

## **Crime Hotspots**

CCJ 4070-0001 (11380)

Fall 2020

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Why do some areas have more crime than others? Why do some areas see increasing rates of crime over time, while others seemingly do not? These are the primary questions to answer in the current course. Specifically this course looks at: 1) the spatial concentration pattern of crime; 2) the characteristics of places that promote criminal activity, and 3) those features of places that increase or decrease crime. We consider the principal theoretical perspectives that link crime to place, the research methods that have been used to study spatial patterns of crime, and classic and contemporary theoretical and methodological investigations of the relationship between place and crime.

### **Objectives**

The student will obtain an understanding of:

- (1) Perspectives on the spatial variation on crime: Situational and spatial explanations
- (2) The historical development of the ecological explanations of crime.
- (3) Significant milestones in the development of place-level explanations of crime.

**Readings:** The required readings for this course can be downloaded as \*.pdf documents from the course website. The readings will generally be posted to the website one lecture in advance, will stay through the lecture for which they are assigned. There will be two or three required readings per week.

There will be **2 midterm exams** (*25-30 multiple choice questions for each exam*) and **the final exam** (*about 70-80 multiple choice questions*). The midterm examinations will be given during the class period on week 5 and week 9. There will be about 5-6 popup quizzes throughout the course.

### **Grade Breakdown**

All students will be taking the class for a letter grade; there is no pass/fail option unless it has been pre-approved by the instructor.

- *Quizzes (10%)*
- *Midterm 1 (30%)*
- *Midterm 2 (30%)*
  - The midterms will be on **Week 6 and 10**. The test will be based on readings and lectures. Test will be 25-30 multiple choice questions.
- *Final Exam (30%)*: The exam will be held on the **Final Exam Week**. Please refer to FSU final exam schedule at [https://registrar.fsu.edu/registration\\_guide/fall/exam\\_schedule/Links to an external site](https://registrar.fsu.edu/registration_guide/fall/exam_schedule/Links_to_an_external_site). The final exam will cover material presented throughout the entire semester. Students will have to take the midterm and final exams and quizzes through FSU Canvas “Quiz” tab.

### **Grades**

Grades will be administered on an A, B, C, D, F scale with pluses and minuses.

A 92% or above; A- 90%-91%; B+ 88%-89%; B 82%-87%; B- 80%-81%;

C+ 78%-79%; C 72%-77%; C- 70%-71%;

D+ 68%-69%; D 62%-67%; D- 60%-61%; F Below 60%

\*Grades may be administered on a curve if I determine that the course has been overly difficult

### **Note on Learning Online**

The course requires a stable ethernet or WIFI internet connection for online teaching materials (e.g., zoom live office hours, lecture videos, taking quizzes and exams). **Poor internet connection or any technical issues will not be considered as an excuse for missing course participation** (i.e., missing the exams or quizzes or late submission of assignments). It is student’s responsibility to ensure proper remote

learning environment. Please refer to FSU student guideline to learning online at: <https://distance.fsu.edu/student-guide>Links to an external site.

### **Classroom Etiquette**

- Please do not record the lecture videos or share with others not in the class or **do not post/upload such recordings on the internet and any type of social media (e.g. Facebook, Instagram, etc.)**.

### **Course Schedule** *(You will be notified in advance if something is changed)*

#### ***Week 1***

Introduction: Review Syllabus

#### ***Week 2***

The Law of Crime Concentration

- Readings: Weisburd, 2015; Hipp & Kim, 2016 (pages 597-603)

#### ***Week 3***

Objectives: Space, Units of Analysis, and Crime Hotspots

- Readings: Lersch & Hart (pages 3-6); Hipp & Boessen, 2013

Objectives: Alternative Way: Egohood Approaches

- Reading: Kim & Hipp, 2019

#### ***Week 4***

Objectives: Chicago School of Sociology and Social Disorganization Theory

- Reading: Kubrin et al., chapter 4, pages 82-92

Objectives: Social Disorganization: Mechanisms

- Reading: Sampson & Groves, 1989; Weisburd et al., 2012 (pages 119-145)

#### ***Week 5***

Objectives: Voluntary Organizations and Crime

- Readings: Slocum et al., 2013; Wo et al 2016 (pages 212-220 & 234-237)

