CJS 202: Criminology
Westminster College, Spring 2018

**Instructor:** Kristenne M. Robison
**Room:** PH 110

**Office:** 306 Patterson Hall
**Meeting Times:** TR 11-12:30

**Email:** robisokm@westminster.edu
**Office Hours:** MF 10:45-11:45, W 1-1:45 pm, or by appt.

**Course Description:** You will discover this semester that criminology, like all social science, is a scientific study of social processes. We tend to think of crime as anti-social behavior, but just like other social phenomena, crime is the product of individual action, the social organization of society, and the interplay of the two. With this in mind, this course adopts a sociological approach to understanding crime. Criminology, as a field, is organized around three areas of study: (1) the making of laws (2) the breaking of laws and (3) societal responses to law breaking.

**The making of laws**
(1) What is crime? We will discuss the history of determining what is criminal and the role of the state in regulating behavior

(2) How do we decide what or who is criminal? We will consider the role of social power and social location in determining the types of behaviors and individuals presumed “dangerous” and, therefore, in need of containment.

**The breaking of laws**
(1) How do we measure and study crime? We will investigate multiple ways of figuring out how much crime occurs in society. In doing so, we will address the limitations in our ability to accurately measure crime.

(2) What are the causes of criminal behavior and victimization? We will examine and critique multiple theories that purport to explain criminality and criminal events. We will critically evaluate their assumptions about law, society, and human nature.

(3) Why do some communities experience more crime than others? We will consider the characteristics of high- and low-crime regions, as well as the consequences for those who live in high-crime areas.

(4) Why do crime rates change over time? We will investigate various explanations for the fluctuations we observe in the U.S. and elsewhere.
Reactions to law-breaking

(1) How and why do we punish criminal behavior? We will examine and evaluate the philosophies of punishment that provide the basis for our criminal justice system.

(2) What are the causes and consequences of our current system of criminal justice? We will examine the policies that have transformed crime control in the U.S., as well as the impact of imprisonment on individuals and communities.

Course Objectives and Student Learning Outcomes: By the end of this course students should be able to:

(1) Use empirical data to better understand crime: You will evaluate different ways of measuring crime, use real-life data to supports claims regarding patterns in crime, and share your knowledge of empirical patterns with others through course assignments,

(2) Demonstrate a working knowledge of sociological explanations for crime: You will draw on theoretical ideas to explain selected case studies and devise solutions for social problems related to crime and victimization. This will include globalized crime.

(3) Critically evaluate societal responses to crime: Drawing on criminological explanations, empirical research, and philosophies of punishment, you will examine and critique how we, as a society, address (or fail to address) the crime problem.

Academic Integrity: “Central to the purpose and pursuit of any academic community is academic integrity. All members of the Westminster community, including students, faculty, staff, and administrators, are expected to maintain the highest standards of honesty and integrity, in keeping with the philosophy and mission of the College.” It is expected that students turn in original academic work and cite all sources. For more details please go to the following website:

http://www.westminster.edu/staff/corsokf/SPE_111/Documents/academic%20integrity_student_handbook_FL07.pdf

Individuals with Disabilities: Westminster College actively strives for the full inclusion of all our students. Students with disabilities who require access solutions for environmental or curricular barriers should contact Faith Craig, Director of the Office of Disability Resources, located in 209 Thompson-Clark Hall. phone: 724-946-7192 e-mail: craigfa@westminster.edu. For more details please go to the following website: http://www.westminster.edu/student/disability_support/dis_overview.cfm
Other Available Support Services: Westminster College has a variety of support services. Some of them are:

- Library Instruction: Ms. Eloise Stevens, X7325, stevente@westminster.edu
- The Learning Center: Ms. Jamie Kohler, X6073, kohlerjp@westminster.edu

Classroom Expectations & Environment: It is the expectation of the instructors that all students are here to learn, be engaged in course material, and regularly attend class. Class will primarily take the form of a seminar. Students are expected to read the assigned course readings and actively participate in discussions of those readings. I greatly appreciate students refraining from using their cell phones in class. I do not use my cell phone during class so I expect the same courtesy from you. If you must take a call please step outside in the hall. If you choose to use your cellphone then I reserve the right to give you “side eye”, “the look” and/or make coughing noises until you stop. Timeliness is important to the instructors so please be on time for class.

The sociology classroom is a great space for discussion. Sociology readings can bring up personal feelings for many of us so I encourage you all to think about that as you read and discuss the course material. At times, you may disagree with another student or the professor. If you disagree, do so respectfully by repeating what you heard and pointing out the specific statement that you disagree with.

Late assignments will be accepted with a penalty, unless arranged before the assignment is due. If the student does not complete the assignment in the revised timeframe then points will be deducted from the assignment. Ultimately the acceptance of late assignments is at the discretion of the instructor.

Field trips are optional, but strongly encouraged. This class is an experience, not just a class. Seeing the prison that contemporary prisons are modeled after is indescribable. Taking the tour of Ohio prisons provides a lens into different prisons and programs, from more to less restrictive, that gives you a feel for what prisons are like, but ultimately for how we treat our citizens. Please do your best to attend one or both of these trips.

