

Criminology (SOC 3600)

Instructor Information

Instructor: Dr. Nicole Kaufman
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Office Hours: Monday and Wednesday, 3:15-5:15 PM

Course Information

Credits: 3
Pre-requisite: SOC 2600
Meeting time: 10:45 to 11:40 AM, Monday, Wednesday and Friday
Classroom: Copeland Hall 108

Required Readings:

Two books are required:

- 1) Williams, Frank III and McShane, Marilyn. 2014. *Criminological Theory* (6th Edition). Boston: Pearson. [If the 6th edition is too costly, explore the 5th edition.]
- 2) Wright, Richard (1940). *Native Son*. Any addition and publisher are acceptable.

The major bookstores on campus should carry them, although you have time to find cheap used copies online. The books will be on reserve at the Alden Circulation Desk.

The remaining reading assignments are posted on Blackboard.

Course Description:

We will explore three principal questions together in this course.

- 1) *What is crime?* As we define crime, we will discuss conflict and consensus perspectives of crime, as well as social constructionist and realist perspectives of crime.
- 2) *How can we study crime?* We will cover the basic methodological tools for studying crime, common data sources criminologists use, and ethical considerations in criminology.
- 3) *What explains crime?* We will study theories that explain the occurrence of crime as driven by individual choice, biological characteristics, societal-level characteristics, and social processes. Students will apply these theories to explain a fictional homicide occurring in Richard Wright's novel *Native Son*.

Course Objectives:

- 1) Students will gain substantive knowledge about theories of crime and their intellectual roots.

- 2) Students will learn and apply skills: interpreting graphs and tables about crime rates and trends, calculating the crime rate, and appraising the strengths and weaknesses of different types of sources of crime data.
- 3) Students will develop critical thinking skills through the analysis of the designation of behavior and people as criminal, and through assessments of the soundness of claims about crime.

Course Requirements:

Item	Due date	Portion of final grade
Participation (in-class activities and “expert” days, games, pop quizzes, and peer review)	Ongoing	15%
Exam on defining and measuring crime	9/28	25%
Quiz on <i>Native Son</i> book 1 and theories	11/2	5%
<i>Native Son</i> paper outline	11/30	5%
<i>Native Son</i> paper	12/10	15%
Exam on theories of crime	12/10	35%

The final grade is determined through the assignments above.

Note about the exams

Exams assess whether students understand crucial concepts, especially items on a term sheet that I will distribute leading up to the exam. Exams will have a combination of **multiple choice** and **written identification questions**. One page (two-sides) of written notes will be allowed at the exam.

Responsibilities and Policies:

Student Responsibilities: Students are expected to be familiar with Ohio University policies and procedures. (See the Code of Conduct here: <http://www.ohio.edu/communitystandards/>). If a situation arises that prevents the successful completion of this course, it is each student's responsibility to formally withdraw from this course.

Accessibility: Any student who suspects s/he may need an accommodation based on the impact of a disability should contact the class instructor privately to discuss the student's specific needs and provide written documentation from the Office of Student Accessibility Services. If the student is not yet registered as a student with a disability, s/he should contact the Office of Student Accessibility Services in Baker at (740) 593-2620. It is best to request these accommodations at the beginning so there is ample time to make the accommodations.

Academic Integrity: Academic integrity an expectation in all OU classes and applies in this class. Put simply, passing off another person's work or ideas as your own will not be permitted. The Ohio University Student Code of Conduct prohibits all forms of academic dishonesty, including: cheating, plagiarism, forgery, and collusion. Students who fail to observe these standards are subject to disciplinary action: I will reduce the grade of the assignment and report the incident to the student's advisor and the Office of Community Standards and Student Responsibility. Students may appeal academic sanctions through the grade appeal process.

Attendance: Regular attendance is expected. Students who miss class should seek notes and materials from peers. When absence is due to an emergency, documented medical condition or illness, authorized university activity, or military service/training, and the reason is documented, the student and instructor can work together to accommodate the absence.

Sensitivity: Many of the topics we will discuss will be sensitive. Our discussions require an environment of mutual respect so that our classroom feels safe for everyone. There may be times when you hear opinions that you do not agree with, in the service of discussing complicated social issues. However, please notify me if you feel uncomfortable with the way we are going about discussions or addressing the course content.

