

Course Syllabus

SYP4520 Criminology

Spring 2024

Instructor: Professor Marian J. Borg

Email: mborg@ufl.edu

Email (directly or via our Canvas course site) is the most effective way to reach me. I will do my best to return your email quickly and within 24 hours. I generally do not check email on the weekends, so please expect a slower response if you email then. I expect more email prior to assignment due dates and will answer your questions as quickly as possible. In general, I check my email (Monday to Friday) for the last time around 5:00 pm, so please plan accordingly if your questions are urgent. **Please include SYP4520 in the subject line of your email.**

Office hours: My on-line semester office hours will be held via Zoom, every Thursday, 2:00-3:00 and additional hours by appointment, zoom or in person. I will send a link each week via Announcements in Canvas. We can also arrange appointments via zoom or in person (3364 Turlington), especially if you are in Gainesville--send me an email to coordinate. Please plan on stopping by virtually or in person for course-related questions as well as general conversations about your interests and other concerns!

Course Description and Objectives

This on-line course is an overview of the field of criminology with particular emphasis on the nature of crime in the United States and the approaches sociologists have used to understand the conditions associated with criminal behavior. Over the course of the semester, we will address three general areas. First (in Modules 1-5), we will review how "crime" in the U.S. is legally defined and then examine the various techniques criminologists use to categorize, measure and track criminal behavior. Next (in Modules 6-10), we will analyze the patterns which these measurement devices reveal about the offenders, victims and social context in which different types of criminal behavior occurs. In the remaining modules (Modules 11-12) we will consider and evaluate the arguments of various sociological theories that propose to explain criminal behavior. Our discussions should help you reach a more accurate and informed understanding of the nature and extent of crime in our society and the social context in which such activity seems most likely to occur.

The course should help you:

- Explain, apply and assess the major theories used by sociologists to study crime.

- Differentiate and critically evaluate the measurement devices and data sources criminologists use to measure and track criminal behavior and victimization.
- Analyze and interpret data on the social context of various types of criminal behavior, including the characteristics of offenders, victims, bystanders and the location in which crimes occur.
- Critically analyze data and research to formulate policies and programs that provide effective responses to crime.

Note: Specific objectives associated with each topic are listed within each module.

Course Readings

All required reading for the course will be available through pdf links within modules. In addition to these **required** readings, I recommend (but not required!) one book available on Amazon for approximately \$10: *Criminological Theories: Just the Basics, 2nd edition*, by Robert Heiner (2016). This is RECOMMENDED only—useful if you wish to read additional summaries of the theories covered in the course.

Course Requirements

Syllabus Quiz

The syllabus quiz is required and is worth 3 points towards your final grade. The quiz is open book/open notes. There are 6 questions on the quiz; each question is worth half a point. You will have 20 minutes to complete the quiz, you must finish it once you start, and you must submit your answers by 11:55 pm in the due date (please consult the course calendar). **Your syllabus quiz is worth 3 points toward your final grade.**

Introduce Yourself Post

An “introduce yourself” assignment is required and is worth 7 points towards your final grade. Follow the assignment and complete all posts to earn the full points. The assignment will open on the first day of the semester and is due at 11:55 pm on the due date (please consult the course calendar). **Your introduce yourself post is worth 7 points towards your final grade.**

Quizzes

Over the course of the semester, there will be six substantive quizzes covering material from lectures, assigned chapters, supplemental readings and video material. The quizzes are not cumulative, except to the extent that material covered later in the course builds upon that discussed earlier. Quizzes will cover two modules worth of material, and will take place at the end of modules 2, 4, 6, 8, 10 and 12. Five of the 6 substantive quizzes will count toward your final grade, so your lowest substantive quiz score will be dropped from your final grade. **Thus,**

your substantive quizzes are worth a total of 100 points toward your final grade (5 quizzes worth 20 points each).

Once you have completed all of the assigned tasks for a module (i.e., all required readings, lectures, video links, etc.), make sure you study this material thoroughly. After you've studied the material, you should be ready to take the quiz. The quiz is timed, so you should know all the material prior to starting the quiz (**i.e., there will not be enough time to look up each answer in your notes, so you should prepare as if your notes were not available to you**). You will have 25 minutes to complete each quiz.

Unless otherwise announced, quizzes will open on Fridays at 12:01 am and remain open until Sunday at 11:55 pm. You are responsible for completing your quizzes by 11:55 pm on the due date. **You will have 25 minutes to complete your 20 question quiz.** If you are still taking the quiz when the due time for the quiz passes, you will not be allowed to submit your quiz. Thus, the latest start time for each quiz is 11:30 pm Eastern Time on quiz days. You **MUST** take the quiz **BEFORE** the deadline listed. Make up quizzes will be given according to the makeup policy (see below) and will be scheduled at my discretion.

