

**Criminology/Sociology 3770-001**  
**Sociological Analysis of Crime and Criminal Justice System**  
**Fall 2019**  
**Credit Hours: 3**  
**Blair Hall, Room 2165**  
**TTH, 2:00 p.m. – 3:15 p.m.**

**Instructor: Dr. Stevens**

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Office Location: Blair 3148

Phone: 217-581-3123 (Department Office)

Office Hours: Mondays, 10:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.; Tuesdays and Thursdays, 12:15 p.m. – 1:15 p.m.; By appointment

**Required Texts:**

Pollock, Joycelyn. 2017. *Crime and Criminal Justice in America*. 3<sup>rd</sup> ed. New York: Routledge.

Haldipur, Jan. 2018. *No Place on the Corner: The Costs of Aggressive Policing*. New York: New York University Press.

Natapoff, Alexandra. 2018. *Punishment without Crime: How Our Massive Misdemeanor System Traps the Innocent and Makes American More Unequal*. New York: Basic Books.

*Other readings will be posted to D2L.*

**Course Description:**

This course provides an overview and analysis of the criminal justice system in the United States utilizing a sociological perspective.

**Learning Objectives:**

- Understand the major parts of the criminal justice system (law enforcement, courts, and corrections) and how they work together.
- Understand how crime and criminal justice policy are socially constructed.
- Examine the use of the criminal justice system as a form of social control.
- Analyze inequality within the criminal justice system using a sociological perspective.
- Analyze the interplay between the criminal justice system and society.

**\*Students are expected to read this document in its entirety. If students ask the instructor any questions that can be answered by this document, they will be referred back to the syllabus. Read this document thoroughly.**

**Course Expectations:**

Students are expected to come to every class period prepared and ready to participate. Respect for the instructor and other classmates should be demonstrated at all times. Cell phones, laptops, and other electronic devices should be turned off or silenced (not on vibrate) and put away prior

to the beginning of each class. No photos or recordings should be taken during class without the instructor's permission. Failure to follow the electronics policy could result in being asked to leave the class or to make a class presentation. Students who are repeatedly late to class or otherwise disrupt the class will be referred to the Office of Student Standards. It is the student's responsibility to be on time for class, which is defined by the official time on the course computer. Being on time includes being in your seat, ready to participate by the time that class begins. Students who use electronics in class without authorization will lose a course engagement point for each instance they are seen by the instructor. Students who are late to class (defined as not being in their seat ready to participate when the instructor begins class) will also lose a point for each instance after their second tardy. In these cases, students may or may not be informed in class that they will be losing a point.

Students who are unable to attend a class session should contact another student to obtain a copy of the notes they missed. While I believe it is important for you to catch up on any information that you miss, other students' notes should not be used to complete any activities or assignments that were assigned during the class period that was missed. For example, if you miss class on a day when a guest speaker visits, you should get the notes from a classmate, but you should not use those notes to complete an activity or assignment related to the guest speaker. Students are responsible for any announcements that they miss in class. *If you miss a class, ask another student what you missed before approaching the instructor. Do not ask the instructor if you missed "anything important." If it weren't important, it wouldn't be part of the class.*

This class is meant to be a largely discussion based class. This only works if you come to class prepared and ready to actively participate. Make sure you have read all assignments prior to the class for which they are assigned.

College classes are similar to many other pursuits in life in that you will get out as much as you put into it. The classes you take at EIU are important elements of your degree. Take responsibility for your own engagement and success in these courses. It's *your* responsibility to know due dates, course policies, and assignment requirements. If you require a grade report for a team or organization, please contact the instructor via email at least 24 hours in advance.

### **Course Communication:**

Email is the best method for reaching me. Please include the course and section number in the subject line of the email (CRM/SOC 3770-001). Provide some context for your email. Do not just write things like, "Hey, what did I miss in class?" I have many students and multiple classes, so be as specific as possible. Also, emails should follow professional standards of communication – including addressing emails to me as Dr. Stevens (see tips here: <https://www.insidehighered.com/views/2015/04/16/advice-students-so-they-dont-sound-silly-emails-essay>). If an emergency arises and you do not have access to email, please call the sociology office and leave a message. If I need to contact you regarding the course, I will use your EIU email account. Please make sure to check that account regularly. I strive to answer all emails within 24 hours during the business week. If you have a question about an assignment, I strongly encourage you to email me at least 24 hours in advance of the due date during the week. Make sure that all emails are professional and include specific information about your request for

assistance. Please email me through Panthermail and not D2L. This will ensure the fastest response.

### **Grade Postings/Concerns:**

All grades will be posted on D2L. If a student has a concern about a grade or feels that there is a discrepancy between the posted grade and the grade awarded, the instructor must be contacted via email within one week of when the grade was posted. Grade concerns will not be considered after one week has passed.

