
INSTRUCTOR CONTACT INFORMATION

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Student drop-in hours: Tuesday & Thursday 11:45am-12:45pm and by appointment

COURSE DESCRIPTION & OBJECTIVES

This course will introduce you to the study of crime and delinquency, including issues related to understanding the links between social structure and crime, researching crime, and identifying the origins of crime. We will also discuss different types of crime as well as the unique explanations for, challenges posed by, and public and legal reactions to such criminal behaviors. Readings will expose you to the major theoretical perspectives and practical concerns in the field. Lectures, discussions, and activities will encourage you to think critically about the topics we cover.

By the end of the semester, you should have an understanding of:

- The evolution of crime and law
- Methods used to study crime
- The nature and theoretical causes of crime
- The relations between society and crime and justice

Because this course provides students with a broad base of criminological knowledge, it is a prerequisite for more advanced courses in the criminal justice major. Because it also helps students to understand that human behavior is subject to scientific study, it also fulfills the University's Social Science General Education requirement.

REQUIRED COURSE MATERIALS

1. Hagan, F. E. (2012). *Introduction to Criminology: Theories, Methods, and Criminal Behavior* (8th edition). Thousand Oaks, CA: Sage.

Note: This text comes in three versions—hard copy, electronic, and a combination of the two—all are available, new or used, at the UAlbany Bookstore. You may buy whichever version you prefer, but you must buy the 8th edition.

2. Supplemental readings are available on Blackboard under "Course Content."

3. iClicker2

Note: Your device must be the iClicker brand and it must be the 2nd edition—the iClicker2. You may purchase a new iClicker2 at the UAlbany Bookstore. Used devices are sometimes available at the bookstore or online (e.g., Amazon.com, eBay.com). If you have an iClicker2 from another class, you may use it in this class.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS & GRADING

Your performance in this course will be assessed in five ways: through exams, research question papers, participation questions, quizzes, and theory assignments. I will not curve any grades and I will not issue extra credit on an individual basis.

EXAMS = 65%

There will be three exams in this course, as outlined in the course calendar. Exams may be a combination of multiple choice, matching, true-false, short answer, and/or essay questions. The first exam will focus on introductory concepts, research methods, general characteristics of crime and criminals, juvenile delinquency, and victimology. The first exam will be worth 20% of your final grade. The second exam will focus on theories and will be worth 20% of your final grade. The final exam will focus on different types of criminal behavior. The final exam will also assess your learning related to topics covered during the entire course—that is, *it will be cumulative in nature*. Thus, the final exam will be worth 25% of your final grade.

Please check the exam dates to identify any scheduling conflicts. Unanticipated make-up exams will be permitted only in the case of *documented* medical or family emergencies.

RESEARCH QUESTION PAPERS = 12%

You will write two formal but brief (1 to 2 double-spaced, typed pages with 11- or 12-point font and 1-inch margins) papers. These papers are designed to help you formulate questions that are relevant to the field of criminology and think about how research can help to answer those questions. Of importance, these papers should not be summaries of the readings or lectures, although it may be helpful to you to make notes about ideas and reactions you have as you read and during class discussions. Instead, these papers are an opportunity for you to go beyond the course material in creative and thoughtful ways. The goal of this assignment is to help you gain a deeper understanding of the kinds of questions criminologists ask and the ways they go about answering these questions.

In each paper, you will propose your own research question. Your questions can be about any criminological topic. For example, you could raise an issue left unresolved by the readings (e.g., "Are some crimes more likely than others to inspire copycats?"), including issues of generalizability (e.g., "Are adults as negatively influenced by viewing violence as children are?"), or bring research from another field or related area to bear on an issue (e.g., "Are there psychological factors that explain why some people commit copycat crimes?"). Then, explain why that question is worth studying—why is the issue important? How can research advance theoretical, empirical, or practical understanding of the phenomenon? (E.g., "Understanding the root causes of copycat crimes can shed light on how to prevent them from occurring.") Finally, discuss what kind of data should be collected to test your question (e.g., "To test this question, research should analyze the amount and type of media coverage that different crimes receive, and determine whether different media portrayals of crimes correlate to different frequencies of copycat crimes"). Sample papers are available on Blackboard under "Course Content."

