

CRIM 320: Crime and Place



College of Humanities and Social Sciences
Department of Criminology, Law & Society

Spring 2019

Class #[17639](#)

Instructor: matthew d'anna

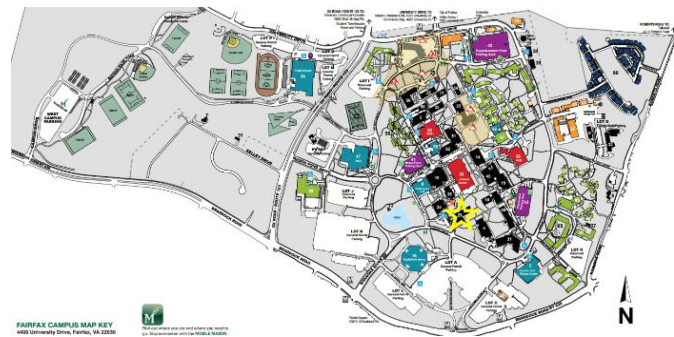
[Bio](#) | [Email](#) | [Phone](#) | Office hours by appointment

Meeting Dates & Location:

23 January – 15 May 2019

Wednesdays, 4:30-7:10 PM

Innovation Hall (IN) 222, Fairfax Campus



Class Materials:



[ESRI ArcGIS](#)

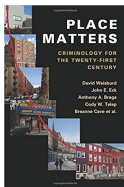


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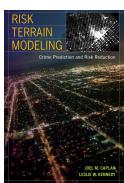


Readings and lectures provided as necessary

Optional Materials:



Weisburd, D., Eck, J.E., Braga, A.A., Telep, C.W., Cave, B., et al. (2016). *Place matters: Criminology for the twenty-first century*. Cambridge University Press, ISBN: [9781107609495](#).



Caplan, J.E., Kennedy, L.W. (2016). *Risk terrain modeling: Crime prediction and risk reduction*. University of California Press, ISBN: [9780520282933](#).

Course Description:

The objective of this course is to gain theoretical understanding and practical experience related to crime and place. This will involve the analysis of locations that attract and repel crime, factors related to crime displacement, and the identification and measurement of crime concentrations. These goals are accomplished through the critique of historical and contemporary practices, application of criminological theories, and projects simulating actual research and analysis. This is a hands-on course designed to promote theoretical comprehension and realistic fieldwork. Upon completion of this course students should have a practical appreciation of the relationship between crime and place, and a more nuanced understanding of social science research.

This course utilizes current technology in order to expose students to real crime data. While detailed instructions are provided throughout the semester, students should enter this course with a general comfort with computers and the ability to perform basic functions.

Evaluation:**100 points**

Projects, 7 total (10 points each):

70 points

Final:

*30 points***Grade Scale:**

Grade	Points	GPA
A+	100-97	4.00
A	96-93	4.00
A-	92-90	3.67
B+	89-87	3.33
B	86-83	3.00
B-	82-80	2.67
C+	79-77	2.33
C	76-73	2.00
C-	72-70	1.67
D	69-60	1.00
F	59-0	0.00

Projects:

There are seven projects during the semester. Each is worth 10 points (70% of the overall grade). All of them involve creating maps, and each project exposes students to a different skill and/or technology associated with crime and place. While group cooperation is not discouraged, each student must turn in a unique product for each assignment.

Final:

The final exam also consists of a project and presentation, worth 30% of the overall grade. Each portion will occur during the final weeks of class. The presentation will be given to the City of Fairfax Police Department Command Staff on **Wednesday, May 15th, 2019 at 4:30 PM** in the Training Center at [City of Fairfax Police Department](#). The project will apply various skills developed over the course of the semester. More information will be provided at the midpoint of the semester.

Extra Credit:

There is an opportunity for 2 extra credit points during the semester. See [here](#) for further details.

City of Fairfax Data Disclaimer:

Please complete [Assignment 0](#) immediately.

Miscellaneous stuff:Blackboard:

This course is paperless and uses Blackboard extensively. It is recommended to check it regularly for any news and updates. New Blackboard users seeking assistance can contact 703.993.8870 or courses@gmu.edu.

Emergencies:

Check the George Mason homepage and register for GMU's [emergency alert system](#). In the event of any class-specific cancellations, students will be notified as soon as possible.

Disability information:

If you are a student with a disability and require special academic accommodations, please see me and contact [Disability Services](#) (703.993.2474) to ensure your documentation is on file.

Assistant services:

- Students seeking help with improving their writing skills can contact the [University Writing Center](#).
- If you are in personal distress, please contact [Counseling and Psychological Services](#).
- Non-native English speakers seeking linguistic and cultural enrichment services can contact the George Mason [English Language Institute](#).

Academic integrity:

George Mason University has an Honor Code that requires all members of this community to maintain the highest standards of academic honesty and integrity. Cheating, plagiarism, lying, and stealing are all

prohibited. All violations will be reported to the Honor Committee. See [The Mason Honor Code](#) for and the [Office of Academic Integrity](#) for further information. Don't cheat.

Enrollment:

Students are responsible for verifying their enrollment in this class. Schedule adjustments should be made by the deadlines published in the [Schedule of Classes](#).

After the last day to drop a class, withdrawing from this class requires the approval of the Dean and is only allowed for non-academic reasons. Undergraduate students may choose to exercise a selective withdrawal. See the [University Catalog](#) for selective withdrawal procedures and any additional information.

Faculty evaluation:

University-sponsored scantron-type student evaluation of courses are provided towards the end of the semester. Students will complete the form and a student monitor will submit them to one of various faculty evaluation drop boxes around campus. Candid, honest, and fair feedback is welcome and appreciated to further improve and refine this course.

Audio recording:

Audio recording of class material is permitted but prior approval must be granted. Videotaping in any form is not permitted.

Course Outline:

Class #	Date	Topic	Assignment	Reading	Due
1	1/23/2019	Introduction, Orientation, Overview			
2	1/30/2019	What is Crime? What is Place?			Assignment 0
3	2/6/2019	Crime points and places	Project 1		
4	2/13/2019	More crime points and places	Project 2		Project 1
5	2/20/2019	Crime areas and places	Project 3		Project 2
6	2/27/2019	Crime hotspots	Project 4		Project 3
7	3/6/2019	More crime hotspots	Project 5		Project 4
	3/13/2019	NO CLASS - SPRING BREAK			Project 5
8	3/20/2019	Crime distances and places	Project 6		
9	3/27/2019				Project 6
10	4/3/2019	Where would you live in the City of Fairfax? Why?	Project 7		
11	4/10/2019				Project 7
12	4/17/2019	Final Project			Final, Part 1
13	4/24/2019				Final, Part 2
	5/1/2019	NO CLASS	Final Project		
14	5/8/2019	Final Project			
15	5/15/2019	Final Project Presentations			Final, Part 3
					Final, Part 4