If you have any trouble with your quiz, or any technical issues, you must contact the UF Computing Help Desk immediately at 352-392-4357 / option 2. Once you have done so, email me immediately with the details of your problem along with your HelpDesk ticket number.

Before taking your first quiz, view the [Canvas video tutorial on taking quizzes](#).

Discussion Activities

There are two required discussion activities available in the course. Detailed instructions for each activity are located via links under the appropriate tabs in Canvas. To earn the full points, make sure to follow the directions associated with that discussion activity. Each activity consists of an initial discussion post and a follow-up post. Each discussion activity is worth a total of 35 points. **Thus, there are a total of 70 discussion activity points that will count towards your final grade (2 required discussion activities worth 35 points each).**

Semester Project: Photography Portfolio Project

Your semester-long project will take the form of a photography portfolio that conveys your sociological understanding of crime and its consequences as depicted in photographs that you take over the course of the semester. The goal of the project is to encourage you to think about how the material we cover in the course relates to the social and physical space in which you exist and to the real life experiences of the individuals (strangers, acquaintances and intimates) with whom you interact on a daily basis. The project will include three parts.

Photo Submissions & Analyses

The first part of the project will consist of 4 photos taken by you and a written analysis of each one that connects the photo to a concept, theory, empirical pattern or other content covered in our course modules. Each student's Photography Portfolio will be displayed on our course website as it evolves over the semester. See the Photography Portfolio Project instructions for all details. **Your photo submissions/written analyses are worth a total of 60 points (4 submissions, 15 points each) towards your final grade.**

Peer Reviews

In addition to your own submissions, you will be asked to provide a review of your peers' work each time a submission is due. Your peer reviews (4 total) will include an assessment of one peer's portfolio submission, including its strengths and weaknesses; what you learned from the entry; and how it may have prompted you to rethink the work you are completing on your own photography project. **The peer review assignments are worth 20 points total (4 reviews, 5 points each) towards your final grade.**

Reflective Essay

A final reflective essay discussing what you learned from the photography project is due at the end of the semester and is **worth 20 points towards your final grade.**

In sum, the Photography Portfolio Project is worth a total of 100 points towards your final grade (60 points from your photo submissions; 20 points from your peer reviews; 20 points from your final reflective essay). See the project guidelines for full instructions on the contents, organization and expectations for your portfolio photos, your peer reviews and your final essay.

Makeup Policy

I understand that sometimes one's personal life, emergencies and responsibilities interfere with one's ability to take an exam, turn in a paper, participate in a discussion, etc. In general, acceptable reasons for absence from or failure to participate in class include illness, serious family emergencies, special curricular requirements (e.g., judging trips, field trips, professional conferences), military obligation, severe weather conditions, religious holidays, and participation in official university activities such as music performances, athletic competition, or debate. Absences from class for court-imposed legal obligations (e.g., jury duty or subpoena) must be excused. Other reasons also may be approved. Students shall be permitted a reasonable amount of time to make up the material or activities covered in their absence. Please contact me (via email) before/ immediately after the missed assignment/quiz.

Making up quizzes. Your lowest quiz grade will be dropped at the end of the semester.

Therefore, if you miss one quiz, you do not need to provide documentation for me. However, if you miss more than one quiz, and want to make up the second, you'll need to have an approved reason (i.e., those listed in above) to make up the second missed quiz. Again, contact me ASAP to discuss.

Grading

Final grades will be determined from a combination of quizzes and assignments, according to the following structure. GPA equivalents are also noted below. Information on current UF grading policies for assigning grade points can be found here: [link to the university grades and grading policies](#).

Syllabus quiz	3 points
Introduce Yourself Post	7 points
Quizzes (5 of 6, 20 points apiece)	100 points
Discussion Activities (2@35 points each)	70 points
Photography Portfolio, Individual Submissions (4)	60 points
Photography Portfolio, Review of Peers' Photos (4)	20 points
Photography Portfolio, Final Reflective Essay (1)	20 points
Total possible points	280 points

Points Earned	Percent	Grade	Corresponding Grade Points
251-280	90-100%	A	4.00
245-250	88-89%	B+	3.33
223-244	80-87%	B	3.00
217-222	78-79%	C+	2.33
195-216	70-77%	C	2.00
189-194	68-69%	D+	1.33
167-188	60-67%	D	1.00
0-166	Below 59%	E	0.00

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Semester Schedule and Due Dates: (subject to change)

Sun Jan 14, 2024	Discussion Topic Introduce Yourself Discussion Activity	due by 11:59pm
	Quiz Syllabus Quiz	due by 11:59pm
Tue Jan 16, 2024	Discussion Topic Introduce Yourself Discussion Activity	11:55pm
Sun Jan 28, 2024	Quiz Quiz #1 - Mods 1-2	due by 11:59pm
Tue Jan 30, 2024	Assignment Discussion Activity #1: Juvenile Justice Editorial	due by 11:59pm
Thu Feb 1, 2024	Calendar Event Discussion #1 -- follow up post	12am
Tue Feb 6, 2024	Assignment Photography Portfolio Project - Submission 1 (Module 1-3)	due by 11:59pm
Thu Feb 8, 2024	Calendar Event Photo #1-- peer review	12am
Sun Feb 11, 2024	Quiz Quiz #2 - Mods 3-4	due by 11:59pm
Sun Feb 25, 2024	Quiz Quiz #3 - Mods 5-6	due by 11:59pm
Tue Feb 27, 2024	Assignment Photography Portfolio Project - Submission 2 (Modules 4-6)	due by 11:59pm