Even though these are very brief papers, your writing should be clear, grammatical, concise and elegant. Grammar and punctuation must be correct and will affect your grade. I recommend that you purchase a copy of *The Elements of Style* by Strunk and White and review it. (It's short and inexpensive.) Writing beautifully is a skill that will transcend most other things you learn—its importance cannot be overstated. I hope you'll use these papers as a way to learn to write important things in concise ways.

These papers must be submitted online through Blackboard **by 10am (Eastern time) on September 10th and December 3rd**. Each paper is worth 6% of your final grade. Papers must be submitted on time to earn the full 6% credit. If you submit your paper between one minute and 7 hours late, the maximum possible score will be only 5%. You will continue losing 1% for each additional 7 hours the paper is late (i.e., 7-14 hrs late = possible score of 4%; 14-21 hrs late = possible score of 3%;

21-28 hrs late = possible score of 2%; 28-35 hrs late = possible score of 1%; > 35 hrs late [after 9pm on September 11th or the first paper and after 9pm December 4th for the second paper] = 0% credit).

PARTICIPATION QUESTIONS = 10%

I will use the iClicker multiple times each class to ask participation questions. The goal of these questions is to facilitate your engagement in the class as well as your ability to learn from your peers. Participation questions will not be graded. However, you must be present to participate—if you do not attend class, you will not receive any participation points from that class. You must also bring your iClicker to class to participate—if you forget your iClicker, you will not receive any participation points from that class. However, you may receive zero participation points for two class meetings with no penalty. Otherwise, you may drop your two lowest participation scores. It is your responsibility to consider how frequent absences or inadequate class preparation will affect your participation grade.

QUIZZES = 8%

I will administer three unannounced short quizzes during the course. You may miss one quiz for any reason. Alternatively, you may drop your lowest quiz score. Thus, two quizzes will go towards 8% of your final grade (4% each).

THEORY ASSIGNMENT = 5%

You will be assigned to work with one or two partners to present one criminological theory to the class. Your presentation should take between 5 and 10 minutes and must include (a) a definition and description of the theory, (b) a discussion of a crime currently being covered in the media, and (c) an evaluation of the strengths and weaknesses of the theory for explaining why that crime was committed. Remember, the exams will assess your classmates’ knowledge about theories including the information you present, so you must be an effective teacher. Each of these components is worth 1% of your grade. Your classmates will rate your presentation for quality and clarity and these ratings will constitute an additional 1% of your grade. Finally, your partner(s) will rate your contribution to the assignment and this rating will make up the final 1% of your grade.

It is your responsibility to identify any scheduling conflicts when your presentation date is assigned to you. Unanticipated absences will result in a zero grade on this assignment except in the case of *documented* medical or family emergencies.

GRADING SUMMARY AND SCALE

Decimal values of .5 and above will be rounded up, and all other decimal values will be rounded down.

Domain	% Possible	Total % Earned	Letter Grade Assigned
Exams (3)	65	94-100	A
Research Question Papers (2)	12	90-93	A-
Participation Questions	10	88-89	B+
Quizzes (Best 2 of 3)	8	84-87	B
Theory Assignment	5	80-83	B-
Total	100	78-79	C+
		74-77	C
		70-73	C-
		60-69	D
		< 60	E

Please note that, for guaranteed admission to the Criminal Justice major, you must earn a "B" in this course and have a cumulative GPA of at least 3.2 following completion of at least 56 credit hours (30 of which must have been completed at UAlbany).

ACADEMIC INTEGRITY

Cheating and other forms of academic dishonesty will not be tolerated. Instances of cheating include (but are not limited to) copying from others, sharing answers, or using unauthorized notes during exams or quizzes; bringing someone else's iClicker2 to class to complete quizzes or participation questions for that person; plagiarism (i.e., using written material from others, including the Internet, for papers); etc. If I become aware that you have cheated, I will give you a failing grade for the assignment. I may also give you a failing grade for the course and/or to refer you to the University for further disciplinary action.

