

CC 4614

SYLLABUS





COURSE INSTRUCTOR


 Dr. Brian Stults


 Associate Professor

 bstults@fsu.edu (<mailto:bstults@fsu.edu>)

 Emails will be responded to within 24 hours.

 (850) 645-7376

 Eppes Hall 302A

 Office Hours: Tuesday 1:30-5:00 P.M. ET



COURSE TEACHING ASSISTANT

 Anneliese Kress

 akress@fsu.edu (<mailto:akress@fsu.edu>)



LEARNING OBJECTIVES

This course is designed to provide students with a broad understanding of the “epidemiology” of the major forms of criminal behavior. This will involve a focus on the basic characteristics of these crimes, including such things as how common they are and what trends may exist, how they are distributed across different subgroups of the population, and what types of events and relationships give rise to them. Note that this course involves a large amount of reading, so be sure to plan your schedule accordingly. Course objectives include the following:

1. understand the characteristics that define various types of crime
2. understand key strategies for measuring the incidence of crime
3. know basic patterns of crime, including change over time, across geographic areas, and across categories of key demographic and social status variables

4. understand the epidemiology of the major forms of crime, including violent crime, property and economic crime, and exceptional forms of homicide.



REQUIRED READINGS

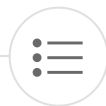
The required readings for this course will come in the form of a course reader with selected chapters from a criminology textbook, a monograph on homicide in the United States, and several articles available on Canvas as pdf files.

- Course reader

The course reader is a custom textbook from Pearson Publishers--available through the FSU bookstore--that includes six chapters from a widely used criminology textbook. I chose to use a custom textbook to keep costs as low as possible, since we will only be using six chapters from the original textbook.

If you prefer to purchase the full textbook (including many chapters we will not use), you can find it by searching for **ISBN 9780137636181** ➞ (<https://www.pearson.com/en-us/subject-catalog/p/criminology-a-sociological-understanding/P200000000748/9780137636181>) (Criminology: A Sociological Understanding, 8th Edition, by Steven Barkan). Most major online book sellers should have it (e.g. Amazon, AbeBooks, eCampus, etc.). Again, this is a more expensive option, and you will need to be careful that you are reading the correct chapters.

- American Homicide, by Richard Hough, ISBN 9781544356037
- Additional research articles will be made available on Canvas within the weekly modules



STUDENT RESPONSIBILITIES

- Students should log on to Canvas at least every other day to check for course updates.
- Students are expected to keep up with the class, engage with the course material, and submit assignments by the due dates.
- Assignments, discussion postings, and exams are expected to be products of individual students per the **FSU Academic Honor Policy** ➞ (<http://registrar.fsu.edu/bulletin/undergraduate/information/integrity/>). Students should not discuss any of the questions with each other before or during the actual exams.

- To receive maximum points for questions, students need to follow the instructions carefully, and use spell and grammar checking.
- To be successful in this course, students need to complete all required assignments and tests.



COURSE REQUIREMENTS

This course consists of the following three units:

1. Introduction and basic criminological issues
2. Property and economic crime
3. Violent crime and homicide.

Each unit will consist of several weeks of readings, a discussion posting week, and an exam week. On Day 1 of each unit, notes for the unit will be posted in the “Files” section on Canvas and a link will be included in the Canvas module. These notes provide an overview for the unit, identify the key objectives, and situate the readings within the overall context of the topic covered in that unit. Importantly, these notes are compatible with the reading assignments, but do not replicate them. In other words, you will need to master the notes and the reading, rather than one or the other.

Details for the discussion board postings and exams are provided below.

1) Discussion board postings

During discussion weeks, in addition to completing the readings for that week you will also be required to respond to a discussion question on Canvas. I will post the discussion question on Canvas by Monday at noon ET (all times in this syllabus are Eastern Time for Tallahassee, FL). Each student must post an initial response to this discussion question by 11:59 P.M. ET on Friday of that same week. These initial postings are expected to be approximately 3-4 paragraphs, but the most important issue will be content—your posting should answer the question that was posed, directly cite the reading materials, and be clear, organized, professional, and well-written. Be sure to answer all parts of the question or you will lose points.

