

Dixie State University
Urban Crime
CJ 4020
Tuesday and Thursday from 9:00 – 10:15 am
University Plaza, Building D, Room 102

Instructor: Lish Harris, PhD
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Phone: (435) 879-4423
Office Hours: MW 12:15 – 1:45 pm, TR 11:45 am – 1:00 pm
Prerequisites/GE Status: CJ 3270, CJ 3300 (Can be co-enrolled)/None

Each student is expected to read and understand everything outlined in this syllabus. Think of it as my part of a contract that sets out the rules and stipulations of this class. Your enrollment and participation in this class is your signature on this contract, meaning you are in agreement with the terms of this deal. If you have any questions or concerns about what you read, feel free to discuss them with me.

Course Description per the Course Catalogue

Focuses on crime in the inner-city, the most crime-riddled areas in our country; examines urban crime typologies and their possible causes. Specifically, this course covers gang violence, the illegitimate economy of the inner-city, the policies designed to help combat the high crime rates of urban areas, and more.

Course Overview

Our inner city areas have come to be known as communities saturated with drugs, gangs, and violent crime, among other things. From news coverage to common conversations, inner cities have become an ordinary scapegoat for some of the most concerning problems in contemporary society. The question then becomes, what has been cited as causing these problems and what do these problems consist of?

This class is probably not set up like most other courses you have taken. It is a discussion-based or seminar-style course. In order for a course like this to function well, you need to dedicate yourself to hardy preparation before each class period. In other words, you are in charge of using the materials at your disposal (i.e. the assigned class readings, academic journals, other relevant books/literature, “good” websites, etc.) to accumulate much of the relevant knowledge for each day’s topic before class, as we will not spend much class time on knowledge gathering.

(We can, of course, clarify concepts if needed.) We, as a class, will allocate our time to take this malleable knowledge and mold it through application and discussion.

Course Objectives

By the end of this course, students will have developed critical thinking skills in criminology and criminal justice and will be able to apply criminology and the study of criminal justice. This objective will be shown through the following outcomes:

- A. Distinguish personal views from knowledge based on empirical research that addresses criminal behavior and the criminal justice system.
- B. Connect real, diverse facts to criminological theories.
- C. Apply problem solving strategies to create solutions to the many challenges faced by those working in and controlled by the criminal justice system.
- D. Use criminological theory and crime trends to address criminal behavior within certain contexts.
- E. Evaluate the costs and benefits of criminal justice programs and policies.
- F. Identify key applied areas in the discipline and determine whether an applied specialty can provide a solution for a given problem.
- G. Apply criminological theory and proper research methods to varying criminal behaviors or functions within the criminal justice system.

Required Text and Reading (Books are available at the Bookstore)

Anderson, Elijah. (1999). *Code of the Street: Decency, Violence, and the Moral Life of the Inner City*. W.W. Norton and Company. New York, NY.

Venkatesh, Sudhir. (2008). *Gang Leader for a Day: A Rogue Sociologist Takes to the Streets*. Penguin Group. New York, NY.

Wacquant, Loic. (2010). *Urban Outcasts: A Comparative Sociology of Advanced Marginality*. Polity Press. Malden, MA.

Reading for this class is NOT optional. You will be held accountable for the reading that is assigned. My advice is: DO THE READING.

You will be required to keep up with the reading. This means having read the chapter corresponding to that day's class *before* coming to class. In addition to helping you get more out of class discussions, this will also help you avoid having to read large chunks of the book all

at once. In the end, this will help you retain more of the information and will enhance your learning ability.

Punctuality and Attendance Policies

As stated in the “Student” segment under the “Attendance” section of DSU’s “Policies and Procedures”: “Regular and prompt attendance in classes and laboratory sessions is expected of every Dixie State University student”. In order to ensure each student upholds their commitment to the College’s standards, the following class policy exists:

Attendance is required in order to pass this class, no exceptions. To reinforce this, I will conduct roll calls throughout the semester. These roll calls can potentially affect your final grade (they will not be reflected in your grade until final grades are submitted) in two ways:

1. After missing more than two roll calls due to unexcused absences/tardiness, your **final grade will be dropped to the next grade level** for every two additional unexcused absences/tardy arrivals (i.e. C+ → C).
2. If you have missed one roll call or less (this includes tardy arrivals) for the entire semester, **your final grade will be bumped up to the next grade level** (i.e. B → B+).

In short, if you attend class around 90% of the time and are prompt, you have nothing to worry about.

However, I understand that situations outside of your control (untimely illnesses, family deaths, or other crises) arise and may take you away from the classroom for a period of time. I hope they don’t, but if circumstances like these affect your life during the semester, it is **your responsibility** to contact me as soon as possible (this means within a day or two of your return/recovery) to discuss the work and class periods that have been missed. If more than a work week has passed without you contacting me to set new due dates, you will be unable to make up the work you missed and the absence will be counted as unexcused.

