

# Prevention and Deterrence of Crime

CRIM 471-001 – Fall 2017

Tuesday / Thursday – 3:00 pm to 4:15 pm

David King Hall Room 2053

Instructor: Adjunct Faculty Kevin B. Fornshill, MCJ, [kfornshi@gmu.edu](mailto:kfornshi@gmu.edu)

## Objectives

Theoretical and practical strategies for crime prevention and deterrence. Discusses social, environmental, and mechanical developments, cultural shaming, courts, and correctional elements of law enforcement in terms of current effectiveness and future potential for crime prevention.

## Office and Meetings

All meetings with students will be by appointment, as I do not have regular office hours. Tuesday and Thursday from 2:00 to 3:00 are generally a good time for me to schedule appointments, but I will also be available at other times, by appointment, as needed. I can meet with students after class, but you'll need to approach me after class to let me know you want to meet. Of course, you can email me anytime.

## Course Goals and Policies

*This course is designed to provide an introductory understanding of prevention and deterrence and can they be used to reduce or stop criminal behavior. In studying prevention, general theories about motivation and criminal activity will be explored. Can one single theory be used to explain all criminal and anti-social behavior? Is crime prevention a public policy or social science issue? Is there a single method to deter criminal behavior? Can and should society remove individuals from the community as a form of protection before criminal acts are committed? Can the student glean some insight about prevention and the current correctional system from those incarcerated?*

Please be aware of Mason's policy requiring instructors to submit final course grades within 2 days of the final exam, and prohibiting instructors from changing submitted grades for any reason other than a computational or recording error (see page 37 of the University Catalog). This means that I cannot allow, nor is there any time, for you to do a last-minute paper or other extra work at the end of the semester to raise your grade. The time to do the work is when it is assigned, and the work to do is the work that is required as class assignments. There are, however, several extra credit opportunities available.

Another relevant Mason policy specifies that incompletes can only be given to students who are passing a course but cannot complete scheduled coursework for causes beyond reasonable control (see page 36 of the University Catalog). Because incompletes are to be used when students cannot complete scheduled coursework, I cannot grant incompletes to allow you time to do extra work to raise your grade. If some sort of personal or family crisis arises for you during the semester, and it provides a compelling reason that is beyond your control and prevents you from finishing scheduled coursework, I will be more than willing to work with you to take that into account, but you must let me know right away. Your circumstances will be considered on a case-by-case basis. Please note that according to Mason policy, "Although many students must work to meet living expenses, employment must not take priority over academic responsibilities." (see page 33 of the University Catalog.)

## **Privacy Policy**

Please respect the privacy of any students who may disclose personal information in the class. Please also respect everyone's right to freely choose whether to disclose or not disclose personal information.

## **Required Reading**

Reading assignments are for outside the classroom. Be prepared to discuss the designated chapter at the beginning of each class. There will be selective in-class lessons. There will be time allotted for complete these assignments.

You are always welcome to ask me questions about the readings or course work if you need clarification. Please complete the readings before coming to class, this will allow for an active exchange of ideas. Exams will also include material covered in class, including lectures, videos, guest speakers, and discussions.

The textbook is *Criminological Theory*, 5<sup>th</sup> Edition, Frank P. Williams, III, and Marilyn D. McShane

## **Grading Scale**

<b>A+</b>	<b>97-100%</b>	<b>(4.0)</b>
<b>A</b>	<b>93-96%</b>	<b>(4.0)</b>
<b>A-</b>	<b>90-92%</b>	<b>(3.67)</b>
<b>B+</b>	<b>87-89%</b>	<b>(3.33)</b>
<b>B</b>	<b>83-86%</b>	<b>(3.0)</b>
<b>B-</b>	<b>80-82%</b>	<b>(2.67)</b>
<b>C+</b>	<b>77-79%</b>	<b>(2.33)</b>
<b>C</b>	<b>73-76%</b>	<b>(2.0)</b>
<b>C-</b>	<b>70-72%</b>	<b>(1.67)</b>
<b>D</b>	<b>60-69%</b>	<b>(1.0)</b>
<b>F</b>	<b>0-59%</b>	<b>(0)</b>

## **Course Grade Components**

- 25%    A midterm exam**
- 25%    A final exam**
- 25%    Research paper**
- 25%    Class participation**

## **The Exams**

The midterm and final exams will be closed-book and will most likely use a combination of structured response formats (such as multiple choice, true/false, matching, fill-in-the-blanks, etc.) and unstructured response formats (such as short answer or essay). The final exam will focus on material covered since the midterm exam. Schedule permitting, I'll try to reserve some time during the last class before each exam for a review session. I will answer questions to clarify the reading material, as long as the question shows that you have actually read the material and attempted to understand it on your own.

