

## **Criminal Justice 496 - Communities and Crime**

**Fall 2010**

**Mondays and Wednesdays, 5:00-6:20pm, Lucy Stone Hall B117**

**Course web page is available on <https://sakai.rutgers.edu/portal>**

PROFESSOR: Lauren Krivo  
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*Course Overview:* Why do some communities have so much more crime than others? What social conditions make it so much more likely for crime and violence to flourish in some neighborhoods while other are relatively free from these problems? How do race, class, and gender inequality play into these differences in crime? And, how do the police and prisons connect with communities to help or hinder the crime problems faced by local areas? In this course, we will address these and other questions to learn about the ways in which crime and violence are connected with various aspects of community context. We will discuss both longstanding theoretical approaches and current research about what causes crime within local communities, what consequences crime and violence have for neighborhoods, and how policing and imprisonment influence crime, violence, and the people who live in areas where these are everyday problems.

### Required Texts

Jones, Nikki. 2010. *Between Good and Ghetto: African American Girls and Inner-City Violence*. New Brunswick, NJ: Rutgers University Press.

All other readings noted on the syllabus are available on the sakai class webpage.

### Requirements

1. A written letter of introduction is required of each member of the class. These will provide a way for you to get to know your classmates. The letter is due in class on Wednesday September 8. The letters will be read to one another in class on that day. This assignment is worth 2% of your course grade.
2. Each student will complete a written review and a presentation of a recent empirical article on an issue related to communities and crime. You will provide me with your preferences for the topic of this article and I will assign you to topics based upon these requests. The due date for the paper and presentation correspond with the date for the topic as listed below on the course outline and on the article preference sheet that I will pass out. A description of the required content of the paper and presentation will be passed out early in the semester. The article review and presentation count for 10% of your course grade.

3. A written essay providing a critical evaluation and reaction to the book *Between Good and Ghetto* is due in class on the first day that this book is discussed. A description of the required content of this paper will be passed out early in the semester. This assignment is worth 15% of your course grade.
4. Students are required to conduct a research project in which they compare two or more communities in relation to an issue covered in the class. You will then make a presentation to the class reporting on your research question, hypotheses, and findings. Finally, you will write a paper summarizing all of your work. You may work alone or in groups of 2-3 students. A description of the requirements for this project will be passed out early in the semester along with a set of general topics for the project. Students will indicate their preferences for project topics and whether they would like to work in a group. I will assign you to a topic and group based upon these preferences. Note that some in-class planning time will be provided. This assignment is worth 20% of your course grade.
5. One in-class midterm examination will be given during the semester as scheduled on the course outline below. This exam is worth 20% of your course grade.
6. A non-cumulative final examination will be given during the regularly scheduled final examination time. The time of this exam is also noted below on the course outline. This final exam is worth 20% of your course grade.
7. Attendance and active participation is an essential part of this course. This is a small discussion-based class and the success of the course depends upon the active participation of all class members. Attendance and participation are worth 13% of your course grade. If you must miss class, you are responsible for getting notes from someone else in the class and for finding out about any announcements made during class.

### Note

No make-up exams or late assignments will be permitted unless you contact me ***PRIOR TO THE EXAM OR THE DUE DATE.***

### Academic Misconduct

Academic honesty is a subject that I take very seriously. I encourage all students to familiarize themselves with the Rutgers University policies and procedures on academic honesty, available at <http://academicintegrity.rutgers.edu/integrity.shtml>. All violations of academic integrity, for example, cheating in examinations or plagiarizing others' work for your written assignments, will be referred to the appropriate authorities and sanctioned accordingly.

### Students With Disabilities

In accordance with University policy, if you have a documented disability and require accommodations to obtain equal access in this course, please contact me at the beginning of the semester. Students with disabilities must be registered with Office of Student Disability Services and must provide verification of their eligibility for such accommodations.

## COURSE OUTLINE

The dates provided here are tentative and could change depending on how this class proceeds. In other words, some topics may take a bit more time than indicated below and some may take somewhat less time than indicated here. Any changes in dates, including changes in exam dates will be announced in class. You are responsible for finding out about any announcements made in class.

### **I. INTRODUCTION: CRIME IN COMMUNITY CONTEXT**

**Wednesday, September 1** - Introduction to the Course

**Monday, September 6** - Labor Day, No classes

**Wednesday, September 8** - Patterns of Crime Across Communities

*Letter of Introduction due in class.*

**Monday, September 13** - What Is Community? Why Should We Study Crime Within a Community Context?

Reading: Orum, Anthony. 1998. "The Urban Imagination of Sociologists: The Centrality of Place." *Sociological Quarterly* 39:1-10.

