**CRIMINOLOGY (SOC/ADMJ 012)**  
**SPRING 2003 SYLLABUS**

Instructor: Eric Silver, Ph.D.  
Class Meetings: T-Th, 4:15-5:30pm, 111 Wartik  
Office/phone/email/Mailbox: 1003 Oswald Tower, 865-8867, exs44@psu.edu, 211 Oswald  
Office hours: By appointment (usually the day after your initial contact)

**OVERVIEW:** Crime is a controversial topic, not just for the general public and policy makers, but for criminologists too. How should we measure crime? Why do some people commit crimes, while others do not? Why do some places have high crime rates, while others do not? What can we do to reduce crime? These are just some of the difficult questions that criminologists grapple with everyday. In this course, we will take an in-depth look at what criminologists do, what they think, and what they have learned about crime, its causes, consequences, and solutions. A sincere desire to learn about crime, and a bit of hard work, are all you need to succeed in this course. Welcome to Criminology!

**COURSE OBJECTIVES:**

- For students to learn how criminologists go about studying crime, the data sources they use, and the ways in which they discover relationships in those data.
- For students to learn basic facts about crime in the U.S.
- For students to recognize and understand the major theories that criminologists have created to explain why some people commit crimes, while others do not, and why some places have high crime rates, while others do not.
- To prepare students for advanced courses in sociology, criminology, and the social sciences more generally

**REQUIRED TEXTS:**


**COURSE WEB SITE:** [http://www.personal.psu.edu/faculty/e/x/exs44/012](http://www.personal.psu.edu/faculty/e/x/exs44/012) The course web site contains the schedule of topics and readings that will be covered during each class meeting. This schedule will be modified as needed - depending on the pace of the class - so I recommend that you check it at least weekly to make sure you stay current with the readings and topics.
**REQUIRED ATTENDANCE:** Regular attendance will be taken into account when I assign final grades. **Students missing more than 3 classes will have one percentage point deducted from their total grade for each class missed after the 3rd.** Do not come to class late!

**THREE EXAMS:** There will be three semester exams in this course. Exams will consist of multiple choice and true-false questions covering material from both lectures and readings. Exam dates are provided below on the *Schedule of Exams and Assignments*. Together, the exams are worth 90% of your grade.

**NO MAKE-UP EXAMS:** Make-up exams will only be given for students who bring me written verification of illnesses, deaths, and/or other extenuating circumstances immediately prior to or after the missed exam. All other requests for makeup exams will be denied.

**TWO REQUIRED WRITING ASSIGNMENTS:** There are two required writing assignments for this course. Together the papers are worth 10% of your grade. The due dates are listed on the *Schedule of Exams and Assignments* below. All papers must be type-written, double-spaced and proofread for typos. Be sure your paper includes your name, student ID, the course number, and the date it was handed in.

**Assignment #1:** Write a 2 page essay describing Elijah Anderson’s perspective on why some neighborhoods have developed a “code of the streets” while others have not. Begin by describing what the code of the streets is. Then, identify and describe what you see as the TWO most important causes of the emergence of the code of the streets as described by Anderson. In describing what you see as Anderson’s TWO main points, be sure to select illustrative quotes from the book - one for each main point (you must provide the page numbers from which the quotes were taken). After reading your paper, I should know what you see as Anderson’s TWO main points regarding why a code of the streets has emerged in inner city Philadelphia.

**Assignment #2:** Write a 3 page essay identifying TWO theoretical perspectives covered in class that you believe best reflect Elijah Anderson’s arguments regarding the causes of violence in inner city Philadelphia. Be sure to accurately describe the theories you select and explain how they relate to Anderson’s arguments regarding the causes of inner city violence. After reading your essay, I should: (1) have no doubt that you thoroughly understand the theories you have selected; and (2) see a clear connection between each theory you selected and Anderson’s description of inner city violence. In explaining the connection between the theories and Anderson’s perspective, be sure to use illustrative quotes from the book (you must provide the page numbers from which the quotes were taken). I encourage you to use examples from the book that we DID NOT go over in class!
**Advice on writing:** Your written work should be informative, well-organized, and free of typos, grammatical errors, and missing words. Typos, grammatical errors, and missing words show that you haven’t put much effort into your written work, and therefore do not deserve much credit. A good strategy is to revise your paper a few times before handing it in and to ask a friend to read it over for you. Do not, under any circumstances, hand in your first draft!

**GRADING:** Your grade will be determined by your exam scores (90%), written assignments (10%), attendance, and participation. The grade scale is as follows: A = 94-100%, A- = 90-93.9%, B+ = 87-89.9, B = 84-86.9%, B- = 80-83.9%, C+ = 77-79.9%, C = 70-76.9%, D = 63-69.9%, F = below 63%.

**SCHEDULE OF EXAMS AND ASSIGNMENTS:**

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<th>Due Date</th>
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<tr>
<td>2/13/03</td>
<td>Exam #1</td>
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<tr>
<td>2/27/03</td>
<td>Written assignment #1</td>
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<td>3/27/03</td>
<td>Exam #2</td>
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<td>4/15/03</td>
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<td>5/1/03</td>
<td>Exam #3</td>
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<td>Exam #3 - make-up</td>
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**OFFICE VISITS.** Don’t be shy about contacting me with questions about readings and assignments, or any other issues you would like to talk about. I can you usually meet with you within a day of your contacting me (by email) for an appointment.

**ACADEMIC INTEGRITY:** Academic integrity and honesty are expected of each student. Dishonesty of any kind will result in a grade of F, and will be addressed in accordance with University and College policies. The College of Liberal Arts Statement on Academic Integrity can be found at: http://www.la.psu.edu/cla/admin/AcademicIntegPolicyandProced.htm

**STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES:** The Pennsylvania State University encourages qualified persons with disabilities to participate in its programs and activities. If you anticipate needing any type of accommodation in this course or have questions about physical access, please tell the instructor as soon as possible.