Syllabus Changes: As your instructor, I retain the right to make changes based on the timeline of the class, feedback from learners, or logistical issues. I will inform you as soon as a change is made.

Use of Electronic Devices: Devices are permissible to pull up assigned readings and take notes. There will be points deducted from the participation grade when devices are used in a way that distracts the user and others from class.

Note about slides: It is my policy not to distribute power point slides from lecture. Please ask after class, in office hours, or via email if you wish to review the slides.

Grading Policy:

Appealing a grade: Please take 24 hours before speaking to the instructor about a graded assignment or exam score.

Late Assignments: Papers are due at the beginning of class in paper form **and** on Safe Assign via Blackboard. Work is considered late when it does not meet these specifications. For every day late, I will deduct 10% of the possible points for that assignment. Exceptions can be granted in the case of a documented emergency.

Final grades: The final grade for the semester is not negotiable, except in the case of a calculation error.

Grading: Percentages on assignments and exams will translate to the following grades:

95-100	A	74-76	C
90-94	A-	70-73	C-
87-89	B+	67-69	D+
84-86	B	64-66	D
80-83	B-	60-63	D-
77-79	C+	59 or below	F

Course Calendar

Day	Date	Topic	Assignment Due
Monday	8/27/2018	Course overview	Read syllabus
Defining Crime			
Wednesday	8/29/2018	Defining crime and deviance	Tiger, Rebecca. 2017. "Race, Class, and the Framing of Drug Epidemics." <i>Contexts</i> , Dec. 18. (12 pp.) 2014. "The Federal Marijuana Ban Is Rooted in Myth and Xenophobia" (editorial). <i>The New York Times</i> . July 30, New York edition, A22. (4 pp.)
Friday	8/31/2018	Social constructivist and realist perspectives	Simon, Rebecca. 2012. "The social construction of crime in the Atlantic world: Piracy as a case study." <i>International Journal of Interdisciplinary Social Sciences</i> 6(6): 75-88. (13 pp.)
<i>no class 9/3/2018</i>			
Data and Ethics in Criminological Research			
Wednesday	9/5/2018	Narratives of crime	Kubrin, Charis. 2015. "'Come Along and Ride on a Fantastic Voyage': My Journey Through Rap Music Lyrics." Selection from <i>Envisioning Criminology: Researchers on Research as a Process</i> , edited by Michael Maltz and Stephen Rice. (11 pp.) Francesca Salavieri. 2011. Untitled. Selection from <i>In this Place, Not of It</i> , edited by Ayelet Waldman and Robin Levi. San Francisco: McSweeney's Books. (9 pp.)
Friday	9/7/2018	Official crime reports (1)	Miller, T. Christian and Tom Meagher. 2015. "Rape Is Rape, Isn't It?" <i>The Marshall Project</i> , Dec. 18. (5 pp.) Poston, Ben. 2012. "Hundreds of assault cases misreported by Milwaukee Police Department: City's violent crime rate lowered based on faulty data." <i>Milwaukee Journal-Sentinel</i> , May 22. (13 pp.) [Also look at graphic on left side entitled "How crimes, weapons are misreported."]
<i>no class 9/10/2018</i>			Complete take-home quiz
Wednesday	9/12/2018	Official crime reports (2)	
Friday	9/14/2018	Official crime reports (3)	Explore reports on offenses by inmates and staff on the Federal Bureau of Prisons' statistics site
Monday	9/17/2018	Victimization surveys	Janet Lauritsen. 2015. "The Devil Is in the Details: Crime and Victimization Research with the National Crime Victimization Survey." (7 pp.)
<i>no class 9/19/2018</i>			