### **Late Work:**

For the written assignments (analysis papers and final paper), a 10% deduction will be taken for each day that the paper is late, up to 72 hours (i.e. 1 min to 23 hours and 59 minutes late is a 10% deduction, 24 hours to 47 hours and 59 minutes late is a 20% deduction, etc.). The late period begins immediately after the deadline. This deduction will be taken off the grade you would have received had the paper been turned in by the deadline. Seventy-two hours after the due date has passed, papers will no longer be accepted. Since you can submit all written assignments via D2L, the 72 hours includes weekends and holidays. Assignments will not be accepted after the 72 hour cut off. Assignments will not be accepted in incorrect formats or via email. Assignments submitted incorrectly are considered late, including assignments that have corrupted files. Check your files before and after submitting! (D2L provides the official time stamp that I will use for determining cut offs.)

Extensions for legal or medical emergencies (that can be documented) may be given at the discretion of the instructor. To clarify, legal emergencies may include jury duty, being subpoenaed, etc. *Extensions will be extremely rare.* If such an event occurs, please contact the instructor before an assignment is due to discuss the situation. Extensions after a due date has passed will rarely be granted.

If you miss an exam, you will only be allowed to make it up in the event of a documented medical or legal emergency. An emergency is an unforeseen, serious event. The documentation must excuse you for the day of the exam. In other words, going to the doctor and getting an excuse after the exam will not be counted. This documentation must be submitted within one business day of the absence. An alternate exam may be given at the instructor's discretion. Students who miss an exam for a scheduled university event must present documentation at least one class prior to the exam in order to schedule a makeup. All make-up exams will be given at the end of the semester in a time scheduled by the instructor. Make-up exams will not be given for travel plans, weddings, getting arrested, work schedules, leaving early for vacation, etc. Make-up exams will only be given for emergency situations or school-sponsored events at the discretion of the instructor.

### **Exam Etiquette:**

In order to ensure fairness, students will not be able to enter an exam after the first student has completed the exam and left the room. Students should come prepared to the exam with pencils, IDs, and any other needed items, such as tissues, erasers, etc. Students will not be allowed to re-enter the classroom after leaving the exam. Cell phones should be turned off or silenced during

the exam. If a cell phone rings or otherwise disrupts the exam, the student may receive a zero on the exam. Hats should not be worn to exams.

**Plagiarism and Academic Dishonesty:**

Academic dishonesty in any form (plagiarism, cheating, lying, stealing, etc.) will **NOT** be tolerated in this course. Academic dishonesty includes signing in for students who are not present in class or including an absent classmate's name on an in-class assignment. Students who turn in the work of other students either past or present will be in violation of this policy. The regulations for academic conduct set forth in the Code of Conduct will be strictly enforced. If you are found to be violating these expectations, you could fail the assignment, fail the course, and/or be reported to the Office of Student Standards. All assignments will be submitted through TurnItIn to check for plagiarism. Not properly citing your work is a form of plagiarism and will be treated as such. Familiarize yourself with in-text citation and visit the Writing Center if you need assistance. The methods of acceptable citation in this class are ASA and APA Styles.

Assignments submitted for this class should be original. Students should not turn in assignments from other classes or from an earlier section of this course if this course is being repeated. Work that has been submitted before will receive a zero.

**Academic Integrity:**

Students are expected to maintain principles of academic integrity and conduct as defined in EIU's Code of Conduct (<http://www.eiu.edu/judicial/studentconductcode.php>). Violations will be reported to the Office of Student Standards.

**Students with Disabilities:**

If you are a student with a documented disability in need of accommodations to fully participate in this class, please contact the Office of Student Disability Services (OSDS). All accommodations must be approved through OSDS. Please stop by Ninth Street Hall, Room 2006, or call 217-581-6583 to make an appointment.

**The Student Success Center:**

Students who are having difficulty achieving their academic goals are encouraged to contact the Student Success Center ([www.eiu.edu/~success](http://www.eiu.edu/~success)) for assistance with time management, test taking, note taking, avoiding procrastination, setting goals, and other skills to support academic achievement. The Student Success Center provides individualized consultations. To make an appointment, call 217-581-6696, or go to 9<sup>th</sup> Street Hall, Room 1302.

**Assignment Submission:**

All assignments completed outside of class must be submitted in Microsoft Word documents via D2L. Microsoft Word is the only acceptable format for submitting assignments (not Microsoft Works, Pages, etc.). If assignments are not submitted in Microsoft Word, they will be considered late. Do not wait until the last minute to submit assignments as this is when problems are most likely to occur. Back up your work and have a "Plan B" if your computer malfunctions. Computer labs are located throughout campus if you need Microsoft Word or have issues with your personal computer.

If you submit a paper to an assignment dropbox, I will assume that this is your final paper and is ready to be graded. I may grade a paper prior to the deadline if it is submitted early, so make sure to submit your final version the first time. If you submit multiple versions of the same paper to a dropbox before I grade it, I will assume that the most recent version is the one that you would like to be graded.

For in-class assignment submissions, the student must write his/her name in the upper right hand corner or designated name space in order to receive credit. Failure to put both first and last name on the assignments will result in the loss of points or a zero on the assignment.

### **Course Requirements:**

Grades will be assigned based on the following requirements.

### **Exams**

Three exams will be given to allow students to demonstrate their knowledge of the course content. All readings, videos, speakers, and any material covered in class will be fair game for the tests. These exams will be a combination of multiple choice, matching, true false, short answer, and/or essay. The exams are not cumulative. Exam 3 will be held during finals week and is not cumulative.

