Course Syllabus

CCJ 5625 - Ecology of Crime
Spring 2020 - Eppes 214
Wednesday 10:00 AM - 12:30 PM

Professor: Dr. Brian Stults
Email: bstults@fsu.edu
Phone: (850) 645-7376
Office: 302A Eppes Hall
Office hours: W 1-3 PM; Tr 11 AM - 1 PM

Course Objectives

This course will provide an overview of various issues in the study of the ecology of crime, with particular emphasis on neighborhoods and crime. We will address existing criminological theories, and how they can be applied to the study of community crime levels. This will include a critical analysis of existing empirical research. Attention will be given to the factors that influence community-level crime rates, as well as the ways in which community characteristics influence the behavior and outcomes of individuals. Finally, policy implications and current practices will be discussed.

Required Readings

- All other readings are available on Canvas

Course Requirements

- *Attendance and participation*

  As with any graduate seminar, student attendance, preparation, and participation is essential. You are required to come to class having carefully read all of the assigned literature, and you must contribute to class discussions on a regular basis.

- *Weekly discussion questions*

  Prior to each class meeting, you will be required to submit one discussion question based on the required readings for that week, as well as a brief answer to your own question. You must provide explicit references to the assigned literature for that week, with the
purpose of clearly displaying that you have completed the readings. You must submit your question on Canvas by class time each week. Content, form, and length may vary, but I expect that most submissions will be at least two double-spaced pages, and usually longer.

- **Leading class discussion**

  Different students will be responsible for leading class discussion during each class meeting. The discussion leader will be expected to provide a concise overview of their assigned reading(s), critique the reading(s), and ask questions to elicit participation from the rest of the class. The length of the discussion will vary depending on the weekly topic, but you will not be expected to lead discussion for longer than one hour.

- **Data source presentation**

  Time will be reserved during two class meetings for individual student presentations on a data source that is relevant for studying communities and crime. Each presentation will be no longer than 10-12 minutes. Suggested elements of the presentation are as follows:

  - study name, time frame, principle investigator(s), originating agency, etc.
  - topic or original study, purpose of data collection
  - sampling universe, sampling frame, sampling methodology, sample size, etc.
  - key variables
  - reasonable uses, examples of use in existing literature
  - limitations, critique, problems

- **Final essay exam**

  A take-home essay exam will be distributed before the last week of class. You will be required to select two questions from the exam and provide answers that draw upon the semester readings. Special attention will be paid to your ability to integrate readings from multiple units throughout the semester into your answer. Exams must be turned in by noon on the Wednesday of exam week.

**Grading**

Your grade for this course will be based on the following criteria:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Attendance and participation</th>
<th>15%</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Discussion questions</td>
<td>15%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Leading class discussion</td>
<td>15%</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

https://fsu.instructure.com/courses/116848/assignments/syllabus
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Assignment</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Data source presentation</td>
<td>15%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Final exam</td>
<td>40%</td>
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**University Attendance Policy**

Excused absences include documented illness, deaths in the family and other documented crises, call to active military duty or jury duty, religious holy days, and official University activities. These absences will be accommodated in a way that does not arbitrarily penalize students who have a valid excuse. Consideration will also be given to students whose dependent children experience serious illness.

**Academic Honor Policy**

The Florida State University Academic Honor Policy outlines the University's expectations for the integrity of students' academic work, the procedures for resolving alleged violations of those expectations, and the rights and responsibilities of students and faculty members throughout the process. Students are responsible for reading the policy and for living up to their pledge to "...be honest and truthful and...[to] strive for personal and institutional integrity at Florida State University." (Florida State University Academic Honor Policy, found at [http://fda.fsu.edu/Academics/Academic-Honor-Policy](http://fda.fsu.edu/Academics/Academic-Honor-Policy))

**Americans with Disabilities Act**

Students with disabilities needing academic accommodation should:

1. register with and provide documentation to the Student Disability Resource Center; and
2. bring a letter to the instructor indicating the need for accommodation and what type.