COURSE EXPECTATIONS & POLICIES

ASSIGNED READINGS: Come to class having completed the assigned readings. Most class time will be devoted to discussing course material thoughtfully and to doing activities that will help you process it. Even if readings are not discussed in class, quizzes and exams may include questions about them.

ATTENDANCE: You must attend class regularly to pass this course. Participation will be assessed using iClickers in every class meeting and there will be unannounced quizzes during the semester. Both participation and quizzes factor into your final grade. Also, some of the material you will be tested on will be covered by only my lectures and not the reading materials. If you miss a class, it is your responsibility to ask another student for notes. Because I offer so much flexibility in absences, *please refrain from alerting me to the reasons you will not be in class unless you have a serious illness or other very special circumstances.*

Unanticipated make-up work is not permitted except in the case of *documented* medical or family emergencies. In no case can participation questions be made up.

IClicker2: I use the iClicker system to administer participation questions and quizzes. You are responsible for purchasing an iClicker2 (at the University bookstore), registering it online (see below), bringing your iClicker2 to *every* class meeting, ensuring that it functions properly (e.g., the batteries are working), and using it to submit your responses. If you do not have an iClicker2 or do not use it as instructed, you will not get credit for quizzes or participation questions.

To get course credit for questions you answer via your iClicker2, you must register your iClicker2 online. **Please register your iClicker2 by 11:59pm on September 2nd.** If you do not register by this deadline, you will not receive course credit for participation or quizzes until you do register. The online registration process is simple—here's how you do it:

1. Go to <http://www.iclicker.com/support/registryourclicker/>
2. Provide the following information:
 - First Name:
 - Last Name:
 - Student ID: enter your UAlbany NetID (e.g., jf325353—this is **NOT** your SUNYA Student ID)
 - Remote ID: enter the ID displayed on the sticker on the back of your iClicker
 - Image Code: enter the verification code displayed on the screen
3. Click "Enter"

I suggest you record the Remote ID code from the back of your iClicker in a safe place in case it becomes illegible. If this should happen, ITS can identify your code.

SYLLABUS: This syllabus is designed to be a resource for you to use throughout the semester. However, I reserve the right to modify assignments and dates throughout the course. Any such

modifications will be announced in class. Otherwise, it is your responsibility to keep up with course deadlines, as well as university deadlines for registering, dropping the course, etc., and to know whether you need to meet with me to discuss something before deadlines approach.

BLACKBOARD: I will post course materials (e.g., this syllabus, supplemental readings) and grades on Blackboard. Although I may use Blackboard to communicate with you, I anticipate making most announcements in class.

EMAIL: When considering emailing me, please first try to find the answers to your questions in the syllabus and on Blackboard. If you still need to email me, *please include the course number and your real name in the subject line of your email*. Make sure that any emails you send to me are professional. If you have questions about how to write a professional email, please see these links:

<http://grammar.about.com/od/developingessays/a/profemails.htm>

http://www.ehow.com/how_4679819_write-professional-email.html

In general, you can expect a reply from me within 3 days. If I cannot respond to your email within 3 days, you will receive an automatic reply explaining when I will be able to respond. Please be aware that, under some circumstances, you might be able to get answers sooner by visiting me during student drop-in hours. I also reserve the right to request an appointment with you to discuss your questions rather than answer them by email.

RESPECT & COURTESY: I will conduct this class in an atmosphere of mutual respect. I encourage your active participation in class discussions. We will be discussing some sensitive topics. Each of us may have strongly differing opinions on some topics. The conflict of ideas is encouraged and welcome. The orderly questioning of others' ideas, including mine, is similarly welcome. I will, however, exercise my responsibility to manage the discussions so they can proceed in an orderly fashion. The ground rules for class discussions are these: (1) treat others' opinions with respect and courtesy, (2) maintain confidentiality of experiences shared by class members, (3) don't monopolize discussion, and (4) attack ideas rather than people. If your conduct during discussions disrupts the atmosphere of mutual respect I expect in this class, you will not be permitted to participate further. You should also refrain from telling things that are too personal, and exercise your right not to share your thoughts and ideas if you are uncomfortable talking about something.