Obviously, the exams are to be taken on your own. Any evidence that a student used another person as a resource, whether that other person was in the classroom or accessed electronically, will result in a referral to the honor committee as a cheating violation. If the exams are closed book, then the same is true for any evidence that a student used any unauthorized hardcopy or electronic resource during the exam.

Make-ups will only be given under exceptional circumstances. If you know in advance that you will have to miss an exam, please notify me ASAP so we can discuss a make-up. If you miss an exam without notifying me in advance, you need to contact me ASAP to schedule a make-up. All make-ups must be completed within 3 business days (excluding weekends and holiday breaks) of the original exam date.

If you can provide written documentation from a professional (doctor, police, etc.) that demonstrates a compelling reason for missing the exam, and the reason was beyond your control, there will be no penalty applied for taking a make-up. Your circumstances will be considered on a case-by-case basis. Please remember the Mason policy about employment not taking priority over academic responsibilities (referenced above). If you cannot provide such documentation, there will be a 10-point reduction from your exam score for taking a make-up (cf. pg. 35, University Catalog).

## **The Paper**

Seven to eight pages, double spaced fully researched and foot-noted addressing one of the following:

1. You will write an individual, currently incarcerated for a serious criminal offense and direct questions to them. These questions will center on 1) family background or any issues that may have prompted anti-social behavior, 2) the crime for which they were convicted of and 3) their life while in prison. You are to examine their responses, conduct follow-up, if needed and determine if any specific theory regarding criminal behavior could have been applied to as a preventive measure.
2. Compare and contrast at least two criminological theories studied in class. Offer supporting evidence that either one theory or the other can fully explain all criminal behavior and offer examples how the theory could be used as a preventative measure.

## **Level of Effort: Your Participation, Your Learning Experience, and Your Grade**

This class will offer you some unique opportunities, and be a new experience for me. I want to stimulate open dialogue and debate. The Socratic method comes to mind. I want to generate critical thinking. So, participation is critical! Be prepared to debate and defend your point of view. All opinions are to be respected. Come to class, pay attention and offer up your point of view. Take notes and read the material. *Since 25% of your course grade is class participation, participate!*

In conducting any research online, whether for classroom discussion or written presentation, I do not recognize Wikipedia as a legitimate source of information.

*No cellular telephone usage will be allowed in classroom, unless directed so by the instructor. No laptop computer should be open, or otherwise used during class, again, unless directed by the instructor. The class sessions are not to be video or audio recorded. Any PowerPoint material covered in class will be posted on Blackboard that day. Students are not to be distracted by electronic devices, so they can give full time and attention to any classroom discussion.*

## **Extra Credit Opportunities**

You can earn extra credit points, to be added to your exam grades.

Observe a formal judicial proceeding; a preliminary hearing, hearing or trial at a pre-approved court, whether county, city or federal. Write a four to five essay detailing your observations, and whether the United States judicial is efficient and equal in the administering of justice.

## **Bad Weather and Other Emergencies**

Check Mason's homepage ([www.gmu.edu](http://www.gmu.edu)) to see if classes are cancelled for bad weather or other emergency circumstances. You can also register for Mason's emergency alert system at <https://alert.gmu.edu>. If I should have to cancel a class due to a personal emergency, I'll make every attempt to email you ASAP at your Mason email address. Be sure to stay on top of your Mason email so that you can receive urgent information when you need it.

## University Services and Resources

If you have (or think you may have) a learning disability or other condition that may affect your academic performance, you should:

1) make sure documentation is on file with the Office of Disability Services (703-993-2474; [ods.gmu.edu](http://ods.gmu.edu)) to determine the accommodations you need; and 2) see me to discuss your accommodation needs. By Mason policy, I cannot make any accommodations for students without certification from ODS on the existence of a disability and the specific accommodations needed.

If you feel you need to improve your writing skills, seek assistance from the University Writing Center ([writingcenter.gmu.edu/](http://writingcenter.gmu.edu/)). Your writing needs to be sufficiently fluent to make your meaning clear.

If you are in personal distress, you can get help from Counseling and Psychological Services ([caps.gmu.edu](http://caps.gmu.edu)).