Please note that instructors are not allowed to provide classroom accommodation to a student until appropriate verification from the Student Disability Resource Center has been provided. This syllabus and other class materials are available in alternative format upon request. For more information about services available to FSU students with disabilities, contact the Student Disability Resource Center at:

874 Traditions Way
108 Student Services Building
Florida State University
Tallahassee, FL 32306-4167
(850) 644-9566 (voice)
(850) 644-8504 (TDD)
sdrc@admin.fsu.edu
[http://www.disabilitycenter.fsu.edu/](http://www.disabilitycenter.fsu.edu/)
Students with disabilities needing academic accommodation should: (1) Register with and provide documentation to the Student Disability Resource Center; and (2) bring a letter to me indicating the need for accommodation and what type. This should be done during the first week of class. This syllabus and other class materials are available in alternative format upon request. For more information about services available to FSU students with disabilities, contact the Student Disability Resource Center (www.disabilitycenter.fsu.edu)

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**Course Schedule**

01/08 - Introduction and overview

01/15 - What is community and why is it important?


01/22 - Methodological issues


01/29 - Social disorganization


02/05 - Divergent Social Worlds, Chapters 1-3

02/12 - Divergent Social Worlds, Chapters 4-6

02/19 - No class this week

Great American City, Chapters 1-4

02/26 - Great American City, Chapters 5-7

03/04 - Great American City, Chapters 10-12, 15

03/11 - Differential organization


03/18 - Spring Break

03/25 - Alternative theoretical perspectives


04/01 - Data Source Presentations

04/08 - Imprisonment, re-entry, and communities


04/15 - Immigration and crime


**04/22 - Data Source Presentations**

**Course Summary:**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Details</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Wed Jan 15, 2020</td>
<td><a href="https://fsu.instructure.com/courses/116848/assignments/738104">Question 1</a> due by 10am</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wed Jan 22, 2020</td>
<td><a href="https://fsu.instructure.com/courses/116848/assignments/738107">Question 2</a> due by 10am</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wed Jan 29, 2020</td>
<td><a href="https://fsu.instructure.com/courses/116848/assignments/738108">Question 3</a> due by 10am</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wed Feb 5, 2020</td>
<td><a href="https://fsu.instructure.com/courses/116848/assignments/738109">Question 4</a> due by 10am</td>
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<td>Wed Feb 12, 2020</td>
<td><a href="https://fsu.instructure.com/courses/116848/assignments/738110">Question 5</a> due by 10am</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wed Feb 26, 2020</td>
<td><a href="https://fsu.instructure.com/courses/116848/assignments/738111">Question 6</a> due by 10am</td>
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<td>Wed Mar 4, 2020</td>
<td><a href="https://fsu.instructure.com/courses/116848/assignments/738112">Question 7</a> due by 10am</td>
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<td><a href="https://fsu.instructure.com/courses/116848/assignments/738113">Question 8</a> due by 10am</td>
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<td>Wed Mar 25, 2020</td>
<td><a href="https://fsu.instructure.com/courses/116848/assignments/738114">Question 9</a> due by 10am</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wed Apr 8, 2020</td>
<td><a href="https://fsu.instructure.com/courses/116848/assignments/738105">Question 10</a> due by 10am</td>
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<td>Wed Apr 15, 2020</td>
<td><a href="https://fsu.instructure.com/courses/116848/assignments/738106">Question 11</a> due by 10am</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wed Apr 29, 2020</td>
<td><a href="https://fsu.instructure.com/courses/116848/assignments/738102">final exam</a> due by 11:59pm</td>
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</tbody>
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- [attendance and participation](https://fsu.instructure.com/courses/116848/assignments/738100)
- [data presentation](https://fsu.instructure.com/courses/116848/assignments/738101)
- [leading discussion](https://fsu.instructure.com/courses/116848/assignments/738103)