

Dr. Shearon Lowery

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Shearon.Lowery@fiu.eduNATURE OF THE COURSE

This course is a survey of the field of criminology. Primary emphasis is placed upon the theoretical explanations of the causes of criminal behavior – especially violent acts. Additionally, types of crimes, rationales for punishment and current trends in reducing crime are examined. Social justice is a continuing issue throughout the semester. Numerous controversial topics will be examined (e.g., Is our society producing more serial killers? What is the role of guns and the media in creating violence and/or fear of violence? Is there a police personality? Should the United States have the death penalty; if so, under what circumstances? Should corporate criminals be subject to tougher sentencing, given the pollution of our air water and food?).

REQUIRED TEXTS:

Reid, CRIME AND CRIMINOLOGY, Oxford University Press, (12th edition)

Ressler and Shachtman, WHOEVER FIGHTS MONSTERS, 1992.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

Only three major exams will be given (midterm, second and final). If a student passes the first and second exam, they are not required to take the final exam. If taken, the grade on the final is averaged with the first and second exams and collectively they comprise 90% of your grade. These exams will consist of multiple choice, true/false, identifications, and essay questions. To assist in your preparation for the exams, Study Guides will be prepared by the professor and distributed via email to students in the class. Tests are compiled using the study guide. A minor test will be given early in the semester on the content of this syllabus. The breakdown of all the points available on tests is as follows:

Syllabus Test/Midterm/Second Exam Taken

Test 1	On Syllabus	10 points	10% of total
Test 2	Midterm	100 points	45% of total
Test 3	Second	100 points	45% of total

Syllabus Test/Midterm/Second/Final Exam Taken

Test 1	On Syllabus	10 points	10% of total
Test 2	Midterm	100 points	30% of total
Test 3	Second	100 points	30% of total
Test 4	Final	100 points	30% of total

Extra credit points are added to the total number of points earned from midterm, second and final exams and then the total divided by the appropriate number for an average.

To add to the number of points, a student may write a reaction paper on either guest speakers or selected documentaries. Points received will usually range from 0 to 5 for a single paper. Occasionally, a paper will receive more than 5 points, indicating exceptional quality. The average paper will receive 3 points, those above average 4 or 5 depending on the quality. However, the papers must include **all** of the **components** described in the syllabus below. It should be noted that papers early in the semester will, by nature, be simpler to do because the student will have less course material to relate to the discussion. Later in the semester, as we cover additional material, the discussion will by necessity become more complex. You should strive to improve the thoughtfulness of your papers as the semester progresses. It is not required to use outside sources in these papers but if you do so, you must cite them appropriately.

In essence, reaction papers consist of three parts: (1) A summary of content; (2) Honest personal reaction and evaluation; (3) Connection of textbook content/lectures with information provided by the guest speaker or documentary. Length of paper will depend on documentary/speaker but usually will average three (3) to five (5) pages. **Reaction papers are optional – not required. Points will be awarded on the merits of the paper.** Papers are due one week after the speaker/video, and are to be turned in during class. If you are unable to attend class on the due date then email the paper to me on the due date and turn in a printed copy later. Papers must be typed and double-spaced.

Simply turning in “something” does not automatically add to a student’s grade. Maximum number of total reaction paper points shall not exceed 25. No papers will be accepted the last two (2) weeks of class. As these papers are done for extra credit, **No late papers will be accepted.** Do not plagiarize. If you are not familiar with FIU’s policy on plagiarism, please review it. **Regular attendance is expected. However, please stay home when you are sick, especially when you have a contagious disease. In addition, should you encounter any other situation that interferes with class attendance on an extended basis, please inform the professor.** If you attend class, you are expected to sign the attendance sheet circulated to document your presence; if you do not sign, officially you were not there. If you sign for another student, you risk academic penalties. In

awarding course grades, extra consideration will be given for both exemplary attendance and constructive classroom participation as discussion of issues enhances understanding. Excessive absence may result in a lower grade.

