

**SOC 205.501**  
**CRN: 23651**  
**Crime, Public Policy and the Criminal Justice System**

Summer 2017 8-week course

Jun 05, 2017 - Jul 29, 2017

**Location: Online Course**

Instructor: Deidre J. Williams

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**Instructor Response Time:**

You can email me through the course page on UNMLearn “Email” or directly at [djwill75@unm.edu](mailto:djwill75@unm.edu). I routinely check emails. You can anticipate a 24 hour response from me.

**Course Overview:**

The design of this course is to introduce students to the sociology of crime and punishment in the United States, and assist in their development of a sociological perspective. This perspective pulls on multiple social theories to determine how crime, the criminal justice system, and public policy are linked in complex relationships of economics, power, identity, and social control. Analyzing social forces and cultural narratives allows for students to better understand both the social constructions and consequences of the ideas and practices of crime and punishment. Attention will be focused on the U.S. penal system, historical political contexts, Supreme Court decisions and the “war on drugs”, to best investigate how crime and public policy institutionalizes social control and dynamics of power and inequality.

**Learning Objectives:** After successful completion of the course, students will be able to:

- Define crime and public policy in terms of social institutions and ideology.
- Identify the historical and contemporary role of the criminal justice system in organizing American society.
- Determine sociological relationships between politics, economics, and social control.
- Apply sociological theories to describe the production, reproduction and consequences of culture narratives of fear and punishment.

**Required Texts:**

- Hartmann, Douglas & Uggen, Christopher, Eds. 2014. The Society Page Series: *Crime and the Punished*. W.W. Norton & Company: New York. ISBN: 9780393920383
- Kubrin, Charis E. & Stucky, Thomas D., Eds. 2013. *Introduction to Criminal Justice: a sociological perspective*. Stanford University Press: Stanford, CA. ISBN: 978-0804762601
- Additional Readings available on UNMLearn (articles and book chapters)

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## Student Expectations

### Course Expectations

Together, we will create a learning environment based on clear communication and mutual respect. EACH WEEK, students will be *expected* to complete the following by a stated deadline:

- View course module that may include lecture, video, and/or PowerPoint
- Read the assigned book chapters and/or supplemental readings
- Participate in weekly Discussion Board
- Complete daily Assignments: Discussion Board, Journal, Quizzes
- Complete THREE course Exams

### Expectations for Success

- students are expected to submit all written work online
- students are expected to learn how to navigate in Learn
- students are expected to communicate respectfully with one another in discussions
- students are expected to read and respond to (if necessary) course announcements
- students are expected to use the Learn course email as opposed to a personal email
- students are expected to keep instructor informed of class related problems, or problems that may prevent the student from full participation—**prior** to due dates of assignments or class end date
- students are expected to address technical problems immediately

### Key Rules of Conduct

- If you have a difficulty using a tool to complete work, use the “Create a Support Ticket” link in the Course Menu immediately and notify your instructor as well.
- All postings and emails must meet the standards as set by Netiquette, as you will read in the course orientation module. Any post that is designed to attack or dis-respect a fellow students or the instructor is considered a serious violation. Such a post will be taken down immediately and the student who made the post will not receive credit for the assignment.
- Students who fail to comply with the above expectations, particularly the proper use of Netiquette, may be asked to leave the course. Repeated incidents may result in the student being dropped from the course or further disciplinary action.

### Technical Requirements:

- Reliable access to a Computer and a high speed Internet connection.
- Supported browsers include: Internet Explorer, Firefox, and Safari. Detailed Supported Browsers and Operating Systems: <http://online.unm.edu/lms/help/browsers>
- A computer's processor speed, RAM and Internet connection can **greatly** affect performance.
- Online courses perform best on a high-speed Internet connection. Those using dial-up connections will experience longer page load times and much slower performance when accessing their online course. Many locations on the UNM Valencia Campus offer free high-speed Internet access including [UNM Valencia Library](#).
- For UNM Learn Technical Support: (505) 277-0857 (M-F 8am - 5pm) or [learn@unm.edu](mailto:learn@unm.edu).

## Course Participation and Graded Requirements

**Course Format:** Weekly Learning Modules will post each TUESDAY, and assignments will always be due the following MONDAY by Midnight. Modules will include lecture, readings, web and media links, and assignment descriptions (i.e. Journals, Quizzes, Discussion Board).

### Active Participation

### **Mandatory**

Each week, you are responsible for the material covered and announcements made in class. Success in all courses, and particularly an online course, mandates clear and consistent communication and participation. Students are expected to view and read daily announcements, course modules, lectures, assigned online videos and readings, as well as your fellow students' posts on discussion boards. I am able to track each student's course activity through Learn—see below\*.

### Weekly Assignments

### **40% of Grade**

Each week the instructor may assign a combination of the following:

Discussion Board: supported responses to instructor prompts and fellow students' posts.

Journal: a structured writing response to the weekly lecture, reading, and/or video clips

Quiz: multiple choice and T/F questions to test knowledge of key vocabulary, theoretical concepts, and points discussed in lecture and reading materials.

### Midterm Exam

### **25% of Grade**

This exam will cover material from the first four weeks; including multiple choice, true/false, and short essay questions to assess your understanding of core concepts, course lectures & readings, and the ability to apply those concepts to social issues.

### Final Exam

### **35% of Grade**

This will be a cumulative exam and cover material from the entire course; including multiple choice, true/false, and short essay questions to assess your understanding of core concepts, course lectures & readings, and the ability to apply those concepts to social issues.

## Student Accountability

### **Grading Policy:**

Students will be provided with clear instructions and expectations for each assignment, and will be graded accordingly.

### **Assignments Policy:**

**Late assignments will NOT be accepted unless the student receives prior approval from the instructor.**

If a student is unable to make deadline due to extenuating circumstances, the instructor should be notified 24 hours prior to the deadline if possible.

### **Tracking Course Activity\*:**

UNM Learn automatically records all students' activities including: your first and last access to the course, the pages you have accessed, the number of discussion messages you have read and sent, discussion text, and posted discussion topics. This data can be accessed by the instructor to evaluate class participation and to identify students having difficulty in the course.

## Student Resources

### **UNM Code of Conduct**

Students will be disciplined when engaged in any behaviors that “affect adversely the University’s educational function, to disrupt community living on campus, or to interfere with the rights of others to pursue their education, to conduct their University duties and responsibilities or to participate in University activities” (UNM-VC 2012-14 Catalogue p. 179)\*.

**\*Please refer to UNM Student Handbook at: <http://pathfinder.unm.edu/>**

This course has a zero tolerance policy on academic dishonesty and plagiarism. When found guilty, the student will be dropped from this course and a report will be submitted to the Department Chair and the Instruction Dean. The same report will be kept in the student’s academic file.

- **Academic Dishonesty** includes “but not limited to, dishonesty in quizzes, tests, or assignments: claiming credit for work not done by you or done by others; hindering the academic work of other students,” etc. Any student suspected of academic dishonesty will be subject to the investigative and disciplinary process of UNM (p.29)\*.
- **Plagiarism** is intellectual theft. Plagiarism is when you copy an idea or any text that is more than six words from any source, including the Internet or your friends, without citing the source. To avoid plagiarism, you must enclose whatever you copy in quotation marks and cite the source.
- **Mutual Respect** is expected between students as well as between students and the professor. All forms of harassment or abuse will be handled according to the Student Code of Conduct Policy of UNM (pp. 186-188)\*.

### **Title XI Rights and Responsibilities: (NEW Policy and Procedure)**

“In an effort to meet obligations under Title IX, UNM faculty, Teaching Assistants, and Graduate Assistants are considered “responsible employees” by the Department of Education (see pg. 15 - <http://www2.ed.gov/about/offices/list/ocr/docs/qa-201404-title-ix.pdf>). This designation requires that any report of gender discrimination (which includes sexual harassment, sexual misconduct, and sexual violence) made to a faculty member, TA, or GA **must be reported** to the Title IX Coordinator at the Office of Equal Opportunity ([oeo.unm.edu](http://oeo.unm.edu)). For more information on the campus policy regarding sexual misconduct, see: <https://policy.unm.edu/university-policies/2000/2740.html>. Please note that UNM has three offices where you can report incidents and concerns confidentially, meaning that the staff there will NOT contact the Office of Equal Opportunity without your consent. These are LoboRespect Advocacy Center (<http://loborespect.unm.edu>), the Women's Resource Center (<https://women.unm.edu>) and the LGBTQ Resource Center (<http://lgbtqrc.unm.edu>).”

### **Classroom and Learning Accessibility:**

In accordance with University Policy 2310 and Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), any student who, because of a disability, may require some special arrangements in order to meet course requirements should contact both the instructor and the Accessibility Resource Center as soon as possible to make necessary accommodations. It is the responsibility of the student to request accommodation for individual learning needs.

### **Campus Resources:**

- Accessibility Resource Center (505) 277-3506 (call to register for special arrangements)
- The Learning Center: (505) 925-8907 (tutoring, computer use, printing)
- Computer Services (505) 925-8911 (support with Learn)
- Valencia Library (505) 925-8990 (computers, research, reading, videos)

### Soc 205.501 Course Schedule \*

\*subject to change based upon instructor's teaching objectives

#### **Week 1 Course Orientation & Theoretical Approaches to Crime**

Readings: *Welcome Letter, Syllabus, Netiquette, Theoretical Approaches to Law (Parts I & II), Introduction (Hartmann & Uggen—required book)*

T June 6 Lecture Slides: *Theoretical Approaches to Law & Crime*  
*American Ideals of Justice*

M June 12 Discussion Board, Journal & Quizzes Due by Midnight

#### **Week 2 Deviance and Measures of Crime**

Readings: Hartmann & Uggen: *Changing Lenses* pp. xxiii-xxvi & *Six Social Sources in the U.S. Crime Drop* pp. 3-20

PDF: Measures and Types of Crime

PDF: Measure of Crime part II

PDF: Effects & Types of Crime

PDF: Theories of Conformity, Deviance & Crime

T June 13 Lecture Slides: *Measuring and Analyzing Crime Rates*  
*Why Do People Commit Crime? Theories of Deviance*

M June 19 Assignments Due by Midnight

#### **Week 3 Public & Political Responses to Crime**

Readings: Chs. 5 & 6 (*Hartmann & Uggen*)

Ch. 26: *The Politics of Crime* (*Kubrin & Stucky*)

T June 20 Lecture Slides: *The Politics of Crime & American Culture*

Video Clips: "The War on Drugs" Film: *The House I Live In*, Michelle Alexander

M June 26 Assignments Due by Midnight

#### **Week 4 Mass Incarceration & The New Jim Crow**

Readings: Ch. 4 Visualizing Punishment (*Hartmann & Uggen*)

Ch. 27 Incarceration and Stratification (*Kubrin & Stucky*)

T June 27 Lecture Slides: *The Roles and Ideologies of Prisons and Mass Incarceration*

Guest Lecture (Video) Michelle Alexander on *The New Jim Crow*

M July 3 Assignments & Midterm Exam Due by Midnight

<b>Week 5</b>	<b>Historical Context of U.S. Law &amp; Critical Race Theory</b>
Readings:	PDF: <i>The Color of Law, Criminalization &amp; Immigration</i>
T July 4	Lecture Slides: <i>Ideologies of Racism and Dehumanization</i> <i>Understanding Institutional Racism</i>
	Social Media: #BlackLivesMatter, #BlackWomenMatter, #SayHerName
M July 10	Assignments Due by Midnight
<b>Week 6</b>	<b>Police, Social Control &amp; Community Trust</b>
Readings:	(Kubrin & Stucky) Policing pp. 55-59 Ch. 5: Policing a Free Society Ch. 6: The Evolving Strategy of Police Ch. 9: What Can Police Do to Reduce Crime, Disorder and Fear? PDF: U.S. (DOJ) Report on the Albuquerque Police Department
T July 11	Lecture Slides: <i>Cultural Context of Policing &amp; Excessive Force</i> Video Clips: James Boyd Shooting and Trial & Tamir Rice Shooting
M July 17	Assignments Due by Midnight
<b>Week 7</b>	<b>The Role of the Courts: Case studies of Recent Rape Trial Verdicts</b>
Readings:	(Kubrin & Stucky) The Courts pp. 149-156 Ch. 12 Prosecutorial Justification for Sexual Assault Case Rejection Ch. 16 The Convergence of Race, Ethnicity, Gender and Class on Court Decision- Ch. 13 The Public Defender: "But How Can You Sleep at Night?" Ch. 15 Should we Really "Ban" Plea Bargaining: The Core Concerns
T July 18	Lecture Slides: <i>Misogyny and Sexual Violence</i> <i>Understanding Prosecutorial Justice</i>
	Film: The Hunting Ground Media Links: Recent Rape Case Court Decisions, Media and Public Response
M July 24	Assignments Due by Midnight
<b>Week 8</b>	<b>Alternative Forms of Justice: Restorative Justice, Community Policing</b>
Readings:	(Kubrin & Stucky) Crime Control in the 21st Century pp. 329-334 Ch. 19 How Drug Treatment Court Works Ch. 25 Social Insecurity: The Transformation of American Criminal Justice 1965-2000 Ch. 30 Finding Alternatives to the Carceral State Hartmann & Uggen: <i>A Social Welfare Critique of Contemporary Crime Control</i> pp. 155-170
T July 25	<b>Lecture Slides:</b> <i>Alternative Forms of Justice and Policy Responses</i> Media Clips: Restorative Justice and Disrupting the School to Prison Pipeline
Sat July 29*	<b>Final Exam Due by Midnight</b>