**CRIM 210-001: Introduction to Criminology**

Fall 2019

**Instructor**  **Class**

Emily Smedley, M.A. Fridays, 10:30am-1:10pm

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Office Hours: By appointment only Fairfax Campus

**Course Description**

This course will explore and evaluate how crime is defined and measured, will examine crime patterns and trends, and will provide an overview and critical assessment of the major theories of crime causation.

 Recommended Prerequisite: Introduction to Criminal Justice (CRIM 100)

**Course Objectives**

This course has five primary objectives: (1) Expand on substantive criminology knowledge and knowledge of major criminological theories (2) Compare and contrast the application of criminological theories (3) Appraise related criminology research, results, and policy implications (4) Strengthen social science writing abilities (i.e., APA style) (5) Encourage knowledge dissemination (i.e., participating in in-class activities, engaging in amicable debates with classmates, and a presentation).

**Course Communication**

I will communicate with you using only your GMU email address per GMU policy. You should check your email regularly to stay on top of course announcements, including reading changes, class cancellations, etc. If you elect to forward your GMU email address to another email account, please check that your emails are forwarding correctly. Always contact me if you have questions!

**\*You must include your name at the end of your emails to me.** If you send me an email without a name, I will forward the email back to you asking for a name and await a reply from you before I address email content. I will be firm on this class policy.

\*Do not reply to class wide emails sent from BlackBoard (i.e., emails that say they are sent from donotreply@blackboard.com). Instead, please start a new, separate email to avoid a messy email chain ☺.

**Required Texts**

1. Hagan, F. E. (2017). *Introduction to criminology* (9th ed.). Thousand Oaks, CA: SAGE.
2. Douglas, J. (2000) *The cases that haunt us.* USA: Pocket Star Books

**BlackBoard (BB)**

We will use BlackBoard for course announcements, viewing grades, work submissions, instructions for assignments, other interesting materials etc. To access Blackboard:

* Go to: courses.gmu.edu
* Log on using your email username and 8-digit password.
* Click on the “Course” tab along the top and then select this course (CRIM 210-01 on the next page.

If you’ve never used Blackboard before and need some assistance, there is a student resource guide available at http://tap.gmu.edu/bbstudentguide.pdf. You can get personal assistance by calling 993-8870 or emailing courses@gmu.edu.

**Common Courtesies**

* Arrive to class on time and stay for the entire scheduled class
* Cell phones should be turned off or to vibrate
* You may use your computer to take notes and for class activities as directed. You may not surf the Internet, check e-mails, chat with friends, etc. Class time is reserved for class
* Do not be distracting to students around you

**Guest Speakers**

We will have guest speakers throughout the semester. You will be respectful to the guest speakers. That is, you will not text, sleep, or play around on your computer while a guest speaker is presenting! If you are being rude during a guest speaker’s presentation, I will ask you to leave the classroom.

**Course Structure**

This course will incorporate a blend of lecture, group discussion, media, and individual work. I divided the course into four sections. At the beginning of each section, I will give you a weekly reading chart so that you know what to focus on each week. I expect you to read all the assigned readings before coming to class. Some of the readings will say “skim” next to them – be clear that “skim” is not equivalent to “skip.” By “skim” I mean that you need to somewhat familiar with the material: in class should not be the first time you are hearing the information. Some weeks will be more lecture intensive than others. Do not expect that I will cover all the material in class that you need to know for the tests (i.e., I will not lecture verbatim from the textbook each week). My purpose with our class time is to hit the highlights, supplement with additional information, help you make connections between the readings, clear up misunderstandings, and facilitate dialogue – not to reiterate material from the textbook and other assigned readings.

Readings for the class will come from the required texts and from assigned articles. Any additional articles I assign are available for free on GMU’s library website: please do not pay for an article. I do not post articles on Blackboard. Part of being a scholar is being able to find the information you need. For any assigned articles, I will provide you with the APA citation, and you are expected to use the GMU library website to locate the article (<http://library.gmu.edu>). If you need help locating an article, ask!!

