

**Soc 308: The Sociology of Deviance and Crime**  
Fall 2008

**Instructors**

Professor John Hagan, [j-hagan@northwestern.edu](mailto:j-hagan@northwestern.edu)

Office Hours: 1812 Chicago Ave., Sociology Room 203, and by appointment.

**Course Description**

This course will address the social and legal origins of crime and crime control. We will critically examine criminology, sociology and legal theories that explain the causes of crime and other misdeeds. We will cover diverse types of crime, including: street crime, violent crime, white-collar crime, occupational crime, war crimes and torture. In addition, the course will look at the punishment of crime, including policing, prosecution, sentencing and mass incarceration. There will be a particular focus on how crime and crime control impacts social inequality and divisions around race, class and gender.

**Evaluation**

Exam I	35%
Exam II	35%
Final Paper	30%

The exams are non-cumulative, equally based on lectures and reading consisting of short answer essay questions. The paper requires students to use any or all of the theories considered in the course to analyze events and relationships in the film *American Gangster*.

**Northwestern Plagiarism Policy**

Students are expected to adhere to guidelines for proper attribution of sources. Please review the guidelines at [www.northwestern.edu/uacc/plagiar.html](http://www.northwestern.edu/uacc/plagiar.html). Refer any questions about proper citation to the instructor.

**Required Reading**

Course Packet (available at Quartet Copies, Clark Street)

# Class and Reading Schedule

## **Tues., Sept. 23<sup>rd</sup> Introduction**

Howard Becker, "Whose Side Are We On?" In *the Outsiders*, New York Free Press.

## **Thurs., Sept. 25<sup>th</sup> Defining and Measuring "the Crime of Crimes"**

Daniel Chirot and Jennifer Edwards, "Making Sense the Senseless." *Contexts*, Spring, 2003

Washington Post, "Darfur's Real Death Toll," April 24, 2005

Sam Dealey, "An Atrocity That Needs No Exaggeration," *New York Times*, August 12, 2007, And "Appended Corruption" published in *New York Times* on August 22, 2007.

John Hagan and Alberto Palloni, "Death in Darfur," *Science*, September 15, 2006.

Nickolas Kristof, "The Death Toll in Darfur," *New York Times Select*, August 14, 2007.

Nickolas Kristof, "Tortured, but not Silent," *New York Times*, August 31, 2008.

## **Tues., Sept. 30<sup>th</sup> Introduction to Theories of Crime/Structural Theories**

Steven Messner and Richard Rosenfeld, *Crime and the American Dream*, Belmont, CA: Wadsworth Press (1993), Chapter 1-3.

John Hagan and Bill McCarthy, *Mean Streets: Youth Crime and Homelessness*, New York: Cambridge University Press (1997), Chapter 3.

Bob Herbert, "A Voice Raised in Chicago," *New York Times*, July 12, 2007.

## **Thurs., Oct. 2<sup>nd</sup> Opportunity Theories- Organized Crime**

Steven Messner and Richard Rosenfeld, *Crime and the American Dream*, Belmont, CA: Wadsworth Press (1993), Chapter 4-5.

Darell Steffensmeier and J.T. Ulmer, "Black and White Control of Number Gambling: A Cultural Assets-Social Capital View." *American Sociological Review*, 2006.

Thomas Schweich, "If Afghanistan a Narco-State?" *New York Times Magazine*, July 27, 2008. pp. 45-

## **Tues, Oct. 7<sup>th</sup> Immigration and Crime**

New York Times, Snapshot: Global Migration, June 24, 2007.

Rumbaut, R.G. and W. Ewing, "The Myth of Immigrant Criminality," On-Line.

Robert Sampson, "Open Door Don't Invite Criminals: Is Increased Immigration Behind the Drop in Crime?" New York Times,

John Hagan and Ronit Dinovitzer, "The Symbolic Violence of the Crime Immigration Nexus: Mobility Mythology in the Americas," Crime Prevention and Policy, 2007.

## **Thurs., October 9<sup>th</sup> Women & Crime**

World Health Organization, "Violence Against Women by Intimate Partners," Chapter 2, WHO Multi-Country Study on Women's Health and Domestic Violence Against Women, 2006/7

Ilene Nagel and Barry L. Johnson, "The Role of Gender in a Structured Sentencing System: Equal Treatment, Policy Choices, and the Sentencing of Female Offenders under the United States Sentencing Guidelines," Journal of Criminal Law and Criminology 85:181-197 (1994).

Sentencing Hypothetical

## **Tues., Oct. 14<sup>th</sup> Exam I Review**

## **Thurs., Oct. 16<sup>th</sup> Exam I**

## **Tues., Oct. 21<sup>st</sup> Symbolic Interactions Theories**

John Hagan, Crime and Disrepute, Thousand Oaks, CA: Pine Forge Press (1994), Chapter 2.

Howard Becker, Outsiders: Studies in the Sociology of Deviance, New York: The Free Press (1991 [1963]), Chapter 3 "Becoming a Marijuana User"

Jack Katz, Seduction of Crime: A Chilling Exploration of the Criminal Mind- From Juvenile Delinquency to Cold Blooded Murder, New York: Basic Books (1988), Chapters 1 & 8.

Nicholas Kristof, "The Face of Genocide," New York Times, November 19, 2006.

### **Thurs., Oct 23<sup>rd</sup> Crimes of Politics and Work**

Donald Shields and John Cragan, "The Political Profiling of Elceted Democratic Officials," ePlurbis Media, February 18, 2007.

Paul Krugman, "Department of Injustice," New York Times, March 7, 2007.

Roxy Caraway, "Interview with Donald Shields," ePlurbis Media, April 27, 2007.

U.S. Department of Justice, "An Investigation of Allegations of Politicized Hiring by Monica Goodling and Other Staff in the Office of the Attorney General," July 28, 2008, pp. 135-140.

### **Tues., Oct. 28<sup>th</sup> Conflict Theories of Crime**

Gary LaFree, *Losing Legitimacy: Street Crime and the Decline of Social Institutions in America*, Boulder, Colorado: Westview Press (1998), Chapter 6.

Elijah Anderson, "the Police and the Black Male," In *Streetwise*, University of Chicago Press, pp. 190-206.

Bob Herbert, "Arrested While Grieving," New York Times, May 26, 2007.

### **Thurs., Oct 30<sup>th</sup> Imprisonment in America**

Chris Uggen and Jeff Manza, "Democratic Contraction? The Political Consequences of Felon Disenfranchisement in the United States." *American Sociological Review* 67:777-803 (2002).

Bruce Western and Katherine Beckett, "How Unregulated is the U.S. Labor Market: The Penal System as a Labor Market Institution," *American Sociological Review* 67:1030-1037; 1053-1054

Holly Foster and John Hagan, "The Mass Imprisonment of American Parents," *Annals*, In Press.

### **Tues., Nov 4<sup>th</sup> The Politics of Crime**

Vesla Weaver, "Frontlash: Race and the Development of Punitive Crime Policy." *Studies in American Political Development* 21 (2007, Fall): 230-265.

**Thurs., Nov 6<sup>th</sup> Film: American Gangster**

**Tues., Nov 11<sup>th</sup> Film: American Gangster Cont'd**

**Thurs., Nov 13<sup>th</sup> Paper Due**

**Tues., Nov 18<sup>th</sup>**

John Hagan, Wenona Rymond-Richmond and Patricia Parker, "The Criminology of Genocide: The Death and Rape of Darfur." *Criminology* 2005.

Samantha Power, "Dying and Darfur," *The New Yorker*, August, 2004.

**Thurs., Nov 20<sup>th</sup> War Crimes and Crimes Against Humanity**

**Tues., Nov 25<sup>th</sup> Crimes of Politics**

John Hagan, *Justice in the Balkans: Prosecuting War Crimes at the Hague Tribunal*, Chicago: University of Chicago Press (2003), Chapters 5-6.

Seymour Hersh, "Annals of National Security," *New Yorker*, June 25, 2007.

Jeffery Rosen, "Conscience of a Conservative," *New York Times Magazine*, September 9, 2007.

Wesley Clark and Karl Raustiala, "Why Terrorists Aren't Soldiers," *New York Times*, August 8, 2007.

**Thurs., Nov 27<sup>th</sup> Thanksgiving**

**Tues., Dec. 2<sup>nd</sup> Reading Week**

**Thurs., Dec. 4<sup>th</sup> Reading Week**

**Thurs., Dec. 11th Exam II**