In addition to your initial posting, you must also reply to at least one posting made by another student. The requirements for this response posting will be the same as for your initial posting (i.e., cite relevant materials, and be clear, organized, professional, and well-written), although it is understood that your response posting will likely be shorter in length. However, it is not sufficient to simply say “Good post” or “I agree.” Your response posting must be made by 11:59 P.M. ET on Sunday of the discussion week.

Each initial posting will be worth 7 points, and each response posting will be worth 3 points, for a total of 10 points in each discussion week. There will be three discussion questions throughout the semester, so discussion postings will be worth a total of 30 points for the semester, which is 25% of your grade.

These discussion postings are meant to simulate the discussion that would occur in a classroom. Their potential to be informative depends on each student providing thoughtful, well-articulated responses, and then taking the time to read and consider the postings offered by other students. When this is done, these discussions can truly be an interesting part of the course. To assist with this, the teaching assistant and I will offer replies to your postings to highlight important issues that have emerged in the discussion.

2) Exams

There will be three exams in this course – one at the end of each module. These exams may consist of a combination of multiple-choice and true/false questions. Each exam will be completed on the Canvas website. It will be posted by noon on the Monday of each exam week. You can access the exam and complete it anytime between then and 11:59 P.M. ET on the following Sunday. However, once the exam is started, you will only have 80 minutes to complete it. Each exam will be worth 30 points, for a total of 90 points for the semester, which is 75% of your grade.

I place no restrictions on your use of notes or the course readings. In other words, the exams are “open book” and “open note.” You should not, however, consult sources outside of the course materials (e.g., the internet), largely because doing so will waste your time and likely will hurt your grade.

A key point to emphasize: The time limit will require that you have significantly prepared for the exam in the same way that you would for an exam in which you do not have access to notes or readings. Any attempt to learn the material as the exam is being taken will almost certainly prevent you from completing the exam on time. Exams that are turned in after the time limit will be accepted, but there will be a sizable penalty.



GRADING SCHEME


The following grading standards will be used in this class:

Discussion board postings	30 points
Exams	90 points

Grade	Points Range	% Range
A	112 - 120	94% - 100%
A-	108 - 111	90% - <94%
B+	104 - 107	87% - <90%
B	100 - 103	84% - <87%
B-	96 - 99	80% - <84%
C+	92 - 95	77% - <80%
C	88 - 91	74% - <77%
C-	84 - 87	70% - <74%
D+	80 - 83	67% - <70%
D	76 - 79	64% - <67%
D-	72 - 75	60% - <64%
F	0 - 71	0% - <60%



TECHNOLOGY REQUIREMENTS

Course content is accessible through Canvas. Students will need to be able to post to discussion boards and take exams. Students should have access to high-speed internet and updated software. To view the most current technology requirements, visit the [FSU Canvas support site](http://support.canvas.fsu.edu)  (<http://support.canvas.fsu.edu>).



CANVAS SUPPORT

Need help with Canvas? Contact FSU Canvas Support:

✉ **Email:** canvas@fsu.edu (<mailto:canvas@fsu.edu>)

📞 **Phone:** (850) 644-8004

🌐 **Website:** support.canvas.fsu.edu  (<http://support.canvas.fsu.edu>)

🕒 **Hours:** 8am to 5pm, Monday - Friday



COURSE POLICIES

COMMUNICATIONS/NETIQUETTE

For Discussions:

- Please use polite, respectful behavior when posting your responses to prompts in the Discussion Boards.
- Be mindful of how you express your emotions and humor, and be sensitive to cultural and ability differences of your online peers.
- Keep postings to the point, and make sure your comments are relevant to the topic of discussion.
- Avoid messages such as, "Wow," "Way to go," or "Ditto" and aim for comments that validate other members' ideas through careful explanation of why.
- When replying, give a short description in the subject line of what you are replying to, and use correct punctuation and spelling throughout your post.