Friday	9/21/2018	Interviews	Miller, Jody. 2008. Selections from <i>Getting Played African American Girls, Urban Inequality, and Gendered Violence</i> . New York: NYU Press. (22 pp.)
Monday	9/24/2018	Participant observation	Bourgois, Philippe. 1995. Selections from <i>In Search of Respect: Selling Crack in El Barrio</i> . Cambridge: Cambridge University Press. (17 pp.).
Wednesday	9/26/2018	Catch-up/ wrap-up and review	
Friday	9/28/2018	Exam on defining and measuring crime	
Explaining Crime			
Monday	10/1/2018	Discuss exam results, introduce <i>Native Son</i>	Drake, St. Clair. 1944. "Profiles: Chicago." <i>Journal of Educational Sociology</i> 18: 261-271. (10 pp.)
Wednesday	10/3/2018	Complete <i>Native Son</i> introduction; how to evaluate theories	Williams and McShane Chapter 1, pp. 1-12 (11 pp.)
<i>no class 10/5/18</i>			
Monday	10/8/2018	Classical theories	Williams and McShane Chapter 2, pp. 14-21 (top) (7 pp.)
Wednesday	10/10/2018	Tentative date for visit by money laundering investigators, Discover Financial Services	
Friday	10/12/2018	Neo-classical theories (1); "Style Wars"	Williams and McShane Chapter 13, pp. 191-197 (middle) (6 pp.)
Monday	10/15/2018	Neo-classical theories (2); "Style Wars"	
Wednesday	10/17/2018	Biological determinism (1)	Williams and McShane Chapter 3, pp. 27-35 (bottom) (8 pp.)
Friday	10/19/2018	Biological determinism (2)	Buck v Bell Supreme Court ruling, 1927 (2 pp.) Reinhold, Robert. 1980. "Virginia Hospital's Chief Traces 50 years of Sterilizing the 'Retarded.'" <i>New York Times</i> . 23 February, p. A6. (1 p.) Franklin, Ben A. 1980. "Teen-Ager's Sterilization an Issues Decades Later." <i>New York Times</i> . March 7, p. A16. (1 p.)
Monday	10/22/2018	Inequality and crime: Economic explanations (1)	Chaddha, Anmol and Wilson, William J. 2011. "'Way Down in the Hole': Systemic Urban Inequality and The Wire." <i>Critical Inquiry</i> . (26 pp.)
Wednesday	10/24/2018	Inequality and crime: Economic explanations (2)	(ditto above)

Friday	10/26/2018	Inequality and crime: Gender and race	Sered, Susan and Maureen Norton-Hawk. 2014. “‘The Little Rock of the North’: Race, Gender, Class, and the Consequences of Mass Incarceration.” Selection from Selection from <i>Can’t Catch a Break: Gender, Jail, Drugs, and the Limits of Personal Responsibility</i> . (13 pp.)
Monday	10/29/2018	Social disorganization theory	McShane and Williams, Chapter 4, pp. 46-55 (top) (9 pp.) Review Drake article
Wednesday	10/31/2018	Review game on theories	
Friday	11/2/2018	Quiz on <i>Native Son</i> book 1 and theories	<i>Native Son</i> book 1 due
Monday	11/5/2018	Discuss <i>Native Son</i> book 1	Bring <i>Native Son</i>
Wednesday	11/7/2018	Anomie (strain) theory	McShane and Williams, Chapter 6, pp. 77-85 (middle) (8 pp.)
Friday	11/9/2018	Neutralization theory (1)	Scully, Diana and Joseph Marolla. 1984. “Convicted Rapists' Vocabulary of Motive: Excuses and Justification.” <i>Social Problems</i> 31(5): 530-544. (14 pp.)
<i>no class 11/12/18</i>			
Wednesday	11/14/2018	Social learning theory; discuss paper assignments	McShane and Williams, Chapter 12, pp. 177-185 (middle) (8 pp.)
Friday	11/16/2018	Social control theory	McShane and Williams, Chapter 11, pp. 160-169 (middle) (9 pp.)
Monday	11/19/2018	Peer review day	Bring in outlines
<i>no class 11/21/18 and 11/23/18</i>			
Monday	11/26/2018	Film “Native Son” shown	Read Book 3 <i>Native Son</i>
Wednesday	11/28/2018	Film “Native Son” shown	Read Book 3 <i>Native Son</i>
Friday	11/30/2018		Turn in outlines in class
Monday	12/3/2018	Feedback on outlines (A-L)	
Wednesday	12/5/2018	Feedback on outlines (M-Z)	
Friday	12/7/2018	Review game	

Final Exam, 12/10/2018, 10:10 AM: The exam will cover material beginning October 1, including books 1 and 3 of *Native Son*. ***Native Son* papers due.**

The lectures, classroom activities, and all materials associated with this class and developed by the instructor are copyrighted in the name of Dr. Nicole Kaufman on August 23, 2017.