If you are not a native English speaker and may be interested in linguistic and cultural enrichment services, you can contact Mason's English Language Institute ([eli.gmu.edu](http://eli.gmu.edu)).

If you'd like to improve your academic skills, you can get help from Learning Services [caps.gmu.edu/learningservices](http://caps.gmu.edu/learningservices). They offer workshops on the study cycle, effective note-taking techniques, individual learning styles, ways to prepare for exams, and effective time management. I've heard from former students that these services can be very helpful.

*The University Catalog, <http://catalog.gmu.edu>, is the central resource for university policies affecting student, faculty, and staff conduct in university academic affairs. Other policies are available at <http://universitypolicy.gmu.edu/>. All members of the university community are responsible for knowing and following established policies.*

## Enrollment Responsibilities and Deadlines

Students are responsible for verifying their enrollment in this class. Schedule adjustments should be made by the deadlines published in the schedule of classes, see [registrar.gmu.edu](http://registrar.gmu.edu). The last day to add a class and the last day to drop a class without tuition loss is Tuesday September 3. The last day to drop a class with tuition loss is Wednesday September 18. After this date the class can be dropped by using a selective withdrawal option by Friday September 27 -- but you only have 3 selective withdrawals during your entire time at Mason, so use them wisely. Any other type of withdrawal requires the approval of the dean and is only allowed for nonacademic reasons.

## University Honor Code

The following is a summary of Mason's honor code; see the Undergraduate Catalog and [honorcode.gmu.edu](http://honorcode.gmu.edu) for additional information. Mason's honor code will be strictly enforced in this class and all violations will be reported to the Honor Committee.

*The Honor Code of George Mason University specifically prohibits cheating and attempted cheating, plagiarism, lying, and stealing.*

Cheating and attempted cheating include "willful giving or receiving of an unauthorized, unfair, dishonest, or unscrupulous advantage in academic work over other students." Examples include the use of unauthorized resources during an exam, copying off another student's work (with or without their permission), allowing another student to copy your work, using an assignment or test from another student who took the class previously, accessing tests or grades electronically for the purpose of getting an unfair advantage, and any other behavior that fits the general definition above.

Plagiarism includes "presenting as one's own the words, the work, the ideas, the arrangement of material, or the pattern of thought of someone else without proper acknowledgment." While direct quotations do need citations, so do paraphrases and summaries of opinions or factual information formerly unknown to the writers or which the writers did not discover themselves. Exceptions for this include factual information which can be obtained from a variety of sources, the writers' own insights or findings from their own field research, and what has been termed common knowledge." Examples include taking or buying a paper from someone else or the internet and presenting it as your own, and submitting as your own work a paper with substantial unacknowledged contributions from others. Information and graphics obtained from the internet (except for freeware clipart) must include source citations to avoid plagiarism.

Lying includes "the willful and knowledgeable telling of an untruth, as well as any form of deceit, attempted deceit, or fraud in an oral or written statement relating to academic work." Examples include making up source materials or source citations in a paper, pretending to use an actual source that you didn't really use, making up an excuse for missing a test or assignment due date, pretending you attended a class or an extra credit opportunity when you did not in order to write a paper or get points without justification, falsifying any written or electronic document, or presenting any other falsehoods through any method and in any context.

Stealing includes "taking or appropriating without the permission to do so, and with the intent to keep or to make use of wrongfully, property belonging to any member of the George Mason University community or any property located on the university campus." This includes misuse of university computer resources (see the Responsible Use of Computing Policy section in the "General Policies" chapter). This section is relevant only to academic work and related materials."

## **Schedule\***

<b>August 28</b>	<b>First day of class</b>
<b>September 4</b>	<b>Labor Day, university closed</b>
<b>September 19</b>	<b>Last day to drop with 33% tuition penalty</b>
<b>September 29</b>	<b>Final Drop Deadline, 67% tuition penalty</b>
<b>October 10</b>	<b>No Class / Columbus Day recess</b>
<b>October 12</b>	<b>Mid-term</b>
<b>November 22 – 26</b>	<b>No Class / Thanksgiving Break</b>
<b>December 7</b>	<b>Last Class</b>
<b>December 11 – 12</b>	<b>Reading Week</b>
<b>December 14</b>	<b>Final Exam</b>

**\*A week-by-week break down of reading assignments is not listed. Since, by the nature of a college level course, matters are subject to change and guest speakers may result in re-scheduling.**