For Email Communication:

- For email, please respond to your instructor's and peers' messages within a 24-hour period.
- Use a brief description in the subject line that outlines the topic of discussion.
- Avoid using slang or profane words.
- Avoid using emoticons, such as smiley faces, and maintain a professional demeanor.
- Sign your email messages using your full name.
- AVOID USING ALL CAPS. This makes the message visually difficult to read and is perceived by the reader as "shouting."
- Use correct spelling, grammar, and punctuation, just as you would for any communication.
- Ask yourself whether you would be comfortable if someone other than the intended receiver were to read your message. Remember, email is not a completely secure form of communication.
- Refrain from "flaming," which is expressing a strongly held opinion without tact or regard for others. Don't assume that recipients will know the intent of the message (e.g., "just kidding"). It reads differently when it's in print (electronic or not).
- Report any inappropriate communication considered to be of a serious nature to your instructor, as it may be a violation of University policy.
- Treat others with respect by making messages clear and succinct.

POLICY FOR MISSED EXAMS AND ASSIGNMENTS

A missed exam or late assignment without an acceptable excuse will be recorded as a grade of zero (0). The following are the only acceptable excuses:

- If submitted prior to the due date of the scheduled exam:

A written and signed explanation as to why the exam will be missed. Illness or required professional travel are acceptable, while discretionary or personal travel are not. In any case the explanation should be accompanied by corroborating documentation, including names and contact information, and the explanation must be accepted by the instructor prior to missing the exam.

- If submitted after the due date of the scheduled exam:

A note from a physician, university dean, spouse, parent, or yourself indicating an illness or other extraordinary circumstance that prevented you from taking the exam and could not be planned for in advance. Again, corroborating information should be supplied.

All excuses must be submitted in writing, must be signed by the excusing authority, and must include complete contact information for the authority, including telephone numbers and address.

POLICY ON RESPONDING TO STUDENTS

- Email responses typically within 24 hours.
- Graded assignments typically returned within 1 week after due date.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

- *****VERY IMPORTANT***** FSU has a first week “attendance” check (even for distance learning classes) to ensure that students who do not attend are dropped from the course. In this course, your attendance check will come in the form of a brief biographical statement that is posted in a **Discussion Board** (https://fsu.instructure.com/courses/263516/discussion_topics/2098802). Please go to that forum and make a post that includes a few sentences that introduce yourself to me and to the other students, and feel free to post replies to other students’ entries. Any student who does not make their posting by 8:00 P.M. ET on Wednesday, January 10, **will be dropped from the course**.
- At times, the workload for this course may be quite heavy. Be sure to look ahead in the course schedule so that you can anticipate due dates and plan accordingly. Discussion questions and

exams are always available to you well before the due date, so you are strongly encouraged to finish them ahead of time.



UNIVERSITY POLICIES

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 student's 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." (For more details, see the **FSU Academic Honor Policy and procedures for addressing alleged violations** [↗ \(http://fda.fsu.edu/academic-resources/academic-integrity-and-grievances/academic-honor-policy\)](http://fda.fsu.edu/academic-resources/academic-integrity-and-grievances/academic-honor-policy).)

ACADEMIC SUCCESS

Your academic success is a top priority for Florida State University. University resources to help you succeed include tutoring centers, computer labs, counseling and health services, and services for designated groups, such as veterans and students with disabilities. The following information is not exhaustive, so please check with your advisor or the **Department of Student Support and Transitions** [↗ \(https://dsst.fsu.edu/\)](https://dsst.fsu.edu/) to learn more.