Please turn off cell phones before coming to class. Talking to each other, talking on cell phones, texting, instant messaging, social networking, browsing the Internet, etc. are prohibited. If I see this behavior, I reserve the right to ask you to leave the class that day.

Please arrive in class on time, and avoid leaving in the middle of class or before class is over. Such interruptions are very distracting to me and other students and, if frequent, will not be accepted (i.e., I will ask you to leave the class that day). If you miss quizzes or participation questions because you are late, etc., you will not be able to make them up.

RECOMMENDATION LETTERS: I will not write a recommendation letter for you unless we have met outside of class enough for me to have something substantial to comment on. I welcome you to drop by my office to chat about interesting material, current events, or your future plans.

ACCOMMODATIONS: If you have a disability and require accommodations, please notify the Director of Disabled Student Services (Campus Center 137, 442-5490). That office will provide me with verification of your disability, and recommend appropriate accommodations.

COURSE CALENDAR

Week 1: Aug 27 & Aug 29

Course Overview

Introduction: Hagan Ch. 1

Week 2: Sep 3

Register iClicker by 11:59pm on Sep 2

Research Methods in Criminology: Hagan Ch. 2

Week 3: Sep 10 & Sep 12

1st Research Question Paper due by 10:00am on Sep 10

General Characteristics of Crime & Criminals: Hagan Ch. 3

Age-Crime Debate & Juvenile Delinquency: Supplemental readings

- 1) Steffensmeier & Ulmer. (2009). Age and the patterning of crime. In Scarpitti, Nielsen, & Miller (Eds.), *Crime and Criminals: Contemporary and Classic Readings in Criminology*, pp. 125-132. New York: Oxford.
- 2) Steinberg. (2012). Should the science of adolescent brain development inform public policy? *Issues in Science and Technology, Spring*, 67-78.

Week 4: Sep 17 & Sep 19

Victimology: Hagan Ch. 4

Week 5: Sep 24 & Sep 26

Sep 24: EXAM 1

Early & Classical Theories: Hagan Ch. 5

Week 6: Oct 1 & Oct 3

Biological Theories: Hagan Ch. 6

Psychological Theories: Hagan Ch. 6

Week 7: Oct 8 & Oct 10

Sociological Mainstream Theories: Hagan Ch. 7

Sociological Critical & Integrated Theories: Hagan Ch. 8

Week 8: Oct 15 & Oct 17

Theories review

Oct 17: EXAM 2

Week 9: Oct 22 & Oct 24

Violent Crime: Hagan Ch. 9

Week 10: Oct 29 & Oct 31

Sexual Offenses: Hagan pp. 226-229, 412-416, 436-438 and supplemental readings

- 1) Post, Biroscak, & Barboza. (2011). Prevalence of sexual violence. In White, Koss, & Kazdin (Eds.), *Violence against women and children, Vol 1: Mapping the terrain*, pp. 101-123. Washington, DC: American Psychological Association.
- 2) Seidman & Pokorak. (2011). Justice responses to sexual violence. In White, Koss, & Kazdin (Eds.), *Violence against women and children, Vol 2: Navigating solutions*, pp. 137-157. Washington, DC: American Psychological Association.

Week 11: Nov 5 & Nov 7

Property Crime: Hagan Ch. 10

Organized Crime: Hagan Ch. 13

Week 12: Nov 12 & Nov 14

White-Collar Crime: Hagan Ch. 11

Week 13: Nov 19

Political Crime & Terrorism: Hagan Ch. 12

Nov 21: No class

Week 14: Nov 26

Computer Crime: Hagan Ch. 15

Week 15: Dec 3 & Dec 5

Public Order Crime: Hagan Ch. 14

2nd Research Question Paper due by 10:00am on Dec 3

Week 16: Dec 10

Concluding thoughts

Prepare for final exam

FINAL EXAM: Monday Dec 16, 10:30-12:30, Husted 106A