

Mary Baldwin University
College of Business and Professional Studies
Criminal Justice Program
CJ211: Criminology
Fall 2020

Instructor- Beth Easterling, PhD
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Required Texts

Criminology: The Core, 7th Edition, by Larry J. Siegel. (Cengage Learning)

Ghettoside: A True Story of Murder in America, by Jill Leovy

**Other required readings will be posted on Canvas.

Course Description:

This course introduces students to social scientific theory explaining crime and criminal behavior, with an emphasis on sociological theory. This is an introductory- level class focusing on the basic principles of criminology from a sociological perspective. Course topics include basic concepts, different methods of measuring crime, diverse theories of criminology, and a focus on the social origins of crime and criminal behavior.

COURSE FORMAT AND POLICIES

Late work: Late assignments lose 10 points per day late, unless you have made prior arrangements (which include written permission from Dr. Easterling because of an extenuating circumstance).

Participation: This course involves a significant amount of discussion and class participation. It is expected that you read all assigned material prior to due dates for discussion activities in order to apply the material you have read. Discussion, questions, and the exchange of ideas pertaining to class material are imperative for success in this course. Do not use technology (unless it is being used for an in-class project) during class time.

Attendance: Students are expected to attend all classes—virtually or in-seat depending on your personal situation. Students are allowed 3 unexcused absences. If you are missing class because you are sick, a family or personal emergency, or a school-related reason, these absences are excused. You **MUST** contact the professor **PRIOR** to class to have an absence excused. After 3 unexcused absences, you lose one point per absence from your final grade. In-seat students must correctly wear masks at all times.

Please be aware of the following:

1. Respect every individual in the class. Disrespect of any kind will not be tolerated.
2. Please be advised that I utilize Canvas in order to post notes and other handouts. You are responsible for reading/printing handouts on Canvas (and

text) before class. I will also send emails. If you do not regularly check your MBU email, you will want to do so, or make arrangements with a classmate. I am NOT able to accommodate the use of outside email addresses. I generally reply to emails sent to me within 2 days. If you do not receive a reply from me within 3 days, assume that I did not receive the email and please send again or make arrangements to meet with me in person.

3. Please be respectful in email communication, just as you are respectful in person. For example, an email to a professor could begin with “Dear Dr. Easterling” but never “Wuz up Beth?” I will not respond to unprofessional emails. In email communication, include the course number (CJ 211) in your email, preferably in the subject line.
4. CELL PHONE/LAPTOP POLICY: Cell phones, etc. are NOT allowed in class. Laptops may be used for in-class activities. Students can lose 1 point from their final grade EACH time a cell phone, etc. is used when not called for due to class activity.
5. Please note: This semester the instructor may have some personal considerations that will take her out of the classroom, potentially for days or weeks at a time. During this time, you will have in-class assignments run by the TA, movies, or you will have online assignments (i.e. Discussion Board posts) to keep up with. It is the student’s responsibility to keep up with assignments, readings, and exploring the presentation material on Canvas EVEN IF there are non-traditional, in-class meetings.
6. This course requires A LOT of reading. Make sure you plan time appropriately.
7. Failure to follow any written or verbal class policies will result in being withdrawn from the class. Disruptive students will face disciplinary action.

GRADING AND ASSIGNMENTS

The final grade for the course will be determined by the following**:

Mid-term --	100 points (20%)
Chapter Assignments (10 @ 20 pts each)--	200 points (40%)
Book Review--	100 points (20%)
Final exam --	100 points (20%)

TOTAL -----
500 points

Percentage	Course Grade	Minimum Points Needed
93-100	A	462
90-92	A-	447
87-89	B+	432
83-86	B	412
80-82	B-	397
77-79	C+	382
73-76	C	362
70-72	C-	347
67-69	D+	332
63-66	D	312

60-62	D-	297
0-59	F	---

****Points and assignments subject to change with written notice by professor**

Assignments

Exams: (100 points each) Each exam (mid-term and final) will consist of multiple choice, short answer, and/or essay questions based on readings and class lectures/discussions. Exams will be taken on Canvas, outside of class. Resources may be used (but not people other than Dr. Easterling) and there is a time limit on how long students may use for the exams.

Chapter Assignments (CA) (10 worth 20 points each--200 total points): For each of 10 of the chapters we explore in the text, students will be required to complete a short writing/research assignment. Be sure to FULLY complete each assignment. Each assignment is due on FRIDAY—these assignments will typically be in lieu of formal class for on campus courses. The assignment will be due the Saturday before the due date and will be available until 11:59 pm on the Friday it is due. Each assignment consists of a rubric and will involve reading each chapter and some outside research. COMPLETE ALL parts to ALL questions and follow RUBRIC! Assignments are described and are to be turned in via Canvas.

Book Review (100 points):

Students will complete a review on to the required reading of the book *Ghettoside*. Reading suggestions are included on the timeline. Students must independently read the book over the course of the semester. Then, students will analyze the book from an academic, criminological perspective in their book review. This assignment is designed to encourage students to read “journalistic” accounts of criminal activity to put real-world incidents into a theoretical, academic context. The paper should be organized as follows:

1. Summarize the book *Ghettoside*. Who were the main characters?) What was the setting? What happened? What do you think was the main part? Describe the scene in the book that you found most powerful. Why was it the most powerful? (20 points)
2. What TYPES of crime did you see in the book? Give specific examples. (40 points)
3. Use a theory (or theories) that you learned over the course of the semester to explain the connection between the social environment and the criminal activity in the book. Be specific—be sure to provide examples from the book and from theories. (40 points)

Students will cite all sources in the text and provide a works cited list, correctly formatted in APA or ASA style, at the conclusion of the narrative. Be sure to correctly

cite ALL sources. This paper should be a minimum of 4 FULL typed pages (double-spaced, 12-point font, not including cover page or references).

EXTRA CREDIT: For 25 points, you may write a movie review on ONE of the movies listed on the syllabus (*The Italian Job—2003; Zootopia*). To receive points, you must write a minimum of two pages that explains the movie with its respective theory (*The Italian Job—Rational Choice Theory; Zootopia—Labeling Theory*). You must include SPECIFIC examples from the movie as they relate to SPECIFIC parts of the theory.

Participation: Points off of the final grade will be lost for the following: lateness (1 point), more than 3 UNEXCUSED absences (1 point), cell phone/technology use outside of class project (1 point), sleeping (1 point), disrespectful/inappropriate behavior (varies). (For online students, this includes responses to requests/emails, etc.)

*****Note: This is a TENTATIVE syllabus/timeline.**

The instructor reserves the right to change/modify this syllabus (including assignments and due dates) with ample notice to all students.***

TENTATIVE TIMELINE

Reading Assignment

Assignments Due

	Reading Assignment	Assignments Due
<p><u>Weeks 1 and 2: 8/24-8/30 and 8/31-9/6</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - MODULE 1 - Subjectivity of Crime - Crime and Criminology: An Introduction - SEPT 2: Zoom Guest, Dr. Grant Tate 	<p>Chapter 1</p> <p>(Suggestion: Chapter 1 in Ghettoside)</p>	<p>CA1—Friday 9/6</p>
<p><u>Week 3: 9/7-9/13</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - MODULE 2 - The Nature and Extent of Crime - Understanding academic resources 	<p>Chapter 2 (Monday)</p> <p>Article on Sentencing and Victim Gender on Canvas (Wednesday)</p> <p>(Chapters 2-3 in Ghettoside)</p>	<p>CA2—Friday (no formal class if we finish our discussion on Wednesday)</p>
<p><u>Week 4: 9/14-9/20</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - MODULE 3 - Victims and victimization - MODULE 4 	<p>Chapter 3 AND sample Victim Impact Statement and DC Kids article on Canvas (Monday)</p>	<p>CA3—Friday (no formal class)</p>

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Rational Choice Theory 	<p>Chapter 4 (Wednesday) (Chapter 4 in <i>Ghettoside</i>)</p>	
<p><u>Week 5: 9/21-9/27</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - MODULE 4 - Rational Choice Theory <p>(If possible) WATCH: <i>The Italian Job</i></p>	<p>(Chapters 5-6 in <i>Ghettoside</i>)</p>	<p>CA4—Friday IN CLASS discussion on <i>Ghettoside</i></p>
<p><u>Week 6: 9/28-10/4</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - MODULE 4 (Mon) - Rational Choice Theory—Death Penalty - MODULE 5 (Wed) - Trait Theories—on your own! - SEPTEMBER 30: Zoom Guest, Dr. Tate - MODULE 6 (Fri) - Social Structure Theories 	<p>Chapter 5 (Chapters 7-9 in <i>Ghettoside</i>)</p>	<p>CA5—Friday—turn in via Module 5)</p>
<p><u>Week 7: 10/5-10/11</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - MODULE 6 - Social Structure Theories - Class activity (Apple Day, Oct. 6) 	<p>Chapter 6 Begin in-class activity (Chapters 10-12 in <i>Ghettoside</i>)</p>	<p>CA6—Friday Prepare for in-class activity on Monday</p>
<p><u>Week 8: 10/12-10/18</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Review of Trait and Social Structure Theories - Friday: TBD 	<p>IN CLASS ACTIVITY Monday Wednesday—no class—complete midterm (Activity in Chapter 6 Module; midterm in Assignments)</p>	<p>Monday—in-class activity Midterm WEDNESDAY (no formal class)</p>
<p><u>Week 9: 10/19-10/25</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - MODULE 7 	<p>Chapter 7</p>	<p>CA7--Friday</p>

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Social Process Theories 	(Chapters 13-15 in Ghettoside)	
<p><u>Week 10: 10/26-11/1</u> (If possible) WATCH: <i>Zootopia</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - MODULE 7 - Techniques of Neutralization Activity - Social Process Theories (Labeling Theory) 	(Chapters 16-18 in Ghettoside)	IN CLASS discussion on <i>Ghettoside</i>
<p><u>Week 11: 11/2-11/8</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - MODULE 8 - Developmental Theories 	<p>Chapter 9 AND link on workforce development (https://community.nicic.gov/blogs/offender_employment/archive/2009/11/09/creating-a-workforce-development-culture-to-reduce-reincarceration.aspx) AND browse Summary in Brief on Inmate Profiles</p> <p>(Chapters 19-21 in Ghettoside)</p>	CA9—Friday
<p><u>Week 12: 11/9-11/15</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - MODULE 9 - Interpersonal Violence - MODULE 10 - Public Order Crimes <p>***NOTE: Sensitive topics will be discussed, including sexual assault and various types of violence. Please let Dr. Easterling know if you have any concerns BEFORE class.</p>	<p>Chapter 10 Brock Turner case and Steubenville Rape Document Also, browse the Victimization Data document on Canvas for violent crime data</p> <p>Chapter 13 and Diary of a Sex slave on Canvas</p> <p>(Chapters 22-24 in Ghettoside)</p>	<p>CA10—Friday</p> <p>SUGGESTION: Turn in <i>Ghettoside</i> (not due until November 22, but will receive 10 points of extra credit if turned in by November 15)</p>

<p><u>Week 13: 11/16-11/22</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - MODULE 11 - Wrap-up 	<p>Reach Chapter 14</p> <p>Read “How to get to a world without prisons” AND listen to “Podcast: Prison Abolition?” on Canvas</p> <p>(BE SURE TO COMPLETE READING Ghettsoside)</p>	<p>CA13—Friday</p> <p>SUGGESTION: Turn in <i>Ghettsoside</i> (not due until November 22, but will receive 5 points of extra credit if turned in by November 22)</p> <p>Class Discussion to wrap up...world without prisons??</p> <p>[To prepare, come to class with notes about 2 things you disagree with and 2 things you agree with from the reading “How to get to a world without prisons” AND your thoughts on the podcast “Prison Abolition?” [IF you email these notes to Dr. Easterling by 11/16, you will receive extra credit]</p>
<p><u>Week 14: 11/23-11/29</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - On Reading day, if not before: Chapter 14 - Thanksgiving Break 	<p>Remember to read Chapter 14 ON YOUR OWN (there are a few exam questions regarding this chapter)</p> <p>(BE SURE TO COMPLETE READING Ghettsoside)</p>	
<p><u>Week 15: 11/30-12/4</u> EXAM WEEK</p>		<p>Book Review of <i>Ghettsoside</i> Due <u>MONDAY, November 30</u></p> <p>Final Exam due by <u>THURSDAY December 3</u></p>

General Guidelines- writing assignments must be typed and double-spaced using 12 point font and must have 1 inch margins.

Exams and Papers- Make-up exams WILL NOT be given unless you have made prior arrangements with the professor personally. **Late assignments are not accepted as you have advance notice of all due dates. No exceptions.** In the unlikely event that I must change a due date, I will announce the change in class and post this announcement on Canvas. Cheating **WILL NOT** be tolerated. Any activity that is deemed suspicious by the instructor will be dealt with immediately.

Academic Integrity

You are responsible for keeping your work/actions from having even the appearance of plagiarism or cheating. Examples of plagiarism include copying the work of someone else (an author, someone who is taking/has taken the class, or anyone else) and turning it in as your own work or looking at someone else's exam to get answers. Any evidence of academic dishonesty on a paper/exam will result in a zero for that assignment and possible failure of the course.