PROCESS FOR RESOLVING ACADEMIC PROBLEMS OR GRIEVANCES

Please use the *Resolving Academic Problems: A Step-by-Step Guide for Students* in the Academic Honor Policy and Grievances section of the **Office of Faculty Development & Advancement**  (<https://fda.fsu.edu/academic-resources>) website to begin the process of communicating with your instructor to resolve any confusion or difficulty you may be having in the course. Detailed information on FSU's grievance procedure, including special instructions for students enrolled in an FSU branch campus, is maintained on the FSU Undergraduate Bulletin's **Academic Integrity & Grievances**  (<https://registrar.fsu.edu/bulletin/undergraduate/information/integrity/index.cfm>) webpage. Out-of-state distance learning students should review the Office of Distance Learning **Complaint Resolution**  (<https://distance.fsu.edu/about-us/complaint-resolution>) webpage for additional procedures.

AMERICANS WITH DISABILITIES ACT

Florida State University (FSU) values diversity and inclusion; we are committed to a climate of mutual respect and full participation. Our goal is to create learning environments that are usable, equitable, inclusive, and welcoming. FSU is committed to providing reasonable accommodations for all persons with disabilities in a manner that is consistent with academic standards of the course while empowering the student to meet integral requirements of the course.

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, teams, zoom, etc...) with each instructor to whom a letter of accommodation was sent to review approved accommodations.

Please note that instructors are not allowed to provide classroom accommodations to a student until appropriate verification from the Office of Accessibility Services has been provided.

This syllabus and other class materials are available in an 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 (Tallahassee Campus)  (<https://dsst.fsu.edu/oas>)

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

<https://dsst.fsu.edu/oas>

Student Accessibility Services (Panama City Campus) ➞ <https://pc.fsu.edu/students/sas>

2nd Floor Barron Building (Room 215)

Florida State University Panama City

Panama City, FL 32405

(850) 770-2172 (office)

(866) 693-7872 (toll free)

Email: [sds@pc.fsu.edu \(mailto:sds@pc.fsu.edu\)](mailto:sds@pc.fsu.edu)

<https://pc.fsu.edu/students/sas>

FREE TUTORING FROM FSU

On-campus tutoring and writing assistance are available for many courses at Florida State University. High-quality tutoring is available by appointment and on a walk-in basis. These services are offered by tutors trained to encourage the highest level of individual academic success while upholding personal academic integrity.

Tallahassee Campus

For a comprehensive list of on-campus tutoring options, visit the **Academic Center for Excellence** ➞ <https://ace.fsu.edu/tutoring> (ACE) webpage (<http://ace.fsu.edu/tutoring>) or contact [tutor@fsu.edu \(mailto:tutor@fsu.edu\)](mailto:tutor@fsu.edu).

Panama City Campus

Peer tutoring is available for all undergraduate FSU Panama City students both in-person on campus and remotely through Zoom. If you need tutoring support, please email the peer tutor listed on the **Peer Tutoring** ➞ <https://pc.fsu.edu/peer-tutoring> webpage (<https://pc.fsu.edu/peer-tutoring>). Tutoring will be in-person in the **John and Gail Robbins Center for Academic Excellence and Innovation** ➞ <https://pc.fsu.edu/students/student-services/john-gail-robbon-center> unless you specify with the tutor that you would like to meet via Zoom instead. If you have trouble reaching a peer tutor outside their scheduled availability listed on the **Peer Tutoring** ➞ <https://pc.fsu.edu/peer-tutoring> webpage, you may email [advising@pc.fsu.edu \(mailto:advising@pc.fsu.edu\)](mailto:advising@pc.fsu.edu) or call (850) 770-2263 to be connected with available resources.

