I. Locator Information

Instructor: Dr. Druann Heckert  
Course name and number: Sociology 638 (Seminar on Crime and Delinquency)  
Semester Credit Hours: 3  
Day and time class meets: M: 6-8:50  
Office Location: Taylor 210D  
Office hours: MWF: 11-12 and 1-2; M: 5-6; W: 10-11  
Office phone: 672-1503  
Email Address: dheckert@uncfsu.edu

FSU Policy on Electronic Mail: Fayetteville State University provides to each student, free of charge, an electronic mail account (username@uncfsu.edu) that is easily accessible via the Internet. The university has established FSU email as the primary mode of correspondence between university officials and enrolled students. Inquiries and requests from students pertaining to academic records, grades, bills, financial aid, and other matters of a confidential nature must be submitted via FSU computer laboratories throughout the campus that can be used to access electronic mail. Rules and regulations governing the use of FSU email may be found at http://www.uncfsu.edu/PDFs/EmailPolicyFinal.pdf

II. Course Description

This course is a survey of the theoretical, methodological, and substantive issues in the study of crime and deviance. This seminar is designed to provide graduates students with a comprehensive survey of the substance and methods of deviance and criminology; theoretical explanations of deviant and criminal behavior; major issues in the control and prevention of deviant and criminal behavior; and public policy issues and the criminal justice system. A general objective of the course is to locate the study of deviance and crime within the general sociological approach to social behavior.

III. Disabled Student Services: In accordance with Section 504 of the 1973 Rehabilitation Act and the Americans with Disabilities Act (ACA) of 1990, if you have a disability or think you have a disability, please contact the Center for Personal Development in the Spaulding Building, Room 155 (1st Floor); 910-672-1203.
IV. Textbook


V. Student Learning Outcomes

Upon completion of the course, the student should be able to:

a. Evaluate the major theoretical perspectives on crime and deviance.

b. Critically analyze research reports on crime and deviance.

c. Write scholarly sociological papers

VI. Course Requirements and Evaluation Criteria

1. Each member of the class will complete weekly assignments. The weekly assignments consist of taking notes on the assigned chapters and then formulating 4 discussion questions from those notes. The primary purpose is to facilitate the learning of theories of crime as well as the analytical discussion, synthesis, and critique of the information.

2. Each member of the class will complete a 12 to 15 page scholarly paper and make a presentation to the class on that particular topic. This course is designed to cover the general theoretical approaches to crime and deviancy. However, the diversity of deviant and criminal behavior is immense and diverse. For example, burglary, mental illness, and serial murder are behaviors that have also generated specific theoretical and substantive explanations. To contribute to the elucidation of the entire class, each member of the class will choose a specific type of criminal or deviant behavior and research that topic. During the last couple of sessions, each member will present their research to the class and provide an opportunity for the class to broaden their knowledge and theoretical insight into a range of deviant and criminal behavior. The date of the presentation will be scheduled early in the semester and the papers will be due the last day of class. No late papers will be accepted.

Weekly assignments: 35 percent (Late assignments: automatic deduction of 30 percent)
Participation: 20 percent (quality of classroom discussion)
Scholarly Paper/Research Paper: 25 percent
Presentation of Scholarly Paper/Research Paper: 20 percent

A……..90-100
B……..80-89
C……..70-79
D……..60-69
F……..0-59
VII. Academic Support Services

The instructor holds 8 hours of office hours per week. If you have any trouble understanding the material or need assistance in writing your paper, I encourage you to ask during my office hours.

VIII. Course Outline and Assignment Schedule

This calendar is subject to change or adjustment as needed throughout the semester.

January 10—Introduction to the course

January 24—Classical Theory: Vold’s…, Chapter 1, Theory and Crime; Chapter 2, Classical Criminology

January 31—Biology and Psychology of Crime (Individual traits): Vold’s…, Chapter 3, Biological Factors and Criminal Behavior; Chapter 4, Psychological Factors and Criminal Behavior

February 7—Anomie and Strain: Vold’s…, Chapter 6, Durkheim, Anomie, and Modernization; Chapter 8, Strain Theories
Library (Online):

February 14—Economics and Ecology: Vold’s…, Chapter 5, Crime and Poverty; Chapter 7, Neighborhoods and Crime

February 21—Learning Theories: Vold’s…, Chapter 9, Learning Theories

February 28—Control Theories: Vold’s…, Chapter 10, Control Theories

March 14—Societal Reaction: Vold’s…, Chapter 11, The Meaning of Crime
Library (Online):

March 21—Conflict and Critical Theories: Vold’s…, Chapter 12, Conflict Criminology; Chapter 13, Marxism and Postmodern Criminology

March 28—Various Topics: Vold’s…, Chapter 14, Gender and Crime; Chapter 15, Developmental Theories

April 4—Conclusion: Vold’s…, Chapter 16, Integrated Theories; Chapter17, Assessing Criminology Theories

April 11—Presentation of scholarly research
April 18—Presentation of scholarly research

April 25—Presentation of scholarly research
TERM PAPERS DUE

IX. Teaching Strategies

Since this is a graduate seminar class, the class will focus on the assigned reading materials. The examinations will also focus on that material. Each week, a major theoretical approach to the area of criminology and the sociology of deviance will be covered. Students are, thus, co-participants in the course. Additionally, as this is a graduate seminar, students will conduct scholarly research and will share their research with the class.

X. Selected References


