

INDIANA STATE UNIVERSITY
COLLEGE OF ARTS AND SCIENCES
DEPARTMENT OF CRIMINOLOGY

COURSE SYLLABUS

FOR

CRIMINOLOGY

CRIM 200

FALL 2005

MRS. MELISSA BENNINGFIELD, INSTRUCTOR

HOLMSTEDT HALL, ROOM 232

812/237-2441

mbenningfield@indstate.edu

OFFICE HOURS:

Tuesday and Thursday
10:00 AM – 12:00 PM

Wednesday
10:00 AM - 2:00 PM

REQUIRED TEXTBOOK FOR COURSE

Adler, F., Mueller, G., & Laufer, W. (2004). *Criminology* (5th ed.). New York: McGraw-Hill.

COURSE DESCRIPTION

A consideration of criminality, its nature and extent, particularly in the United States, and an analysis of the etiology of criminal behavior, criminal law, and societal reactions to criminals.

OBJECTIVES

This course is designed to introduce students to the concepts and processes of criminology, criminal behavior, and crime. Various criminological patterns, theories, and approaches will be examined. This course is offered as a required course for criminology majors and minors. For all other students, it is a general education liberal studies course (SBS:E). In order to fulfill the course requirements for general education, both oral and written communication skills will be demonstrated by each student. In addition, this course is part of a Learning Community (LC). You may also be enrolled in one of the following LC courses: COMM 101 or ENG 101. Therefore, several faces in class will become extra familiar since you will see each other in at least one other class each week. Part of the LC experience involves improving various academic skills, expanding your social network, and seeing the interdisciplinary nature of your learning at ISU. The instructors for your LC courses will make special opportunities, events, and/or other co-curricular activities available.

ATTENDANCE AND PUNCTUALITY

Attendance will be taken at the beginning of **every** class meeting. Regular attendance is expected of all students and is strongly encouraged. In the event a student is absent, he or she is responsible for obtaining any missed notes, assignments, or other information from another student. Additionally, it is the student's responsibility to contact the instructor regarding make-up work. A written excuse for an absence must be presented to the instructor before an absence will be excused. Furthermore, excused absences are at the discretion of the instructor and will be honored only for legitimate reasons, i.e. student hospitalization, attending a family member's funeral, etc. Punctuality is expected of every student. Habitual tardiness **will not** be tolerated. Being late for class may cause the student to miss quizzes and/or partial attendance credit. NOTE: In order to receive full attendance credit after coming to class late, the student **must** submit to the instructor in writing the reason he/she was late. Every three days a student is tardy will equal one day's absence.

ACADEMIC DISHONESTY

All students should be aware that the instructor for this course takes situations involving academic dishonesty (a.k.a. cheating) very seriously. Students are held to University standards regarding honesty on papers, exams, quizzes, etc. Individuals who are found to be dishonest may be subject to receiving a failing grade for the course and/or may be referred to the College for academic dismissal. Honesty is a virtue and is expected in all work by all students at all times.

GRADING

Students will earn points for performance on examinations, pop quizzes, a written communication assignment, and an oral presentation as well as for attendance. The approximate maximum number of points that each performance-grading tool will be worth is as follows.

examinations = 200 points
pop quizzes = 50 points
in-class writing assignment = 15 points
other written assignment = 20 points
oral presentation = 15 points
attendance = 50 points
estimated total number possible = 350 points

The following grading scale will be used to determine letter grades.

90% - 100% = A
87 - 89 = B+
80 - 86 = B
77 - 79 = C+
70 - 76 = C
67 - 69 = D+
60 - 66 = D
below 60% = F

Examinations - Four regular examinations and a final examination will be given throughout the semester. Each exam will consist of a combination of multiple choice and true/false questions totaling 50 points. Additionally, a portion of the final exam will be comprehensive in nature. Highlights of the entire course will be stressed in the comprehensive section. Each student's lowest exam grade will be dropped when figuring final grades. Therefore, there will be **no make-ups** for missed exams.

Pop Quizzes - Seven quizzes will be given during the course of the semester. Each quiz will be worth 10 points and will cover the current reading assignment and lecture/discussion material. Each student will be permitted to drop his or her two lowest quiz scores at the end of the term; thus, there will be **no make-ups** for pop quizzes.

In-class Writing Assignment - Students will be given a topic on which to write an in-class essay of 1-2 pages in length. The writing will be scanned for overall correct grammar usage, spelling, punctuation, and content for a total of 15 points possible. Make-up writing assignments will be subject to a 3 point penalty.

Other Written Assignment – A paper will be assigned sometime during the semester that will be based on an activity or event that the class will have experienced. This assignment must be type-written and will be graded as a paper for an English class would be. It is worth 20 points. Late papers are subject to a 4 point penalty. More detailed information will be provided at a later date.

Oral Communication Assignment - Each student will be assigned a key term or concept from the textbook or related discussion. The term or concept will be defined and explained in a short, two minute presentation. Students will be graded on overall speaking ability and quality of information presented for a total of 15 points possible. Late presentations will be subject to a 3 point penalty.

ASSIGNMENT AND EXAMINATION SCHEDULE

The following schedule is an estimate of which chapters from the textbook will be covered during which part of the semester. Students are responsible for reading the assigned chapters **throughout** the weeks. It is imperative that students keep up with the reading so that they are prepared to participate in classroom discussions of the material. All important facts, ideas, etc. will not necessarily be discussed in class, but may be on exams and quizzes. The examinations are also included in the schedule below. Any changes in the schedule and specific dates will be announced in class.

WEEKS 1-3 - Part I: *Understanding Criminology*
EXAM #1 - Chapters 1, 2, & 3

WEEKS 4-7 - Part II: *Explanations of Crime and Criminal Behavior*
EXAM #2 - Chapters 4, 5, & 6

WEEKS 8-10 - Part II cont.: *Explanations of Crime and Criminal Behavior*
EXAM #3 - Chapters 7, 8, & 9

WEEKS 11-14 - Part III: *Types of Crimes*
EXAM #4 - Chapters 10, 11, 12, 13, & 14

WEEK 15 - Review for Final Exam - Chapters 1-14
FINAL EXAM - Tuesday, December 13 at 1:00 PM

*NOTE: *No class on the following date:*
Thursday, November 24 – Thanksgiving Break