To have an absence count as excused, you need to present proper documentation to me within a day or two of your documented time away. To be clear, an excused absence can be because of an illness, a funeral, a birth, etc., as long as the proper documentation accompanies the event. If you miss the bus, forgot to set your alarm, etc., you do not need to let me know as these things are examples of unexcused absences. Remember, you each get three of these built into the policy before they begin to detract from your final grade.

A few more words of advice...Be on time to class. If you arrive late, please be courteous to others by entering as quietly as possible.

Also, please do not pack-up until we have finished our discussion for the day. I promise we will never go over our allotted time. Because of this, please do not start gathering your things and banging around in the classroom until we are finished up for the day. If for some reason you do need to leave early, please sit close to the door, in a spot where you do not need to cut in front of anyone, and when the time comes, leave as quietly as you can. Thank you all in advance for being sensitive to this request.

Technology/Attention Policy

Please turn off and put away all noise makers when entering the classroom. Cell phones should be silenced or turned off and put away for the duration of the class period. This also includes iPods (or other mp3 players). Laptops and tablets are appropriate to use for taking notes, but they should be silenced as well. Additionally, you are required to be attentive while we are in class. In other words, do not put your head on your desk, write notes/talk with a classmate, etc. If I notice you are consistently making phone calls, sending text messages, playing/surfing the internet on your mp3 player/tablet/laptop during class time, or being inattentive/disruptive, I reserve the right to deduct up to 10% off your **final grade**. (If you are expecting an important call or text during the time we have class and need to have your phone on, please talk to me about it *before* class so I don't act a fool.) Remember to please be respectful of your classmates; it may bother them even if it doesn't bother you.

Contacting Me

The easiest way to get a hold of me is via email. Although my voicemails do get forwarded to my email account, I only return phone calls from my office phone. I will, however, respond to emails from remote locations (i.e. home, conferences, off-campus meetings, etc.). I will check and respond to emails periodically Monday through Friday between 8:00 am and 5:00 pm. If you email me past 5:00 pm or over the weekend, I will respond to you the following working day.

Some Other Thoughts

Remember, a diversity of ideas is a blessing. During class discussions, please remember to speak to others with respect. Simply because someone else thinks differently than you do does not make them bad, deficient, or unintelligent. We need to cultivate an environment in which everyone feels safe expressing their ideas. Please do not do anything that would harm our work towards this goal.

One of the secondary goals of this course is to make each one of us a better person for having taken and participated in this class. I hope we may all demonstrate honesty, integrity,

accountability, hard work, and patience with one another. And in so doing, I hope we will push each other closer to excellence both inside and outside of the classroom.

Grades and Assignments

Let me issue a brief caution about grades (I do this so we can get this out of the way and can bypass this conversation in the future). During every semester, there are students who come to me and say, “I am not doing well in this class and I really need to pass, what can I do?” My answer will be a simple, “Nothing.” There is no extra credit or make-up work for unexcused absences in this class. If this class is important to you, then I expect you to approach your studies with the fervor needed to obtain the results you desire from the *beginning* of the semester. Do not come to me looking for help if you decide part way through the semester that you need to exert more effort. Start working hard today as you will only go as far as your effort takes you.

On this same note, please do not come talk to me or send me emails at the end of the semester asking for me to bump up your final grade because you are just short of the grade you need to keep your scholarship, stay in this major, or stay enrolled in the university. Much like in sports, it is not a single play that determines the outcome of the game. By this I mean it is not your performance in one class that determines whether or not you can keep your scholarship or stay in this major, but the accumulation of the results from multiple classes. It is an untenable and unfair position to put me in, so please understand now that, “You earn what you earn.”

The following list shows the assignments you will be required to do during the semester. This list provides very brief descriptions of the assignments. We will discuss each assignment and exam in greater detail during class. Feel free to ask for more thorough descriptions for each paper, if necessary. The due dates can be found on the class schedule. Remember, no late assignments will be accepted. The descriptions of the exams and the expectations for class participation are listed below:

1. **Paper #1** – This paper is your opportunity to add to the discussions we have had in class. It should focus on you presenting new ideas or significantly expanding those ideas we have discussed in class. It is imperative that you make your paper as air tight as possible. By this I mean you should be sure your conversation is as comprehensive as possible given your chosen topic and the length constraints of the paper. Also, make sure your ideas, thoughts, and opinions are always informed.

Please pay attention to the layout of the paper:

-Separate cover page with name, date, and class title (CJ 4100).