Grading Scale:

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**Required Course Materials:**


*All other course readings can be found online on our course website on D2L*

**Assignments & Grading:**

**Assignments (35%):** Five assignments are due across the course of the semester and linked to the five main sections of the book. Please see the below assignment schedule for due dates. Assignment details can be found on D2L under course documents tab.

**Quizzes (30%):** Five quizzes will be given on D2L. The is quiz is due before we meet as a class (by 11 am). The quiz covers all material after the previous quiz up to the readings the day of the quiz. That means that much of the material will have been covered in class, but not all. Please note quiz dates on the course reading and assignment schedule.

**Final Paper (25%):** Your final paper is due by Monday, May 7th at 3 pm on D2L. More details will be provided later in the semester. I encourage you to begin brainstorming ideas for the paper as soon as the course begins.

**Class Participation (10%):** I run my classroom as a seminar which means that I lecture for short periods of time and structure many opportunities for class discussion. I highly value class participation, but note this can take many forms including but not limited to: participating in large and small group discussions, emailing me questions and comments that you either did not think of in class or did not feel comfortable saying/asking, visiting me in office hours to discuss the class readings, and making connections between our course materials and the outside world. It is important that you attend class so that you can actively participate. Attendance matters when I am deciding borderline grades.

**Course Reading and Assignment Schedule**

**Part One: The Criminological Imagination**

Tuesday, Jan. 16th  
Course Introduction

Thursday, Jan 18th  
Introduction and Histories of Crime, pgs. 1-26
Quiz #1

Tuesday, Jan. 23rd
Researching Crime, 27-45

Thursday, Jan. 25th
Chambliss, “The Politics of Crime Statistics” (D2L)
Durkheim, “The Normality of Crime”* (D2L)

Sunday, Jan. 28th
Assignment #1: Crime Data Assignment

Part Two: Thinking About Crime

Tuesday, Jan. 30th
The Enlightenment and Early Traditions, Early Sociologies of Crime pgs. 49-87

Thursday, Feb. 1st
Radicalizing Traditions, Crime, Social Theory, and Social Change, pgs. 88-133

Quiz #2

Tuesday, Feb. 6th
Crime, Place, and Space, pgs. 134-150

Thursday, Feb. 8th
Video: TBA

Sunday, Feb. 11th
Assignment #2: Film Assignment

Part Three: Doing Crime

Tuesday, Feb. 13th
Victims and Victimization, pgs. 153-174
Sered and Norton-Hawk, pgs. 1-19

Thursday, Feb. 15th
Sered and Norton, pgs. 21-70 (online discussion)
No Class – Dr. R at conference

Tuesday, Feb. 20th
Crime and Property, pgs. 175-194
Sered and Norton, pgs. 71-106

Thursday, Feb. 22nd
Crime, Sexuality, and Gender, pgs. 195-218

Quiz #3

Tuesday, Feb. 27th
Crime, the Emotions, and Social Psychology, pgs. 219-236
Sered and Norton, pgs. 107-125

Thursday, Mar. 1st
Sered and Norton, pgs. 126-165
VIDEO: TBA

SPRING BREAK!!!

Tuesday, Mar. 13th  Organizational and Professional Forms of Crime, pgs. 237-258
Thursday, Mar. 15th  Drugs, Alcohol, Health and Crime, pgs. 259-289
Sunday, Mar. 18th  Assignment #3: Book Response Assignment

Part Four: Controlling Crime

Tuesday, Mar. 20th  Thinking about Punishment, pgs. 293-316
                    Prisons and Imprisonment, pgs. 362-385
Thursday, Mar. 22nd Philadelphia Trip
Friday, Mar. 23rd  Philadelphia Trip
Tuesday, Mar. 27th  The Criminal Justice Process, pgs. 317-339
                    Quiz #4

Thursday, Mar. 29th  No Class - Easter Break
Tuesday, Apr. 3rd   No Class – Monday class schedule
Thursday, Apr. 5th  Police and Policing, pgs. 341-360
Sunday, Apr. 8th   Assignment #4: Response to Crime Assignment

Part Five: Globalizing Crime

Tuesday, Apr. 10th  Green Criminology, pgs. 389-413
Thursday, Apr. 12th Ohio Prison Tour
Tuesday, Apr. 17th  Crime and the Media, pgs. 414-436
Thursday, Apr. 19th Political Violence, Terrorism, and Counter-terrorism
                    Quiz #5

Tuesday, Apr. 24th  State Crime, War Crime, and Human Rights, pgs. 461-479
Thursday, Apr. 26th Criminological Futures, pgs. 480-488
Sunday, Apr. 29th  Assignment #5: Looking Abroad Assignment
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<tr>
<td>Tuesday, May 1st</td>
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<td>Thursday, May 3rd</td>
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<td>Monday, May 7th</td>
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<td>Final papers due to D2L by 3 pm</td>
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