**Special Note on Attendance and Participation**

I do not incorporate attendance or participation into your grade in this class. I expect you to attend classes and to hold yourself accountable for showing up to class on time and staying for the duration of class. Furthermore, I expect you to actively participate in all course activities. I will pass around a sign-in sheet during each class session for my own record keeping.

\*\* Review information under “Written Exercises” and “Discussion Questions” sections regarding submission policies!!\*\*

**Course Assignments**

1. Four Tests (10% each, 40% total)
2. Instagram Presentation (5%)
3. Five In-Class Exercises (4% each, 20% total)
4. Reaction Paper (5%)
5. Five Discussion Questions (2% each, 10% total)
6. Who Done It & Why? Final Paper (20%)

**Tests (10% each, 40% total)**

There will be four tests in this course. The tests are each worth 100 points and may include true/false, multiple choice, and short answer/essay questions. All material covered in class and/or assigned for class is fair game for the tests. You will need to be able to recall information from the previous tests to be successful on future tests. I do not supply study guides. The class PPTs, your class notes, discussion questions, written exercises, article presentations, online textbook resources, and other provided materials etc. are your study guides – use them!

Late Arrival Policy: You may arrive late on test days and still take the test without penalty unless another student has already turned in a test. Once one student submits a test, no additional tests will be passed out to late arrivals. You will receive a zero (0) on the test if you arrive late on test day and a test has already been submitted to me before your arrival.

Test days are good days to come early, so you can leave happy (no, unfortunately, I won’t be serving pancakes ☺ but thanks to IHOP for the adapted slogan).

Test Make-Up Policy: If you are not present in class on a test day you may take a makeup test only if you provide written documentation from a professional source that verifies an acceptable reason for missing class: I am the sole judge of what qualifies as written documentation, as a professional source, and as an acceptable reason for missing class. You will receive a zero (0) for a missed test that you cannot provide acceptable documentation for. Makeup tests must be completed within one week of the scheduled test date. You will receive a zero (0) on the test regardless of documentation for any test not completed within one week of the scheduled test date.

**Instagram Presentation (5%)**

All students will present a scholarly article of their choice to the class. I will distribute a sign-up sheet, and students will select which topic they would like to present an article on. Given the number of students in the class, about seven students will present each week. The audience will grade presentations using an evaluation form that will be made available on Blackboard. Additional information will be provided.

Late Policy for Article Presentations: Presentation dates will not be rescheduled; therefore, you should sign-up to present on a date when you are sure you will be present in class. Late presentations are not permitted. If you do not present on your assigned date, you will revive a zero for this assignment.

**In-Class Exercises (4% each, 20% total)**

In-class exercises are brief graded assignments given in-class throughout the semester. There are a total of five graded in-class written exercises. While we will complete additional in-class activities, only five activities will be graded. These assignments will not be announced ahead of time. I will announce in-class whether the exercise for the day is graded, but again, I will not announce that we are completing a graded in-class activity before I give out the instructions. Each in-class exercise counts for 4% of your course grade. These exercises will be graded using the following scale.

0 = not completed

1 = weak reflection

2 = moderate reflection

3 = strong reflection

4 = excellent reflection

Late Policy for Written Exercises: In-class written exercises are in-class activities; thus, as indicated by the term “in-class,” you must be present in class to submit these assignments. I will not accept submissions completed outside of class.

In grading in-class exercises, I place emphasis on achievement (i.e., is the answer right or wrong?). I also take into consideration the effort afforded. Please note the differences in grading between in-class assignments (achievement) and discussion questions (effort).

**Reaction Paper (5%)**

You will write a short paper reacting to movie that we will watch in class. More information will be provided.

 Late Policy for Reaction Papers: Policy will be included on future instructions.

**Discussion Questions (2% each, 10% total)**

I will occasionally provide you with discussion questions to guide your comprehension and critical thinking of the assigned readings. Discussion questions may cover a chapter in the Douglas book or they may relate to other supplemental material. You should bring a hardcopy of your discussion questions to every class in which discussion questions were assigned. I will not accept electronic copies. A total of five sets of discussion questions will be randomly and without an announcement beforehand collected over the course of the semester and graded using the following grading scale.

