Introduction to the Course

Course Description
This introductory course seeks to develop an understanding of law, crime and punishment in the U.S. from a sociological perspective, and an understanding of what a ‘sociological perspective’--or rather, the sociological spirit--really means, using the field of law, crime and punishment as our playground.
One of the cornerstones of the sociological spirit is its focus on the taken-for-granted, the mundane, the everyday life, turning what seems so familiar and obvious into something fascinating and strange. Embracing this spirit, this course focuses on the ubiquitous presence of law and legality in everyday life, and the relevance of law, crime and punishment—in their broadest sense—to the everyday lives of all of us.

At the same time, we will also address macro-level questions such as: why are there such exceptionally high crime rates in the U.S.? How come race plays such a significant role when it comes to putting people behind bars? And why do we punish in the first place, and how have prisons become our default, taken-for-granted method of punishment? We will conclude the course with a transition back from the macro and abstract to the micro and concrete, and examine law, legality and resistance where it matters the most: our lives.

As an online, 21st century course, it attempts to utilize technology in creative, accessible, user-friendly ways. You will create short videos, listen to podcasts, and create a podcast of your own for your final assignment. More generally, as a strong believer in joy as the ultimate educational instrument, the course is designed to provide you with a meaningful, challenging and enjoyable experience.

**Educational Purpose**

This course serves as an elective in the SOC and can be used as a required course in the Law, Crime, and Deviance track in the SOC major. It can also be used as an elective undergraduate/graduate course.

**Prerequisites**

N/A

**Course Materials**

**Required Materials**

**Textbook**

This course does not require a textbook; all course readings will be available through the Library Course Page.

**Library Course Page**
The Library Course Page aggregates textbook, library resources, weblinks, even pay-per-use items. This is the result of a collaboration between CCAPS and Wilson Reserves to leverage library resources, abide by copyright clearance requirements, and leverage creative commons resources.

**Webcam / Microphone - Headset**

Prepare to collaborate online in video by ensuring you have a functional webcam designed for video calls and a headset-microphone to assure good audio quality.

**Canvas App**

The Canvas App is the mobile version of Canvas that helps you stay current with your courses anywhere you go. To download the Canvas Mobile app for Android or IOS, visit your Google Play Store or IOS App Store.

To learn more about navigating the Canvas mobile application, visit the Canvas Mobile Guides and select the Canvas by Instructure Android Guide or Canvas by Instructure iOS Guide suitable for your device.

**Recommended Materials (optional)**

This course requires that you listen to several podcasts, record a podcast, and record a video. While not a requirement, it is highly recommended that you have access to a mobile device that can record video/audio (such as a tablet or smart phone).

To order course materials that are available through the University of Minnesota Bookstores, go to the Search page at the University of Minnesota Bookstores Web site, and use the option to "Search for Books by Department, Course, or Author."

Or you may call 612-625-6000 or 1-800-442-8636 and ask for ODL book service.

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**Technical Requirements**

**Browser supported by Canvas**
Canvas recommends updating to the most current version of your preferred browser. Your browser will notify you if there is a new version available.

Some supported browsers may still produce a banner stating *Your browser does not meet the minimum requirements for Canvas*. If you have upgraded your browser but you are still seeing the warning banner, try logging out of Canvas and deleting your browser cookies.

To learn more about browser compatibility with Canvas, visit the Canvas [Supported Browsers](#) page.

Please note that if your course utilizes Google Hangouts Meet for Virtual Office Hours, Google Hangouts Meet is only available on the Google Chrome browser.

**Duo Security**

In response to an increase in cybercrimes across the country, in our communities, and on our campuses at the University of Minnesota, **Duo Security (two-factor authentication) will be required at the University of Minnesota Sign-In page.** The Sign-In page is the University’s gateway to applications such as MyU, G Suite (Gmail, Calendar, Docs, etc.), Canvas, and many others.

For how-to instructions, assistance setting up Duo, or additional resources, please see the IT@UMN page on [Duo Two Factor Authentication](#).