Some topics listed on this syllabus will require more class time than others. Therefore, be sure to follow the syllabus and read all required assignments. Since lecture time usually adds to the readings rather than just rehashing them, **not all chapters will be discussed in class; students are, however, responsible for the material contained in all assigned chapters.** In addition, students are encouraged to ask questions about the assigned reading either in class or during office hours.

REMINDER: Be sure to read and understand FIU's policy on plagiarism.

GRADE SCALE

A = 93-100	B+ = 87-89	C+ = 77-79	D = 60 – 69	F = 59 and below
A- = 90-92	B = 84-86	C = 70-76		
	B- = 80-83			

COURSE OUTLINE FOR CRIMINOLOGY

- A. History of Criminology
 1. Classical School
 2. Neoclassical School
 3. Positive School
 4. Rationales for punishment based upon historical Schools
 Required Reading: Reid, Chapter 3

- B. Crime and Criminal Law
 1. Legal Definition of Crime
 2. Purpose of Criminal Law
 3. Criminal Defenses
 4. Case Study: Andrea Yates
 Required Reading: Reid, Chapter 1

- C. Contemporary Theories of Criminology
 1. Anomie/Strain
 2. Control
 3. Labeling
 4. Social Learning
 5. Conflict
 6. Application of sociological theories to Richard Kuklinski (a.k.a The Iceman)
 Required Reading: Reid, Chapters 5 and 6

- D. Biological and Psychological Approaches to Crime Causation
 Required Reading: Reid, Chapter 4.

- E. The Measurement of Crime
 1. Uniform Crime Reports
 2. National Incident-Based Reporting System (NIBRS)
 3. National Crime Victimization Survey Data
 4. Self-Report Data
 5. Other Sources of Crime Data
 6. Analysis of Crime Data collection
 7. Characteristics of offenders
 8. Characteristics of crime victims
 Required Reading: Reid, Chapter 2

MID-TERM EXAM: To Be Announced Two (2) Weeks in Advance

F. Serious Violent Crime: An Overview

1. Murder
2. Robbery
3. Aggravated Assault
4. Rape
5. Domestic Violence
6. Analyzing child molesters-- a growing crisis or a modern day witch hunt?
Case Study: the Friedmans.

Required Reading: Reid, Chapter 7
Ressler and Shachtman, "Whoever Fights Monsters"

G. Capital Punishment: Debates and Social Justice

1. Current Issues
2. American bar Association Reports
3. Legal Costs

Required Reading: Reid, pp. 485-491

H. Property Crimes

1. Serious Property crimes
2. Less Serious Property Crimes
3. Modern Theft

Required Reading: Reid, Chapter 8.

I. Business World Crimes

1. Corporate Crime
2. White Collar Crime
3. Fraud and Related Crimes
4. Computer Crimes
5. Political Crimes
 - a. Political crimes against the government
 - b. Political crimes by the government

Required Reading: Reid, Chapter 9

Case Study: **Gasland II**

J. Drug Trafficking and Organized Crime

1. Illegal Drug Trafficking Dynamics
2. The Mafia: Reality or Myth
3. The Role of Organized Crime in Society

Required Reading: Reid, Chapter 10

K. Overview of United States Criminal Justice System

1. Special Characteristics
2. Selected Constitutional Rights of Defendants
3. Defendants' Rights versus Victims' Rights

Required Reading: Reid Chapter 11

L. Court Systems, Sentencing, and the Color of justice

1. Types of sentences
2. The sentencing process
3. Sentence disparity
4. Race and Ethnicity Discrimination
5. Gender Discrimination

Required Reading: Reid, Chapter 13 pp. 475-485

M. Societal Reaction to Crime: Corrections

1. Types of Institutions for the Confinement of Adult Offenders
2. The Crisis of Numbers
3. The Inmate's Social World
4. Prison Violence
5. Community Corrections

Required Reading: Reid, Chapters 14 and 15

SECOND EXAM: To Be Announced
FINAL EXAM: Date Determined by FIU Final Exam Schedule.