

Dixie State College of Utah
Urban Crime
CJ 4020
Tuesday and Thursday from 10:30 – 11:45 am
University Plaza, Building D, Room 102

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Office Hours: Monday - Thursday 11:45 am – 1:00 pm

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?

During the course of this semester we will take time to explore the answers to this question. We will do so by having a seminar style course. This means our class periods will be discussion based and you will be required to come to class prepared to participate. Because I ask you to come prepared, I give you my word to always come prepared as well. Lastly, the majority of your grade will come from exploring these new ideas and concepts on your own in various papers.

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.

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.

Class Policies

"Punctuality is the politeness of kings." – Louis XVIII

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.

“I could never think well of a man’s intellectual or moral character, if he was habitually unfaithful to his appointments.” – Nathaniel Emmons

Attendance is required in order to pass this class, no exceptions. As discussed below, you will take exams and write papers in order to demonstrate your knowledge of the subject matter, but these facets of the course are not the only integral components to a passing grade. Attendance, in order to participate in the class discussions, is vital to a passing grade. 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, you will be unable to make up the work you missed and the absence will be counted as unexcused. This link provides the detail needed in order to have your absence count as College approved: <http://www.dixie.edu/humanres/policy/sec5/523.html>. Please read these instructions carefully.

Also, 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. If I notice you are consistently making phone calls, sending text messages, or playing on your mp3 player during class time, 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.

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. **Papers #1 and #2** – These two papers are your opportunity to add to the discussions we have had in class. They 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. Papers are due at the beginning of the class period. Emailed assignments will not be accepted, unless arrangements have been made with me before the day the paper is due. No late papers will be accepted whatsoever, no exceptions.

Please pay attention to the layout of the paper:

-Separate cover page with name, date, and class title (CJ 4020).

-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 five full pages and no more than six 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 Exam** – The final exam will consist of one essay question. More detail will be given during the review session on the last day of class.
3. **Final Paper** – The final paper will be a ten to twelve page “research article” paper on a pertinent topic of your choice. The details of this paper will be discussed in class and additional instructions will be provided at that point.
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. Part of your preparation will be to send me three discussions questions per class period that deal with the subject matter we will discuss that day. The questions will need to be sent to my dixie.edu email address by midnight the night before each class period. You will be given 3 freebie days (days when you do not send in questions). After these three days, 5 points will be deducted from your participation score for each day you fail to send in questions. Additionally, your promptness and attendance will be reflected in this portion of your grade.

Point Breakdown

Paper #1	50 points
Paper #2	50 points
Final Exam	50 points
Final Paper	100 points
Participation	<u>100 points</u>
Point Total	<i>350 points</i>

Grade Breakdown

A	100-94%	C	76-74%
A-	94-90%	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

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 College's Policies and Resources

Disability Resource Center

Students with medical, psychological, learning or other disabilities desiring reasonable academic adjustment, accommodations, or auxiliary aids to be successful in this class will need to contact the DISABILITY RESOURCE CENTER Coordinator (Baako Wahabu) for eligibility determination. Proper documentation of impairment is required in order to receive services or accommodations. DRC is located in the North Plaza Building. Visit or call 652-7516 to schedule appointment to discuss the process. DRC Coordinator determines eligibility for and authorizes the provision of services.

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.

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. However, I will not tolerate cheating, and if I discover that it has occurred, a zero grade will be given for that assignment or exam, and you will not be allowed to make it up. Repeated or aggravated offenses will result in failing the course.

Any time you take credit for work you did not do, you are cheating. This includes getting the answers to homework problems from someone else, copying information from a library or internet source and presenting it as if it were your own words (plagiarism), looking at someone else's answers on an exam, and asking someone who has already taken a test about what questions it contains. For more information on the "Student Code," follow this link:

<http://library.dixie.edu/policies/studentcodesectionfour.pdf> and go to page 8.

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

CJ 4020 Urban Crime

Week 1

8/23 – Syllabus Review and Class Introductions

8/25 – White Flight

Week 2

8/30 – Mass Disinvestment

9/1 – Consequence of Drugs

Week 3

9/6 – *Code of the Street*, Preface and Introduction

9/8 – *Code of the Street*, Chapter 1

Week 4

9/13 – *Code of the Street*, Chapter 2

9/15 – *Code of the Street*, Chapter 3

Week 5

9/20 – *Code of the Street*, Chapter 4

9/22 – *Code of the Street*, Chapter 5

Week 6

9/27 – *Code of the Street*, Chapter 6

9/29 – *Code of the Street*, Chapter 7, **Paper #1 Due**

Week 7

10/4 – *Code of the Street*, Conclusion

10/6 – *Gang Leader for a Day*, Foreword, Preface, Chapter 1

Week 8

10/11 – *Gang Leader for a Day*, Chapter 2

10/13 – No Class (Semester Break)

Week 9

10/18 – *Gang Leader for a Day*, Chapter 2

10/20 – *Gang Leader for a Day*, Chapter 3

Week 10

10/25 – *Gang Leader for a Day*, Chapter 3

10/27 – *Gang Leader for a Day*, Chapter 4

Week 11

11/1 – *Gang Leader for a Day*, Chapter 4

11/3 – *Gang Leader for a Day*, Chapter 5

Week 12

11/8 – *Gang Leader for a Day*, Chapter 5

11/10 – *Gang Leader for a Day*, Chapter 6, **Paper #2 Due**

Week 13

11/15 – No Class (College Wide Career Day)

11/17 – No Class (American Society of Criminology Annual Meeting)

Week 14

11/22 – *Gang Leader for a Day*, Chapter 6

11/24 – No Class (Thanksgiving Break)

Week 15

11/29 – *Gang Leader for a Day*, Chapter 7

12/1 – *Gang Leader for a Day*, Chapter 7

Week 16

12/6 – *Gang Leader for a Day*, Chapter 8

12/8 – Review Session, **Final Paper Due**

Finals Week

12/13 – 9:30 – 11:30 am