**Learning Technologies**

This course uses the following technologies, many of which can be accessed and used from mobile devices.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Tutorial</th>
<th>Mobile</th>
<th>Accessibility</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><img src="#" alt="Flipgrid" /></td>
<td>iOS &amp; Android</td>
<td><a href="#">Flipgrid accessibility info</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><img src="#" alt="Google Hangouts Meet" /></td>
<td>iOS &amp; Android</td>
<td><a href="#">Hangouts Meet accessibility info</a></td>
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Student Help
Access the many support resources made available to you by the university via the Student Help button located under Essential Information on your course home page.

Learning Outcomes

Course-level Outcomes (CO)

1. Identify basic patterns of crime and punishment in the U.S. over time and across geographical regions.
2. Define some of the most influential theories about crime and punishment.
3. Apply sociological theories to question criminal justice ‘facts’ with a critical eye.
4. Critically analyze taken-for-granted assumptions regarding crime (what counts as crime?) and punishment (why punish?)
5. Express research-informed, thoughtful, empathetic opinions in order to become active, engaged citizens, committed to social justice as defined by the student.
Higher-level Competencies

The College of Continuing and Professional Studies (CCAPS) is dedicated to fostering the life and career skills essential for the 21st century.

In SOC 1101 you will practice:

Course Schedule

Modules run from Monday through Sunday. All assignments are due by 11:55 p.m. Sunday at the end of the week in which they are assigned. For more information, see your Canvas course site.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Module /Week</th>
<th>Topic</th>
<th>Learning Activities</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Introduction</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Prologue</td>
<td>● Introduce Yourself</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>● Start Here Quiz</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>● Reading Journal 1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>The Criminal Justice System</td>
<td>● Reading Journal 2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>● Current Event Discussion 2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Crime</td>
<td>● Reading Journal 3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>● Current Event Discussion 3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>● Provide Course Feedback</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
| 4 | Punishment | ● Audio Journal A  
● Essay A |
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th></th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Theoretical Foundations</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Deviance--Labeling Theory</td>
<td>● Reading Journal 5</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
| 6 | Crime & The American Dream | ● Reading Journal 6  
● Current Event Discussion 6 |
| 7 | The Phenomenology of Crime | ● Reading Journal 7  
● *Provide Course Feedback* |
| 8 | Mass Incarceration | ● Reading Journal 8  
● Current Event Discussion B |
| 9 | Why Punish? The Philosophy of Punishment | ● Audio Journal B  
● Essay B |
| **Crime, Punishment and Everyday Life** | | |
| 10 | The Common Place of Law I | ● Reading Journal 10  
● Current Event Discussion 10  
● *Podcast Project Part I: Interview Proposal* |
| 11 | The Common Place of Law II | ● Reading Journal 11  
● Current Event Discussion 11  
● *Podcast Project Part II: Submit Interview Guide* |
| 12 | The Common Place of Law III | ● Reading Journal 12  
● *Podcast Project Part III: Submit Interview Recording* |
| 13 | This American Life | ● *Podcast Project Part IV: Edited Podcast* |
| **Epilogue** | | |
| 14 | Epilogue | ● Final Exam  
● *Podcast Project Part V: Podcast Peer Reflection*  
● *Complete Online Course Evaluation* |
Assignment Guidelines

Detailed Assignment Guidelines are located in the assignment tools on your Canvas course site.

**Reading/Audio Journals X 12**
Short, weekly assignments, in which students will be asked a number of questions related directly to the readings [250-ish words]

**Current Event Discussions (via Flipgrid) X 6**
Students will use Flipgrid to record a video in which they connect the week’s reading materials to a current news event. In each instance, students will both create a video and respond to one peer.