-Typed written, Twelve point, Times New Roman Font, double-spaced with 1 inch margins on the top and bottom and 1.25 inch margins on both sides. These are the default margins on a Word document.

-The paper must be no less than **four full pages** and no more than **five full pages** of written text. The title page does not count toward the length of the paper. The writing of the assignment must start at the very top of page one. Do not, I repeat, do not put your name, the date, or any other information at the top of page one. Leave all that information on the cover page. Also, do not space down a line or two and then start writing.

IMPORTANT NOTE: For each requirement not met, an automatic 10 points will be deducted from the total score of the paper.

2. **Final Paper** – The final paper will be an eight to ten page “exploration” paper on an element of urban crime of your choice. The details of this paper will be discussed in class and additional instructions will be provided at that point. Please follow the paper layout instructions above (except for length).
3. **Midterm and Final Exam** – The exams will consist of one essay question. More detail will be given during the review session on the last day of class. Each exam will be taken on the testing center computers.
4. **Class Participation** – Productive commentary is required. The grading of productive commentary is tough to do objectively, so let me at least say this: do not let yourself go more than one class discussion without making a comment. This class will primarily revolve around class discussions, so it is important you participate in them. Preparation is key to be successful in the participation aspect of this class. To help in your preparation, you are required to send me three discussion questions per class period of new material. These days are indicated on the schedule found below. The questions will need to be sent to lharris@dixie.edu by midnight the night before each class period questions are due. You will be given 2 freebie days (days when you do not send in questions). After these two days, 5 points will be deducted from your participation score for each day you fail to send in questions. Additionally, each student will give an individual or group (up to three students per group) presentation on an element of urban crime. These presentations must be no shorter than 15 and no longer than 20 minutes long and will count for a quarter of your participation grade. We will have various presentation days throughout the semester. Please let me know if more information is needed about the questions or presentations.

Turning In Papers Through Canvas and Turnitin

You will need to submit each writing assignment through Canvas by 11:59 pm of the due date indicated on the class schedule. (For this class those assignments are the Introduction and Research Proposal.) No late papers will be accepted, no exceptions. By turning in the papers via Canvas, it also enables us to use the Turnitin program to ensure academic honesty and integrity are characteristics of all papers submitted by you and your classmates. To this end, you must make sure your papers receive a “similarity score” of 5% or less to qualify for grading. Conversely, if a paper receives a score of 6% or higher, it will not receive a grade and you will receive zero points for the assignment.

In order to utilize Turnitin as an educational tool too, I have set the program to allow you to see your “similarity score” shortly after you have submitted your assignment. (A word of advice: plan time to wait for your “similarity score” into your “assignment time”. Turnitin is like any other program and can be fast at times and slow at others.) Using Turnitin in this manner will allow you to better understand how to properly cite others’ thoughts while putting these thoughts in your own words. Simply putting quotation marks around all the “flagged” passages is not an appropriate fix and, ultimately, will negatively affect your score. I know the process of learning how to engage the thoughts and words of others and making them your own can be frustrating at times, but most new, valuable skills are not acquired without some sincere effort.

Lastly, it is your responsibility to make sure your paper is submitted with the proper “similarity score”. In order to help you with this, I make the following concession: I will not begin grading your papers until two days after the due date found on the class schedule. I will, however, log on to Canvas the morning after the due date to make certain all the papers have been turned in on time. This gives you the motivation to get your papers in by the due date, but offers you a bit more flexibility to make the necessary changes to your paper in order to reach the 5% “similarity score” benchmark. If you are having honest problems with reaching the “similarity score” standard (after having done all you can do on your own), please come talk to me about it and we will work together to find an appropriate solution.

Point Breakdown

Paper #1	100 points
Midterm Exam	100 points
Final Exam	100 points
Final Paper	200 points
Participation	<u>100 points</u>
Point Total	<i>600 points</i>

Grade Breakdown

A	100-94%	C	76-74%
A-	93-90%	C-	73-70%
B+	89-87%	D+	69-67%
B	86-84%	D	66-64%
B-	83-80%	D-	63-60%
C+	79-77%	F	59% or below

Class Academic Dishonesty/Academic Integrity Policy

I believe that most students are honest, and I don't want to punish everyone for the few that aren't. Nonetheless, I want it to be clear that I will not tolerate cheating. When I discover that it has occurred, a failing grade will be given for the entire course, no questions asked. If you are a repeat offender, I will request a more serious sanction be imposed (i.e. notation of academic misconduct on your permanent academic transcript, academic probation, dismissal from the program, dismissal from college, etc.).

If you need additional detail about what cheating consists of follow this link to the "Student Rights and Responsibilities Code": <http://www.dixie.edu/humanres/policy/sec5/533.html> (Section 4).

