# SOC 203-94: Criminology

**Spring 2024**
**Online Class**

**Roman Galper, Senior Assistant District Attorney, Kings County DA's Office**

**Robert Garot, John Jay Supervisor/Chair**

**Office hours**: By Appointment
(Email me and we can schedule a time that works)
**Phone**: 917.640.2808
**Email**: RGalper@jjay.cuny.edu

**CATALOG COURSE DESCRIPTION**
This course introduces students to the subject of criminology by discussing the main theoretical perspectives and issues. It focuses on the problems of definition and measurement and the main ways in which crime can be explained and controlled. In addition, the course considers how crime is represented, for example, by the mass media, the unequal distribution of crime within society; the relationship between victims and offenders, and the social and political context of debates on crime and social control. It introduces students to the major theories of criminology and the many theoretical approaches to studying the typologies of offenders, and the patterns, trends, causes, motives, or reasons for criminal behavior. (Course prerequisites: Eng 101 and Soc 101)

**LEARNING OUTCOMES**
It is expected that at the end of the course, you will have a working understanding of the U.S. criminal justice system, comprehend, and appreciate the various elements of criminology and differentiate crime from social deviance. You will also have a basic understanding of several criminological theories that provide acceptable explanations for crime and be able to apply these theories to everyday events in U.S. society. Additionally, it is also expected that you will have a basic understanding of crime statistics such as the UCR and the strengths and weaknesses of such data and the collection techniques behind them.

**REQUIRED READING:** Criminology: The Core 7th Edition (By Larry J. Siegel) Any other required readings will be posted on Blackboard and/or assigned during class.

## COURSE POLICIES

**Class Format:** This is a fully online, asynchronous course, meaning that you will complete all course work on your own time through Blackboard. Blackboard is a web-based course management system that creates a password-protected site for the course. I will use it to distribute course materials, communicate and collaborate online, disseminate assignment instructions, and post grades. Please make sure to check Blackboard regularly for class work and announcements. Note that I have organized our course materials by weeks. The weekly folders contain all assignment details, including deadlines and additional resources. You may not always be able to see the weeks ahead, but I will open each upcoming week's work and assignments on Sundays.

I understand that John Jay students have very busy lives. Please try to plan your work for this course, bearing in mind your other classes, your work schedule and other personal commitments. Please do your best to keep up with all the assignments and due dates. If you fall behind, please contact me as soon as possible. **I am here to help**, and we can discuss strategies to help you succeed in this course. Please note that all times and deadlines listed in this course are Eastern Standard Time.

**THE WRITING CENTER**: Writing well and clearly is an incredibly important skill. Research

indicates that writing and communication are the most requested job requirements across nearly every industry, even fields like information technology and engineering. The Alan Siegel Writing Center provides free tutoring and workshops to help students improve their writing skills. The Center has a staff of trained tutors who work with students to help them become more effective writers, from planning and organizing a paper to writing and proofreading it. If English is not your native language, the Writing Center has ESL instructors equipped to help you with ESL-related issues. Students earn 5 extra points for Response Papers whenever they use the Writing Center. Just email me proof of attendance.

## COURSE GRADING

Your final grade will be based on the following:

| | |
|---|---|
| Quizzes and Essays | 15% |
| Class Participation | 15% |
| Midterm Exam | 30% |
| Final Exam | 40% |
| Total | 100% |

| GRADE SCALE | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| Letter | Transcript | Description | Numerical |
| A | 4.0 | Excellent | 93 - 100 |
| A- | 3.7 | Excellent | 90 - 92.9 |
| B+ | 3.3 | Very Good | 87.1 - 89.9 |
| B | 3.0 | Very Good | 83 - 87 |
| B- | 2.7 | Very Good | 80 - 82.9 |
| C+ | 2.3 | Satisfactory | 77.1 - 79.9 |
| C | 2.0 | Satisfactory | 73 - 77 |
| C- | 1.7 | Poor | 70 - 72.9 |
| D+ | 1.3 | Poor | 67.1 - 69.9 |
| D | 1.0 | Very Poor | 63 - 67 |
| D- | 0.7 | Very Poor | 60 - 62.9 |
| F | 0 | Failure | 0 – 59.9 |

**QUIZZES and Essays**: Short quizzes and short essay response questions will be held frequently to hold students accountable, to assess your familiarity with the week's reading, and to monitor your understanding of theories and concepts. Make sure you've completed the week's readings in advance of the week and *before* taking any quiz. You will be given only one attempt to take the quiz. You may retake a missed quiz any time during the subsequent two weeks without penalty. The lowest quiz grade will be dropped. Occasionally you will see short essay response questions which will be graded and factored into your overall grade.

**CLASS PARTICIPATION**: Every single student is expected to participate in all class discussions and activities. Discussion Boards (DB) will be used frequently to assess your comprehension of course materials. DB assignments will not be graded individually, but your performance in DBs will affect your participation grade.

**MIDTERM EXAM**: There will a midterm exam held during Week 8, available from March 17th until March 24th. It will be held online via Black Board and students will be given one opportunity to complete the exam in one, timed, sitting. The midterm must be completed by **11:59PM on Sunday March 24, 2024**. More information to follow. It will count for 20% of your final grade.

**FINAL EXAM:** There will be a final exam held the week scheduled for Final Examinations. The exact date will be announced at some point during the semester. The final exam will be held during class time. More information to follow. It will count for 40% of your final grade.

**ADDITIONAL ASSIGNMENTS:** Every week there will be additional materials and assignments posted on the blackboard for that week. There will be ample opportunity for everyone to score points, participate and engage with the course materials.