Thu Feb 29, 2024	Calendar Event Photo #2 -- peer review	12am
Sun Mar 10, 2024	Quiz Quiz #4 - Mods 7-8	due by 11:59pm
Mon Mar 11, 2024	Calendar Event HAPPY SPRING BREAK	12am
Tue Mar 19, 2024	Assignment Discussion Activity #2 Learning More About White Collar Crime	due by 11:59pm
Thu Mar 21, 2024	Calendar Event Discussion #2 -- follow-up post	12am
Tue Mar 26, 2024	Assignment Photography Portfolio Project - Submission 3 (Modules 7-9)	due by 11:59pm
Thu Mar 28, 2024	Calendar Event Photo #3 Peer Review due	12am
Wed Apr 3, 2024	Quiz Quiz #5 - Mods 9-10	due by 11:59pm
Tue Apr 16, 2024	Assignment Photography Portfolio Project - Submission 4 (Modules 10-12)	due by 11:59pm
Thu Apr 18, 2024	Calendar Event Photo #4 -- peer review	12am
Sun Apr 21, 2024	Quiz Quiz #6_ mods 11-12	due by 11:59pm
Tue Apr 23, 2024	Assignment Photography Portfolio Project - Reflective Essay	due by 11:59pm
Fri Apr 26, 2024	Calendar Event University of Florida GatorEvals – Fall 2023 Main Project	11:59pm

Disabilities Resource Center

Reprinted from UF website, http://www.ir.ufl.edu/fac_handbook/syllabi.html

"Students requesting classroom accommodation must first register with the Dean of Students Office. The Dean of Students Office will provide documentation to the student who must then provide this documentation to the Instructor when requesting accommodation."

You should contact me and the Disability Resource Center, <http://www.dso.ufl.edu/drc>, as early in the semester as possible. The DRC is located in 001 Building 0020 (Reid Hall). Their phone number is 392-8565.

Administrative Information

This syllabus is provided for your information and may change as deemed necessary. You are responsible for learning all the material contained in the syllabus as well as any modifications that are made to the syllabus over the course of the semester. All changes to the syllabus will be announced and emailed to you. If you have any questions about the syllabus or course requirements, please feel free to contact me. An approximate semester schedule appears below.

Course Evaluations

"Students are expected to provide professional and respectful feedback on the quality of instruction in this course by completing course evaluations online via GatorEvals. [Click here for guidance on how to give feedback in a professional and respectful manner](#). Students will be notified when the evaluation period opens, and can complete evaluations through the email they receive from GatorEvals, in their Canvas course menu under GatorEvals, or via ufl.bluera.com/ufl/. [Summaries of course evaluation results are available to students here.](#)"

Other Campus Resources:

Health and Wellness

U Matter, We Care: If you or someone you know is in distress, please contact umatter@ufl.edu, 352-392-1575, or visit [U Matter, We Care website](#) to refer or report a concern and a team member will reach out to the student in distress.

Counseling and Wellness Center: [Visit the Counseling and Wellness Center website](#) or call 352-392-1575 for information on crisis services as well as non-crisis services.

Student Health Care Center: Call 352-392-1161 for 24/7 information to help you find the care you need, or [visit the Student Health Care Center website](#).

University Police Department: [Visit UF Police Department website](#) or call 352-392-1111 (or 9-1-1 for emergencies).

UF Health Shands Emergency Room / Trauma Center: For immediate medical care call 352-733-0111 or go to the emergency room at 1515 SW Archer Road, Gainesville, FL 32608; [Visit the UF Health Emergency Room and Trauma Center website](#).

Academic Resources

E-learning technical support: Contact the [UF Computing Help Desk](#) at 352-392-4357 or via e-mail at helpdesk@ufl.edu.

Career Connections Center: Reitz Union Suite 1300, 352-392-1601. Career assistance and counseling services.

Library Support: Various ways to receive assistance with respect to using the libraries or finding resources.

Teaching Center: Broward Hall, 352-392-2010 or to make an appointment 352- 392-6420. General study skills and tutoring.

Writing Studio: 2215 Turlington Hall, 352-846-1138. Help brainstorming, formatting, and writing papers.

Student Complaints On-Campus: [Visit the Student Honor Code and Student Conduct Code webpage for more information](#).

On-Line Students Complaints: [View the Distance Learning Student Complaint Process](#)