. (ISBN: 9781071801932)

You will also be asked to purchase/rent/loan **ONE** of the following for a book report during the semester:

Bourgois, Phillippe. 1995. *In Search of Respect: Selling Crack in El Barrio*. New York, NY: Cambridge University Press.

Ralph, Laurence. 2014. *Renegade Dreams: Living Through Injury in Gangland Chicago*. Chicago, IL: University of Chicago Press.

Stuart, Forrest. 2016. *Down, Out and Under Arrest*. Chicago, IL: University of Chicago Press.

Rios, Victor M. 2011. *Punished: Policing the Lives of Black and Latino Boys*. New York, NY: New York University Press.

Contreras, Randol. 2013. *The Stickup Kids: Race, Drugs, Violence, and the American Dream*. Berkeley, CA: University of California Press.

Comfort, Megan. 2008. *Doing Time Together: Love and Family in the Shadow of the Prison*. Chicago, IL: University of Chicago Press.

Hoang, Kimberly Kay. 2015. *Dealing in Desire: Asian Ascendancy, Western Decline, and the Hidden Currencies of Global Sex Work*. Berkeley, CA: University of California Press.

Morris, Monique W. 2018. *Pushout: The Criminalization of Black Girls in Schools*. New York, NY: New World Press.

## COURSE DESCRIPTION

---

This course delves into the realm of crime, deviance, and the workings of the criminal justice system. It offers a comprehensive overview of the origins and impacts of criminal behavior, drawing from various perspectives such as sociological, psychological, and biological. The course

underscores the significance of the societal backdrop of crime, exploring how various types of crimes are connected to theoretical frameworks, the societal construction of crime and law, racial aspects of crime, and the aftermath and advantages of criminal policy. It also ventures into forecasting the trajectory of criminal theory and public dialogue, analyzing their interplay and resultant social phenomena that are prevalent in our daily lives. (**Note:** The material from this course is covered in CRIM 499: Senior Seminar, which is required for CRIM majors. You are advised to save your notes/materials for the course to assist you when you take the senior seminar.)

## **COURSE GOALS**

---

- 1) Identify and discuss potential causes of crime – including biological, psychological, and sociological – and deviance in society and society's responses to criminal and deviant behavior.
- 2) Examine and refine analytical, reasoning, and connective abilities, recognizing how theory and social variables are connected and interdependent.
- 3) Discuss the historical antecedents of current public policy in the United States, and the consequences, both manifest and latent, and how current public discourse shapes how we discuss and understand crime in our everyday lives.
- 4) Apply criminological theory to public policy through the use of real-world examples to develop solutions to societal issues surrounding race, gender, socioeconomic status, and crime.
- 5) Develop your skills in communication, collegiality, critical thinking, teamwork, and problem-solving.
- 6) Compare, contrast, and articulate how your thinking about crime and criminality has changed throughout the semester.

## **HOW YOU WILL BE ASSESSED**

---

### *Unit Assignments (35% of final grade)*

There are 9 units in this course. Each unit in this course will be accompanied by a unit quiz and/or assignment. Unit quizzes will consist of 26 questions, with the last question being a short essay. A unit may also be accompanied by a unit assignment which will require you to apply what you are learning and/or explore a topic in a new way to help deepen your understanding. These assignments will vary, but the content of them will be reflected in the module assessment, so it is imperative that you complete them so as to be prepared for the module assessment. Collectively, the quizzes and assignments are worth 35% of your final grade.

### *Module Reflection Journal/Exercise (15% of final grade)*

Reflections are designed to focus your critical thinking and understanding of specific issues, encouraging you to apply your knowledge and organize evidence to form coherent arguments. There are three reflection exercises throughout this course, one for each module, and all three are mandatory. For each, you will need to write an essay responding to one of the provided prompts. Your essay should be 2-3 pages in length, double-spaced, with standard margins and font size. Cite all external sources within the text using APA formatting and provide a list of references at the

end. Please include only your name and prompt number at the top of the page as the heading. Collectively, reflection papers are worth 15% of your final grade.

*Formal Assessments (50% of final grade)*

This course is designed with three modules and three formal assessments. The first two formal assessments are exams with True/False and Multiple-Choice questions. The third assessment will be a book report. I have decided to use different assessment types for a few reasons, but mostly because some students excel on some assessment types, while others on more varied assessments. Collectively, these assessments are worth 50% of your final grade.