### **II. EXPLAINING COMMUNITY CRIME PATTERNS**

**Wednesday, September 15** - Social Disorganization Theory

Reading: Bursik, Robert J., Jr. 2000. "The Systemic Theory of Neighborhood Crime Rates." Pp. 87-103 in *Of Crime and Criminality: The Use of Theory in Everyday Life*, edited by Sally S. Simpson. Thousand Oaks, CA: Pine Forge Press.

**Monday, September 20** - The Role of Collective Efficacy

Reading: Sampson, Robert J. Stephen W. Raudenbush, and Felton Earls. "Collective Efficacy and Crime." Pp. 112-117 in *Criminological Theory: Past to Present, Essential Readings*, edited by Francis T. Cullen and Robert Agnew. New York: Oxford University Press.

**Wednesday, September 22** - Informal Social Control, Further Considerations

Reading: Pattillo, Mary. 1998. "Sweet Mothers and Gangbangers: Managing Crime in a Black Middle-Class Neighborhood." *Social Forces* 76: 747-774.

**Monday, September 27** - No class, project work time

**Wednesday, September 29** - Informal Social Control, The New Parochialism

Reading: Carr, Patrick. 2003. "The New Parochialism: The Implication of the Beltway Case for Arguments Concerning Informal Social Control." *American Journal of Sociology* 108:1249-1291.

Guest speaker, Professor Patrick Carr, Rutgers University.

**Monday, October 4** - Culture, The Code of the Street

Readings: Anderson, Elijah. 1994. "The Code of the Streets." *The Atlantic Monthly* 273(5):80-94.

Stewart, Eric A. and Ronald L. Simons. 2009. "The Code of the Street and African-American Adolescent Violence." Washington, DC: U.S. Department of Justice, Office of Justice Programs, National Institute of Justice. NCJ 223509.

**Wednesday, October 6** - Urban Decline, The Role of Structural Disadvantage

Readings: Krivo, Lauren J. and Ruth D. Peterson. 1996. "Extremely Disadvantaged Neighborhoods and Urban Crime." *Social Forces* 75:619-650.

**Monday, October 11** - Disorder

Readings: Kelling, George L. and James Q. Wilson. 1982. "Broken Windows: The Police and Neighborhood Safety." *Atlantic Magazine* March:29-38.

Sampson, Robert J. and Stephen W. Raudenbush. 2001. "Disorder in Urban Neighborhoods--Does it Lead to Crime?" Washington, DC: U.S. Department of Justice, Office of Justice Programs, National Institute of Justice. NCJ 186049.

Sampson, Robert J. and Stephen W. Raudenbush. 2005. "Neighborhood Stigma and the Perception of Disorder." *Focus* 24:7-11.

**Wednesday, October 13** - Disorder continued

*Sidewalk*, film and discussion

**Monday, October 18** - Disorder Article Presentations and Review for Midterm Exam

**Wednesday, October 20** - Midterm

### **III. DIFFERENTIAL PATTERNS**

#### **Monday, October 25 & Wednesday, October 27 - Racial Differences in Crime**

Readings: Peterson, Ruth D. and Lauren J. Krivo. 2009. "Race, Residence, and Violent Crime: A Structure of Inequality." *Kansas Law Review* 57:903-933.

Vélez, Maria. 2006. "Toward an Understanding of the Lower Rates of Homicide in Latino versus Black Neighborhoods." Pp. 91-107 in *The Many Colors of Crime: Inequalities of Race, Ethnicity, and Crime in America*, edited by Ruth D. Peterson, Lauren J. Krivo, and John Hagan. New York: New York University Press.

#### **Monday, November 1 - Wednesday, November 3 - Gender and Violence**

Readings: Jones, Nikki. 2010. *Between Good and Ghetto: African American Girls and Inner-City Violence*. New Brunswick, NJ: Rutgers University Press.

*Paper on Between Good and Ghetto due in class on Monday, November 1.*

November 1 discussion will focus on the introduction - chapter 3.

November 3 discussion will focus on chapter 4 - conclusion.

#### **Monday, November 8 - Gender and Violence in the Inner City**

Guest speaker, Professor Jody Miller, Rutgers University-Newark.

#### **Wednesday, November 10 - Immigration and Crime in Communities**

Readings: Sampson, Robert J. 2008. "Rethinking Crime and Immigration." *Contexts* 7:28-33.

Decker, Scott H., Paul G. Lewis, Doris Marie Provine, