

SOC U406 CLASS, CRIME AND THE LEGAL SYSTEM  
Fall 2006  
Tuesday and Friday 9:50-11:30 AM 411 Robinson Hall

Prof. I. Haen Marshall Holmes Hall 513  
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Office Hours: Tuesday 1:00-3:00 Wednesday 10:00-noon and by appointment

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We will use Blackboard <http://www.blackboard.neu.edu> for communication, announcements, etc. Please make sure that you can receive mail at your NU e-mail address. You are expected to check Blackboard regularly in order to remain informed of the most recent developments in schedule and assignments.

**Catalog Course Description:**

This course: Summarizes the major psychological, social, biological, economic and political theories about the cause of crime; Applies these theories to the daily operations of the police, courts, and prison system in the United States; Examines white-collar crime and the class bias inherent in the more lenient treatment of elite criminals. [Prerequisites: SOCU101 and two 200-level sociology courses.]

**Required text books (available in bookstore):**

- Robert M. Bohm, *A Primer on Crime and Delinquency Theory* (second edition). Wadsworth (2001)
- Steven Messner and Richard Rosenfeld, *Crime and the American Dream* (fourth edition), Wadsworth (2006)
- Yvonne Jewkes and Gayle Letherby (eds.), *Criminology: A Reader*, Sage (2003)
- Jeffrey Reiman, *The Rich Get Richer and the Poor Get Prison. Ideology, Class, and Criminal Justice* (seventh edition), Allyn and Bacon (2004)

**Course requirements:**

- *Class attendance and class participation (10%)* You are expected to come to class prepared to discuss the assigned readings for the day. Occasional assignments – not included in the current syllabus - may be given for the next class meeting. Class attendance will be taken on a regular basis.
- *Two short (4-6 pages, double-spaced) position papers*, focusing on a specific question provided by the instructor (50%). When writing these papers, you are expected to make use of (all appropriate) readings and lecture notes. There is no expectation of use of outside sources. Position paper 1 due October 10; Position paper 2 due November 7<sup>th</sup>. Late papers will be penalized. Electronic versions will not be accepted. More details provided in class.
- *A term paper (10-15 pages, double-spaced)*, on a topic related to the class, and approved by the instructor (40%). This paper will use a combination of class readings and lectures, as well as outside sources. All students have to turn in an 1- page paper proposal (topic with brief outline of paper) for approval (due October 20). After topic approval, if desired, you can turn in a draft of the paper for feedback. Last opportunity for feedback is November 21<sup>st</sup>. The final version of the term paper is due on December 8, at 1:00. Electronic versions will not be accepted. More details follow.

## Tentative Course Schedule and Assignments SOC U406

September 8	Introduction
September 12	Bohm, <i>An introduction to theory</i> [chapter 1 (1-10)] Jewkes, <i>Victorian Boys, We are Here!</i> [chapter 1 (7-18)]
September 15	Bohm, <i>Classical and neoclassical theory</i> [chapter 2 (11-20)] <i>Positivist theories</i> [chapter 3 (21-28)]
September 22	Bohm, <i>Psychological theories</i> [chapter 4 (29-44)] Jewkes, <i>Psychology and criminal behaviour</i> [chapter 5 (56-65)] Jewkes, <i>Perspectives in criminological theory</i> [chapter 2 (19-35)] <b>*Students receive assignment Position Paper 1*</b>
September 26	Bohm, <i>Sociological theories</i> [chapter 6 (65-102)] Jewkes, <i>Perspectives in criminological theory</i> [chapter 2 (19-35)]
September 29	Bohm, <i>Sociological theories</i> [chapter 6 (65-102)] Jewkes, <i>Perspectives in criminological theory</i> [chapter 2 (19-35)]
October 3	Bohm, <i>Sociological theories</i> [chapter 6 (65-102)] Jewkes, <i>Definitions of deviance</i> [chapter 3 (36-41)] Jewkes, <i>Perspectives in criminological theory</i> [chapter 2 (19-35)]
October 6	Messner, <i>Crime and the American dream</i> [chapters 1, 2 (1-36)]
October 10	Messner, <i>Crime and the American dream</i> [chapters 3, 4 (37-89)] <b>*Position Paper 1 due*</b>
October 13	Messner, <i>Crime and the American dream</i> [chapter 5 (90-110)]
October 17	Bohm, <i>Critical theories</i> [chapter 7 (103-132)] Jewkes, <i>Ten points of realism</i> [chapter 4 (42-55)]
October 20	Bohm, <i>Conclusion</i> [chapter 8 (133-140)] Jewkes, <i>Perspectives in criminological theory</i> [chapter 2 (19-35)] Jewkes, <i>The development of feminist perspectives on crime</i> [chapter 6 (66-78)] <b>* One page term paper proposal due*</b> <b>* Students receive assignment Position Paper 2 *</b>
October 24	<i>The Rich Get Richer</i>
October 27	<i>The Rich Get Richer</i>
October 31	<i>The Rich Get Richer</i>
November 3	<i>The Rich Get Richer</i>
November 7	Yewkes, Part II, <i>'Mythologies' of Crime</i> [chapters 7, 8 (81-104)] <b>* Position Paper 2 due*</b>
November 10	Yewkes, Part II, <i>'Mythologies' of Crime</i> [chapters 9, 10 (105-129)]
November 14	Yewkes, Part II, <i>'Mythologies' of Crime</i> [chapters 11, 12, 13 (130-166)]
November 17	Yewkes, Part III, <i>Crime and Social Stratification</i> [chapters 14, 15 (167-208)]
November 21	Yewkes, Part III, <i>Crime and Social Stratification</i> [chapters 16 (209-218)] <b>* Last opportunity to get feedback on your paper draft*</b>
November 24	<b>Thanksgiving</b>
November 28	Yewkes, Part III, <i>Crime and Social Stratification</i> [chapters 17,18, 19,20 (219-250)]
December 1	Yewkes, Part IV, <i>The Criminal Justice System</i> [chapters 23,24,25 (275-314)]
December 5	Yewkes, Part IV, <i>The Criminal Justice System</i> [chapters 26,27,28 (315-350)]
December 8	<b>* Final Term paper due*</b>