## **GRADING**

---

<b>Grading Breakdown</b>	<b>Percent of Overall Grade</b>
Unit Quizzes	35%
Module Reflections	15%
Formal Assessments	50%

### **Grading Scale:**

A	= 90-100%
B	= 80-89%
C	= 70-79%
D	= 60-69%
F	= below 60%

## **GENERAL COURSE GUIDELINES**

---

*Instructor Availability and Office Hours:* I hold regular office hours, and you are welcome to drop in without an appointment. However, if you wish to discuss matters beyond course content, like mentoring, research, or extracurricular activities, I recommend reaching out in advance. Should you need to meet outside of my office hours, please email me so we can arrange a mutually convenient time.

*Late/Missed Assignments:* Please be aware that late assignments will incur a penalty of 10% per day. If you have a valid reason for missing an assignment or exam, let me know in advance whenever possible. Depending on the specific circumstances, we can discuss potential accommodations.

*Academic integrity:* Any student who engages in academic dishonesty (e.g., cheating, plagiarism, fabrication, and facilitating academic dishonesty, including use of AI), will receive a failing grade on the exam or assignment. I will also submit a report to the university Office of Student Conduct where the student may face more serious punishments (suspension, expulsion etc.)

Please familiarize yourself with the Undergraduate Academic Regulations (ignorance is no excuse!): <https://www.wku.edu/handbook/academic-dishonesty.php/>  
<https://www.wku.edu/handbook/>

*Use of Artificial Intelligence (AI) and Language Learning Models (LLM) in this Course:* In this course, we recognize and encourage the use of AI tools, such as ChatGPT, as helpful aids in your academic journey. These tools can be utilized for various tasks such as formatting assistance, the development of paper outlines, and the editing process of your assignments. AI technology is a powerful tool that can enhance your understanding and help streamline your workload. However, while these tools are available for your assistance, it is crucial to remember that they are to complement your academic efforts and not replace your original work. Therefore, copying and pasting content directly from AI sources is strictly prohibited. The primary goal of this course is for you to engage in independent critical thinking, apply course material, and produce original content. AI tools should aid this process and not substitute for your individual contribution. Infringement of these guidelines can lead to penalties as per the academic misconduct policy of the institution. Your responsibility is to ensure that the work you submit is genuinely your own, reflecting your understanding and your voice. Be sure to make the best, ethical use of AI tools to enhance your learning experience!

*E-mail Etiquette:* Please use your WKU email account ([abcd@wku.edu](mailto:abcd@wku.edu)) for all correspondence related to this course. I aim to respond to emails within 48 hours. If you haven't received a reply after 5 business days, feel free to follow up. When sending an email, make sure the subject line contains the course number and the time/date of the class. Remember to check your message for spelling and grammatical errors before hitting send. Clear, professional communication is appreciated!

*Students with disabilities and ADA Accommodations:* In compliance with University policy, students with disabilities who require academic and/or auxiliary accommodations for this course must contact the Student Accessibility Resource Center located in Downing Student Union, Room 1074. The SARC can be reached by phone number at 270-745-5004 [270-745-3030 TTY] or via email at [sarc.connect@wku.edu](mailto:sarc.connect@wku.edu). Please do not request accommodations directly from the professor or instructor without a faculty notification letter (FNL) from The Student Accessibility Resource Center.

*Title IX/Discrimination & Harassment:* Western Kentucky University (WKU) is committed to supporting faculty, staff and students by upholding WKU's Sex and Gender-Based Discrimination, Harassment, and Retaliation (#0.070) and Discrimination and Harassment Policy (#0.2040). Under these policies, discrimination, harassment and/or sexual misconduct based on sex/gender are prohibited. If you experience an incident of sex/gender-based discrimination, harassment and/or sexual misconduct, you are encouraged to report it to the Title IX Coordinator, Deborah Wilkins, 270-745-5398 or Title IX Investigators, Michael Crowe, 270-745-5429 or Joshua Hayes, 270-745-5121. Please note that while you may report an incident of sex/gender based discrimination, harassment and/or sexual misconduct to a faculty member, WKU faculty are "Responsible Employees" of the University and MUST report what you share to WKU's Title IX Coordinator or Title IX Investigator. If you would like to speak with someone who may be able to afford you confidentiality, you may contact WKU's Counseling and Testing Center at 270-745-3159.

*The Learning Center Peer Tutoring Services:* The Learning Center (TLC) provides free tutoring services that empower students to achieve academic success. Trained peer tutors are available to review course content, answer questions, and demonstrate effective study strategies. TLC offers individual appointments and group sessions (PASS) for hundreds of undergraduate courses. For more information or to make an appointment, visit [www.wku.edu/tlc](http://www.wku.edu/tlc).