**EXTRA CREDIT WORK**: All students will have the option of attending an arraignment session in any Criminal Court that the student chooses. After attending, the student will be required to write a 1-2 page response paper describing what the student observed and learned. Attendance for this assignment is optional and in addition to the required work for the course that all students must complete.

## COURSE READINGS AND CALENDAR

| Weeks | TOPIC | READING/VIEWING DUE |
|---|---|---|
| 1/25-27 | INTRODUCTION | Complete VoiceThread Intro |
| Week 1<br>1/28-2/3 | Chapter 1:<br>Crime & Criminology | Read Chapter 1<br>DB: Why do people commit crime?<br>Chapter 1 Short Answer Response |

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| | | Chapter 1 Quiz |
| Week 2<br>2/4-2/10 | Chapter 2:<br>The Nature and Extent of Crime | Read Chapter 2<br>DB: Validity of NCVS and UCR<br>DB: Stop & Frisk<br>Chapter 2 Quiz |
| Week 3<br>2/11-2/17 | Chapter 3:<br>Victim and Victimization | Read Chapter 3<br>DB: Modern Technology<br>DB: Rape Shield Laws<br>Chapter 3 Quiz |
| Week 4<br>2/18-2/24 | Chapter 4:<br>Rational Choice Theory | Read Chapter 4<br>DB: Rational Choice Theory<br>Chapter 4 Short Essay Response<br>Chapter 4 Quiz |
| Week 5<br>2/25-3/2 | Chapter 5:<br>Trait Theory | Read Chapter 5<br>DB: Influence of Testosterone<br>DB: Mental Illness Crimes<br>VoiceThread Assignment<br>Chapter 5 Short Answer Response |
| Week 6<br>3/3-3/9 | Chapter 6:<br>Social Structure Theory | Read Chapter 6<br>DB: Social Disorganization<br>DB: Broken Windows<br>DB: American Dream<br>DB: Street Codes<br>Chapter 6 Quiz |
| Week 7<br>3/10-3/16 | Chapter 7:<br>Social Process Theory | Read Chapter 7<br>DB: Differential Association<br>Chapter 7 Quiz |
| Week 8<br>3/17-3/23 | Chapter 8:<br>Social Conflict, Critical Criminology, and Restorative Justice<br>MIDTERM EXAM | Read Chapter 8<br>DB: NSA Edward Snowden<br>Chapter 8 Quiz<br><br>Complete MIDTERM EXAM by Sunday March 24 11:59PM |
| Week 9<br>3/24-3/30 | Chapter 9:<br>Developmental Theories:<br>Life Course, Propensity, and Trajectory | Read Chapter 9<br>DB: TBD<br>Chapter 9 Quiz |
| Week 10<br>3/31-4/6 | Chapter 10:<br>Violent Crime | Read Chapter 10<br>DB: Nail polish invention<br>Chapter 10 Quiz |
| Week 11<br>4/7-4/13 | Chapter 11:<br>Political Crime and Terrorism | Read Chapter 11<br>DB: Terrorism<br>Chapter 11 Quiz |
| Week 12<br>4/14-4/20 | Chapter 12:<br>Economic Crimes:<br>Blue-Collar, White Collar, and Green Collar | Read Chapter 12<br>DB: Humane Society of US<br>Chapter 12 Quiz |
| Week 13<br>4/14-4/20 | Chapter 13:<br>Public Order Crimes | Read Chapter 13<br>DB: Public Order Crimes<br>DB: Pornography<br>Chapter 13 Quiz |
| 4/22-4/30 | SPRING RECESS | No Assignments |
| Week 14<br>5/1-5/11 | Chapter 14:<br>Crimes of the New Millennium:<br>Cybercrime and Transnational Organized Crime | Read Chapter 14 |
| Week 15<br>5/12-5/15 | **Wrap up and Final Exam Review** | |

Finals Week **FINAL EXAM**
5/16-5/22

## COLLEGE-WIDE POLICIES

**Incomplete Grade Policy**: According to the John Jay College Undergraduate Bulletin, an Incomplete grade may be "given only to those students who would pass the course if they were to satisfactorily complete course requirements. It is within the discretion of the faculty member as to whether or not to give the grade of Incomplete." Incomplete coursework is a major inconvenience for students and instructors and should be avoided. Legitimate excuses include verified illnesses and emergencies. Incomplete grades will not be given unless prior written permission was received from the instructor.

**Accessibility Services/ADA Policy**: Students who believe that they may need an accommodation due to a disability are encouraged to immediately contact the Office of Accessibility Services (OAS) in the New Building, room L.66 (212 237 8031), or accessibilityservices@jjay.cuny.edu. Students are welcome but not required to speak with the instructor privately to discuss specific needs for the class. Students with disabilities are entitled to confidentiality over disability-related status or details. Students are not required to disclose their specific disability to their instructors or anyone else. However, it is up to the student to inform me that they have registered with OAS and what accommodations they have been approved to receive.

**The Statement of the College Policy on Plagiarism:** Plagiarism is the presentation of someone else's ideas, words, or artistic, scientific, or technical work as one's own creation. Using the ideas or work of another is permissible only when the original author is identified. Paraphrasing and summarizing, as well as direct quotations require citations to the original source.

Plagiarism may be intentional or unintentional. Lack of dishonest intent does not necessarily absolve a student of responsibility for plagiarism.

It is the student's responsibility to recognize the difference between statements that are common knowledge (which do not require documentation) and restatements of the ideas of others. Paraphrase, summary, and direct quotation are acceptable forms of restatement, as long as the source is cited. Students who are unsure how and when to provide documentation are advised to consult with their professors.