CONFIDENTIAL CAMPUS RESOURCES

Various centers and programs are available to assist students with navigating stressors that might impact academic success. These include the following:

Victim Advocate Program ➞ <https://dsst.fsu.edu/vap>

University Center A

Room 4109

Phone: (850) 644-7161 (24/7)

Text: (850) 756-4320 (24/7)

Email: Victims-Advocate@fsu.edu (<mailto:Victims-Advocate@fsu.edu>)

Office Hours: Monday-Friday 8am-5pm

<https://dsst.fsu.edu/vap>

Counseling & Psychological Services (Tallahassee Campus) ➞

<https://counseling.fsu.edu/>

Askew Student Life Center, 2nd Floor

942 Learning Way

Phone: (850) 644-8255 / (850) 644-TALK

<https://counseling.fsu.edu>

FSU PC Counseling Center (Panama City Campus) ➞ <https://pc.fsu.edu/students/student-affairs/counseling-center>

Michael McLaughlin, LCSW

Coordinator/Therapist

Barron Building, Office 214

Phone: (850) 770-2174

Email: mrm18bg@fsu.edu (<mailto:mrm18bg@fsu.edu>)

Office Hours: Monday-Thursday 9am-4pm; Friday 9am-3pm

<https://pc.fsu.edu/students/student-affairs/counseling-center>

University Health Services ➞ <https://uhs.fsu.edu/>

Health and Wellness Center

960 Learning Way

Phone: (850) 644-6230

Office Hours: Monday-Friday 8am-4pm

<https://uhs.fsu.edu>

FSU FOOD PANTRIES

FSU has established food pantries where students in need can pick up nonperishable food items freely and anonymously. Donations for the collection of nonperishable food items are encouraged.

For information about the Tallahassee food pantry, visit the **Food for Thought Pantry** ➞

<https://dsst.fsu.edu/resources/food-for-thought-pantry> webpage

(<https://dsst.fsu.edu/resources/food-for-thought-pantry>). The pantry is located at University Center

A, Suite 4148. If you have questions or concerns, contact the Department of Student Support and Transitions at foodpantry@fsu.edu (<mailto:foodpantry@fsu.edu>) or (850) 644-2428.







For information about the Panama City Food Pantry, visit the [Seminole Exchange](https://pc.fsu.edu/students/counseling-center/food)  (<https://pc.fsu.edu/students/counseling-center/food>) webpage





(<https://pc.fsu.edu/students/counseling-center/food>) The pantry is located at Barron Building, 2nd floor. If you have questions or concerns, contact Michael McLaughlin, LCSW, at mmclaughlin3@fsu.edu (<mailto:mmclaughlin3@fsu.edu>) or (850) 770-2174.

SYLLABUS CHANGE POLICY

Except for changes that substantially affect implementation of the evaluation (grading) statement, this syllabus is a guide for the course and is subject to change with advance notice.

Course Summary:

Date	Details	Due
Wed Jan 10, 2024	 Attendance check (https://fsu.instructure.com/courses/263516/assignments/2220710)	due by 8pm
Fri Jan 26, 2024	 Unit I discussion question (https://fsu.instructure.com/courses/263516/assignments/2220709)	due by 11:59pm
Sun Jan 28, 2024	 Unit I response due (https://fsu.instructure.com/calendar?event_id=431758&include_contexts=course_263516)	11:59pm
Sun Feb 11, 2024	 Unit I exam (https://fsu.instructure.com/courses/263516/assignments/2220705)	due by 11:59pm
Fri Mar 8, 2024	 Unit II discussion question (https://fsu.instructure.com/courses/263516/assignments/2220708)	due by 11:59pm
Sun Mar 10, 2024	 Unit II response due (https://fsu.instructure.com/calendar?event_id=431759&include_contexts=course_263516)	11:59pm

Date	Details	Due
Sun Mar 31, 2024	 <u>Unit II exam</u> https://fsu.instructure.com/courses/263516/assignments/2220704	due by 11:59pm
Fri Apr 26, 2024	 <u>Unit III discussion question</u> https://fsu.instructure.com/courses/263516/assignments/2220707	due by 11:59pm
Sun Apr 28, 2024	 <u>Unit III response due</u> https://fsu.instructure.com/calendar?event_id=431760&include_contexts=course_263516	11:59pm
Fri May 3, 2024	 <u>Unit III exam</u> https://fsu.instructure.com/courses/263516/assignments/2220706	due by 11:59pm