Other Policies and Issues

Although I will try very hard to stick to the attached schedule, changes may be made. Notice of such changes will be made during class (or sent via Dmail if I have to miss class unexpectedly). Students are responsible for getting this information. Because this and other pertinent information will make its way into your Dmail account, make sure you check it daily. If you don't know your user name and password, go to www.dixie.edu and select "Dmail," for complete instructions. You will be held responsible for information posted on blackboard and sent to your Dmail email, so please check it often.

At the risk of sounding like your parent, I recommend you make a friend in this class. I say this in case you unfortunately have to miss class. The notes we use in class will not be posted on blackboard and I will not make copies of my notes for any student. So, make a friend and problem solved.

Dixie State University's Policies and Resources

Disability Resource Center

If you suspect or are aware that you have a disability that may affect your success in the course you are strongly encouraged to contact the Disability Resource Center (DRC) located in the

North Plaza Building. The disability will be evaluated and eligible students will receive assistance in obtaining reasonable accommodations. Phone # 435-652-7516.

Library Information

The Library has all kinds of information and resources. Visit the Val Browning Library or go to the library website at <http://library.dixie.edu/>.

Testing Center

If you are assigned to take a test in the Testing Center, go to the North Plaza. You can get information on their website at <http://new.dixie.edu/testing/>.

Tutoring Center

If you need help understanding the content of your courses, go to the Tutoring Center located in the Browning Learning Center, Room 105. There is a schedule of what courses have tutors at what times outside the door. You can also visit them online at <http://dsc.dixie.edu/tutoring/>.

Writing Center

If you need help writing papers, go to the Writing Center in the Browning Learning Center, Room 105. You can also visit them online at: http://new.dixie.edu/english/dsc_writing_center.php.

Disruptive Behavior Policy

It is the responsibility of an instructor to manage the classroom environment to ensure a good learning climate for all students. This means not talking when the teacher is talking, following instructions, and speaking and acting respectfully to the professor and fellow students. If your behavior is disruptive, I will first let you know verbally that you are behaving inappropriately. If it continues, I will send you written notice that your behavior must change. As a last resort, I will drop you from the class. For more details, please see the disruptive behavior policy at: <http://www.dixie.edu/humanres/policy/sec3/334.html>.

To learn more about the Reasonable Accommodation Policy, to view the Semester calendar, or to explore any other questions you may have, please visit <http://new.dixie.edu/reg/syllabus/>.

Class Schedule
Fall Semester 2013
CJ 4020 Urban Crime

Week 1

8/20 – Syllabus Review and Class Introduction

8/22 – *When Work Disappears*, (Reading #1 on Canvas)*

Week 2

8/27 – *When Work Disappears*, (Reading #2 on Canvas)*

8/29 – *Urban Outcasts*, Chapter 2*

Week 3

9/3 – *Urban Outcasts*, Chapter 2

9/5 – *Urban Outcasts*, Chapter 3*

Week 4

9/10 – *Urban Outcasts*, Chapter 3

9/12 – *Urban Outcasts*, Chapter 4*

Week 5

9/17 – *Urban Outcasts*, Chapter 6*

9/19 – *Urban Outcasts*, Chapter 6

Week 6

9/24 – *Urban Outcasts*, Chapter 7*

9/26 – *Urban Outcasts*, Chapter 7

Week 7

10/1 – *Urban Outcasts*, Chapter 9

10/3 – Presentation Day

Week 8

10/8 – Review Session

10/10 – Fall Break, **No Class**

Week 9

10/15 – Midterm Exam

10/17 – *Code of the Street*, Preface and Introduction*

Week 10

10/22 – *Code of the Street*, Chapters 1 & 2*

10/24 – *Code of the Street*, Chapters 3 & 4*

Week 11

10/29 – *Code of the Street*, Chapters 5 & 6*, *Paper #1 Due*

10/31 – *Code of the Street*, Chapter 7 & Conclusion*

Week 12

11/5 – Presentation Day

11/7 – *Gang Leader for a Day*, Foreword, Preface, Chapter 1*

Week 13

11/12 – Career Day, **No Class**

11/14 – *Gang Leader for a Day*, Chapters 2 & 3*

Week 14

11/19 – *Gang Leader for a Day*, Chapters 4 & 5*

11/21 – Final Paper Work Day, **No Class**

Week 15

11/26 – Presentation Day

11/28 – Thanksgiving Day, **No Class**

Week 16

12/3 – *Gang Leader for a Day*, Chapters 6, 7, & 8*, *Final Paper Due*

12/5 – Review Session

Finals Week

Exam available in the Testing Center on Wednesday, Dec 11th and Thursday, Dec 12th.