### **Course Engagement**

Your course engagement score will be based on class activities and quizzes (if needed). Throughout the semester, students will complete activities pertinent to the class information. These activities will be announced in class. Some activities will be completed in class and some will be taken home and turned in prior to the following class. Any activities that are assigned to be completed out of class will be due on D2L at 2:00 p.m. on the due date unless otherwise indicated. Email submissions will not be accepted. Late submissions will not be accepted. *You may not make up any activities that you miss unless you have a documented university excuse.* If you have a documented university excuse, you must contact the instructor within one business day to make up the assignment. The lowest two activity grades will be dropped at the end of the semester. Students who are late to class or who leave early will not be eligible to receive full points on the assignments.

At times, there may also be “pop quizzes”/trivia questions and/or written essays about the readings and preparation for class. If a student is not on time, not prepared, or not present, he/she will not receive points for these questions, no exceptions.

### **Analysis Papers**

For this assignment, each student will write an essay using appropriate scholarly support analyzing issues related to aggressive policing and the use of misdemeanors in the American criminal justice system. More information and grading criteria will be provided later in the class.

In order to be successful on these papers, students must have critically read the assigned chapters and incorporate them into their papers. It is best to stay on top of the readings.

\*All papers in the class require ASA or APA style citation. If you are not familiar with citation, please visit the Writing Center prior to submitting your first paper.\*

### **Final Paper**

For this assignment, each student will analyze a current issue of concern in the American criminal justice system. In the paper, the student will take a position on that issue and provide a thoughtful, well-researched argument for their position. More information and grading criteria will be provided later in the class.

In order to be successful on this paper, students must have critically read the assigned chapters and incorporate them into their papers. It is best to stay on top of the readings.

### **Extra Credit**

Throughout the course, extra credit opportunities may arise. These will be announced in class. *Extra credit cannot be made up for any reason (including any excused absences mentioned above).* Extra credit assignments will be made available to the whole class. Any requests for individual extra credit will be denied to be fair to the entire class. Please note: Extra credit can help raise your grade, but it cannot be used to pass the class. In other words, extra credit will not be used to raise your grade from an F to a passing grade. Extra credit may be associated with attendance on randomly selected days.

### **Electronic Writing Portfolio**

Any submissions for the Electronic Writing Portfolio must be submitted prior to the last exam. Submissions submitted after this time will not be scored.

**The final course grade will be composed of:**

Three (3) Exams @ 15% each	= 45%
Two (2) Critical Analysis Papers @ 10% each	= 20%
Final Paper	= 25%
Course Engagement	= 10%

**Grading Scale**

90-100% = A

80-89% = B

70-79% = C

60-69% = D


0 – 59% = F

## Course Schedule\*

**Assignments (including reading) are due at the beginning of the course for which they are assigned unless otherwise noted.**

Date	Topic(s)	Readings/Assignment(s) Due
Week 1 8/20, 8/22	Criminal Justice as Social Control	Pollock Ch 1
Week 2 8/27, 8/29	Crime in Society	Pollock Ch 2
Week 3 9/3, 9/5	Why Has Crime Declined?	Pollock Ch 3
Week 4 9/10, 9/12	Police in America	Pollock Ch 4
Week 5 9/17, 9/19	Police Operations	Pollock Ch 5 <b>9/19: Exam 1</b>
Week 6 9/24, 9/26	Policing and the Legal Process	Pollock Ch 6 Haldipur Intro (p. 1-36)
Week 7 10/1, 10/3	Aggressive Policing	Haldipur Ch 1 and Ch 2
Week 8 10/8, 10/10	Law and Society	Pollock Ch 7 <b>10/10 : Critical Analysis Paper 1 Due @ 5 p.m. on D2L</b>
Week 9 10/15, 10/17	Criminal Prosecution	Pollock Ch 8 Natapoff Intro (p. 1-19)
Week 10 10/22, 10/24	Criminal Sentencing	Pollock Ch 9 <b>10/24: Exam 2</b>



Week 11 10/29, 10/31	Misdemeanors in the CJ System	Natapoff Ch 1 and Ch 4
Week 12 11/5, 11/7	Community Corrections	Pollock Ch 10
Week 13 11/12, 11/14	Confinement: Jails and Prisons	Pollock Ch 11  <b>11/14: Critical Analysis Paper 2 Due @ 5 p.m. on D2L</b>
Week 14 11/19, 11/21	Re-entry and Recidivism	Pollock Ch 12
Week 15 11/26, 11/28	<b>Thanksgiving Break – No Class</b>	
Week 16 12/3, 12/5	Critical Thinking Approach	Pollock Ch 14  <b>12/5: Final Paper Due at 5:00 p.m. on D2L</b>
Week 17 12/9 – 12/13	Finals Week	<b>Exam 3: Monday, Dec. 9 2:45 p.m. – 4:45 p.m.</b>

\*I reserve the right to make changes to this course outline as needed. Any changes made will be announced in class and posted on D2L.