0 = minimal completion or not submitted

1 = partially completed

2 = moderately completed

3 = fully completed

When I grade discussion questions, I place an emphasis on the effort afforded, not whether your answer is right or wrong. Make sure your effort to thoroughly answer the questions is apparent.

Late Policy for Discussion Questions: If you are not present in class when I collect discussion questions, you may submit them via email by 11:59pm on that Friday only if you provide written documentation from a professional source that verifies an acceptable reason for missing class: I am the sole judge of what qualifies as written documentation, as a professional source, and as an acceptable reason for missing class. Late assignments will not be accepted without documentation. You will receive a zero (0) for any missed discussion questions that you either cannot provide acceptable documentation for or for any missed discussion questions received past the above deadline regardless of documentation provided.

**Who Done It & Why? Final Paper (20%)**

The Who Done It & Why? paper will constitute your final in this course. The final paper is due December 13th by 5pm on Blackboard. I do not accept late submissions. More information will be provided on this assignment during the semester.

Late Policy for Final Paper: No late submissions will be accepted. The final paper is due by the time and date indicated above.

**Extra Credit**

Criminology BINGO is available for extra credit. A completed BINGO card is worth a maximum of five (5) points on your final grade. Additional information on Criminology BINGO is available on Blackboard. BINGO cards are due on the last day of class (December 6th). You must bring a hardcopy of your BINGO card. No late or electronic submissions will be accepted.

I may include extra credit on tests. Extra credit is placed on tests at my sole discretion. There is no guarantee that extra credit opportunities will appear on the tests.

**Grading**

Test 1 10%

Test 2 10%

Test 3 10%

Test 4 10%

Written Exercise 1 4%

Written Exercise 2 4%

Written Exercise 3 4%

Written Exercise 4 4%

Written Exercise 5 4%

Discussion Questions 1 2%

Discussion Questions 2 2%

Discussion Questions 3 2%

Discussion Questions 4 2%

Discussion Questions 5 2%

Reaction Paper 5%

Instagram Presentation 5%

Who Done It & Why? 20%

Total 100%

98-100% = A+ 87-89.9% = B+ 77-79.9% = C+ 60-69.9% = D

94-97.9% = A 84-86.9% = B 74-76.9% = C <59.9% = F

90-93.9% = A- 80-83.9% = B- 70-73.9% = C-

**Late Work**

The late policy for each assignment is explained under the corresponding assignment. For some assignments, I will accept late submissions with written documentation from a professional source. For other assignments, no late submissions will be accepted. Review the policy for each assignment and plan accordingly.

### Requests for Reconsideration of a Grade

If you feel that work you submitted was improperly evaluated, you may ask to have it reviewed and the grade reconsidered. To have the grade reevaluated, you must prepare a typed statement (12 point Times New Roman font) explaining what you believe is erroneous about the grade. This typed statement should be between one and two paragraphs. I will not review a grade without a typed statement. While I am unreceptive to being asked to review work simply because a poor grade was received, I appreciate the opportunity to correct an honest mistake!

**Grading Policy**

You are graded based on your comprehension of course material, your critical analysis of course material, and your ability to apply course material to events outside of the classroom. I will neither curve nor negotiate grades at the end of the course.

**Disability Assistance**

If you are a student with a disability and you need academic accommodations, please see me and contact the Office of Disability Resources at 703.993.2474. You must make all academic accommodations arrangements via that office.

**Academic Integrity & Honor Code**

Students are expected to abide by the GMU Honor Code, which prohibits lying, cheating, stealing, and plagiarizing (see the University Catalog for detailed information about each of these violations). Suspected cases of plagiarism may be evaluated using anti-plagiarism software. Instructors are required to report all violations of the Honor Code to the GMU Honor Committee. Violations will likely result in a failing grade for the assignment and may result in a failing grade for the course, plus any additional penalties determined by the committee, including dismissal from the university. Please be sure that the work you submit in this class is your own, and that you provide proper citations using APA citation style when referencing another person’s words or ideas. See http://oai.gmu.edu/the-mason-honor-code-2/ for more detailed information. See me if you have questions.