

SOCI 209: SOCIOLOGY OF CRIME¹

Department of Sociology, University of Nebraska-Lincoln – Fall 2016

****Abridged syllabus—see course Blackboard site for full syllabus****

Course Information

Instructor:	Dr. Tara Warner	Lecture Times:	Tues. & Thurs. 12:30 – 1:45pm
Office:	705 Oldfather Hall	Lecture Room:	105 Teachers College
Email:	twarner2@unl.edu	Prerequisites:	None
Office hours:	Tues., 2:30 – 4:30pm, or by appointment		

INTRODUCTION: This course aims to provide you with a sociological approach to the study of crime and the field of criminology. It is designed to introduce you to “the sociological imagination” and encourage you to develop this critical capacity to recognize and understand the social causes of criminal behavior, highlighting, in particular, the roles of race/ethnicity, social class, and gender.

REQUIRED TEXT (available in the campus bookstore or online):

Miller, J. Mitchell, Christopher J. Schreck, Richard Tewksbury and J.C. Barnes. 2015. *Criminological Theory: A Brief Introduction, 4th Edition*. Upper Saddle River, NJ: Prentice Hall.

Other required readings will be available on Blackboard (under “Readings”)

Trigger Warning: This course contains readings, assignments, discussions, and films addressing sensitive topics including (but not limited to): violence/victimization, substance use/abuse, intimate partner and sexual violence, criminal justice contact, mental illness, and racism/discrimination. **If you find such topics objectionable and/or distressing, it is advised that you enroll in another course.** No alternative assignments will be given.

Achievement-Centered Education (ACE) Designation: As an ACE class, Sociology of Crime (SOCI 209) will facilitate Learning Outcome #6: using knowledge, theories, methods, and historical perspectives appropriate to the social sciences to understand and evaluate human behavior.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS:

(1) Assignments (80 points total)—

Assignments (3 total) will be submitted electronically through *Blackboard*; detailed instructions for each assignment and how/where to submit them can be found on *Blackboard* under “Assignments.” Due dates are listed on the Course Outline and Schedule (see full syllabus on BB).

(2) Exams (2 @100points/ each [200 points total])—

Exams for this course will be taken under electronic supervision at Digital Learning Center (DLC), which is located in the Adele Coryell Hall Learning Commons. Additional information about DLC procedures and logistics is located on *Blackboard* under “Exams.” **Note: Testing times must be pre-scheduled by students. All students are responsible for self sign-up and early sign-up is recommended. Time slots fill up quickly.**

Study guides will be available on Blackboard prior to each exam.

(3) Crime Portfolio: Newspaper Analysis (100 points)—

This assignment requires that you follow (throughout the semester) several media sources in order to stay abreast of current social problems and understand their connections to the course content. Details about this assignment can be found on *Blackboard* under “Assignments.”

¹ Information in this document is subject to change throughout the course of the semester; please consult Blackboard for the most current full version of the course syllabus.

(4) Classroom Conduct (30 points)—

There are 30 course points available for overall classroom conduct. Students will earn the maximum available Classroom Conduct points by (1) reading and acknowledging the Classroom Conduct Policy (available on BB under “Course Documents”) and (2) engaging in behavior—throughout the semester—consistent with the terms of that Policy.

Attendance: If you are absent, do not email the professor! Instead, you should ask your student contacts for copies of their notes, and discuss with them what you missed.

Student Contacts: Knowing a few other students in class has the potential of being extremely beneficial for you. In the spaces below please record the first and last names of two of your classmates, along with phone numbers or e-mails (whichever they feel comfortable providing). Turn to whoever is sitting near you for this. If, during the course, you notice that your student contacts have dropped, please obtain contact information from 1-2 other students.

Name	Email address and/or phone #
1.	
2.	

If you must miss class, you should contact these individuals to get missed material—you will not get missed class material from me (nor do I post these materials on Blackboard)!

Grading:

Students will earn their final grade based on the following:

Assignment 1: Implicit Assumptions	30
Assignment 2: Crime Statistics & Mapping	30
Assignment 3: Experiential Learning—Fear Journal	20
Exam 1	100
Exam 2	100
Crime Portfolio: News Analysis	100
Classroom Conduct	20
Total points possible:	400

Grade Check Requests: It is preferred that grade check be handled during office hours; however, I will complete checks after class only for students who email me notification of this need 24 hours in advance and arrive with all pertinent information on the form already completed (e.g., course name, number, etc.). To protect students’ information and privacy I will not open the gradebook in the classroom.

Students with Disabilities: To receive accommodation services, you must be registered with the Services for Students with Disabilities (SSD) office, 132 Canfield Administration. Please contact the (SSD) office as soon as possible to have them advance the paperwork to me in a timely manner.

Laptop Computer Policy: Laptop computers, netbooks, tablets, etc. are allowed for note-taking; however, students wishing to take notes electronically must sign and submit to me (in class) an “In-Class Laptop Computer Use Contract” and abide by the policies outlined in that contract. The contract is available on *Blackboard* under “Course Documents.”

Course Outline and Schedule:

- See full syllabus on BB—the Outline and Schedule lists assigned reading dates and due dates for all assignments.
- You are expected to complete the assigned reading prior to the first class for which it is assigned.