**Essays X 2**
Two fairly open-ended essays, in which students will be asked to describe experiences from their own lives that relate to topics discussed in the readings [500-1000 words]

**Podcast Project X 1**
For their final project, students will create an edited podcast, the length of which will be between 20-25 minutes. In their podcast, students will integrate an explanation of the theory presented by Patricia Ewick and Susan Silbey about “legal consciousness” and the role of law in everyday life, with excerpts from an interview they will conduct with a friend about how they go about dealing with the law in their everyday life. Ultimately, students are expected to produce a polished audio file which fuses theory and practice, and serves as an example of how sociology can be utilized to produce a clear, creative and engaging work of art.

The podcast assignment is divided into 5 separate steps:
Part I: Interview Proposal
Part II: Interview Guide
Part III: Interview Recording
Part IV: Edited Podcast
Part V: Podcast Peer Reflection

Final Exam X 1
A final exam that will cover all of the material covered in the course

Grading

Grading Table

The following table summarizes the graded activities and assessments of this course.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Learning Activity</th>
<th>Assessment</th>
<th>Points</th>
<th>% of Grade</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Reading/Audio Journals</td>
<td>12 entries X 25 pts/each (10 reading journals+2 video journals)</td>
<td>300</td>
<td>30%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Current Event Discussions</td>
<td>6 current event videos X 10 pts /each 12 respons x 5/ pts each (2 responses per assignment)</td>
<td>120</td>
<td>12%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Essays</td>
<td>2 Essays X 90 pts/each</td>
<td>180</td>
<td>18%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Final Exam</td>
<td>1 Exam X 150 pts</td>
<td>150</td>
<td>15%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Podcast Assignment (250pts)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Interview Proposal</td>
<td>Written proposal submitted online</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Interview Guide</td>
<td>Written guide submitted online</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>1.5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Interview Recording</td>
<td>Link to audio file submitted online</td>
<td>40</td>
<td>4%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Podcast Final Version | Link to edited audio file submitted online | 150 | 15%
---|---|---|---
Podcast Reflection | Written reflection on a peer’s podcast, submitted online. | 35 | 3.5%
**Total** | | **1000** | **100%**

**Late Submissions**
Late work including late proctored exams will only be accepted with prior approval from the instructor.

**Make-up Work for Legitimate Absences**
You are responsible for informing your instructor as soon as possible of missed classes or missed proctored exams for legitimate reasons and provide documentation of the reason for absence. Reasonable and timely accommodations will be arranged.

**Withdrawals**
Week 10 is the last week to withdraw without your college’s approval. For details check the Cancel/add & refund deadlines page and step-by-step guide to dropping a class.

**Incompletes**
An incomplete is assigned at the discretion of the instructor when a student is prevented from completing the work of the course on time due to extraordinary circumstances (e.g. hospitalization). Incompletes require a written agreement between instructor and student. For more information, please view Grading and Transcripts: Twin Cities, Crookston, Morris, Rochester. An Incomplete Grade Contract is available on the One Stop website Forms page in both electronic and PDF formats. The student must initiate the e-form.

**Grade Distribution**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grade</th>
<th>GPA Points</th>
<th>Definitions for undergraduate credit</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A</td>
<td>4.000</td>
<td>Represents achievement that significantly exceeds expectations in the course.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A-</td>
<td>3.667</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B+</td>
<td>3.333</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B</td>
<td>3.000</td>
<td>Represents achievement that is above the minimum expectations in the course.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B-</td>
<td>2.667</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
### Student Rights and Responsibilities

#### Student Rights

Students can expect:
- the instructor will return email and phone communications within 2 days unless otherwise announced in the course
- *discussion participation* will be responded to / graded within 7 days of the due date
- *assignments* will be graded within 14 days of the due date

#### Student Responsibilities

Students are responsible for:
- reviewing any assigned learning resources as stated in the weekly Module Overviews
- reading all discussion postings in the weekly modules as assigned
- posting weekly discussion postings as assigned
- assuring that their computer is compatible and working to engage effectively in this online course
● uploading assignments before or on the assigned due date/time

Academic Policies and Accommodations

Academic Policies

Academic Accommodations

Syllabus subject to change

This syllabus may change as needed to support the student learning outcomes for this course.