Guest Lecture: Voluntary Organizations and Crime – James C. Wo

### **Week 6**

- **FIRST MIDTERM EXAM (2/8/2021 - 2/12/2021)**

### **Week 7**

Objectives: Routine Activities Theory; Crime Pattern Theory; Geometry of Crime

- Reading: Cohen & Felson, 1979; Brantingham & Brantingham, 1995

Objectives: Land Use and Crime I

- Reading: Sherman et al., 1989

### **Week 8**

Objectives: Land Use Crime II

- Reading: Stucky and Ottensmann, 2009

Objectives: Mixed Land Use

- Reading: Browning et al., 2010

### **Week 9**

Objectives: Pathways I

- Reading: Beavon et al., 1994

Objectives: Pathways II

- Reading: Kim & Hipp, 2019

### **Week 10**

- **SECOND MIDTERM EXAM (3/8/2021 - 3/12/2021)**

### **Week 11**

Objectives: Edges

- Reading: Kim & Hipp, 2017

### **Week 12**

Objectives: Time Matters

- Reading: Wickes and Hipp, 2018, Reading: Hipp et al., 2018; Hipp and Kim, 2019

### **Week 13**

Objectives: Type of Data for Crime Analysis

Objectives: Crime Mapping

### **Week 14**

Objectives: Immigration and Crime in Place

- Readings: Sampson, 2008; Kubrin et al., 2016

Objectives: Alternative Ways to Look at Immigration-Crime Nexus

- Reading: Kubrin et al., 2018; Kim et al., 2019

### **Week 15**

NO CLASS: STUDY FOR YOUR FINAL EXAM

- **FINAL EXAM: 4/19/2021 – 4/23/2021.**

### **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.

### **Missed Exams**

Students must make arrangements with the instructor at least one week in advance if they will need to miss the midterm or final exam. Extensions or make-ups will only be granted in the case of a legitimate, documented absence (for example, major illness or overnight hospitalization, major illness/death in the family, funeral, military orders or other emergency at the instructor's discretion). If an emergency arises and you cannot give one week's notice, you must contact the instructor as soon as possible and preferably in advance. If you do not contact me or provide acceptable proof you will receive a zero for the exam.

## Classroom Conduct

To avoid disrupting your peers and the instructor, please **turn off** your cellphones in class and **do not access the Internet** during this time unless expressly permitted by the instructor for a particular purpose. Laptops and tablets may be used for note-taking only, although I recommend a pen and paper for optimal learning. If students are caught surfing the Web, chatting, checking Facebook, Instagram etc. students will be prohibited from using laptops for the rest of the semester. You should be aware that your fellow students may have different opinions from you (or the instructor). I expect everyone to respect the views and privacy of others. Opposing viewpoints and differing perspectives will be offered respectfully and students will not be made to feel uncomfortable by sharing ideas and experiences. Students who show disrespect toward fellow students or the instructor will be asked to leave the classroom.

## Accommodations

- I am happy to accommodate disability services for students needing such services.
- I am happy to accommodate mandatory religious obligations.

## 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 Academic Honor 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/academic-resources/academic-integrity-and-grievances/academic-honor-policy>Links to an external site..)

## AMERICANS WITH DISABILITIES ACT:

[Download PDF Version](#)Links to an external site.

Students with disabilities needing academic accommodation should:

- (1) register with and provide documentation to the Office of Accessibility Services; and
- (2) request a letter from the Office of Accessibility Services to be sent to the instructor indicating the need for accommodation and what type; and
- (3) meet (in person, via phone, email, skype, zoom, etc.) with each instructor to whom a letter of accommodation was sent to review approved accommodations.

This syllabus and other class materials are available in alternative format upon request.

For the latest version of this statement and more information about services available to FSU students with disabilities, contact the:

Office of Accessibility Services

874 Traditions Way

108 Student Services Building

Florida State University

Tallahassee, FL 32306-4167

(850) 644-9566 (voice)

(850) 644-8504 (TDD)

[oas@fsu.edu](mailto:oas@fsu.edu)

<https://dsst.fsu.edu/oas/Links to an external site.>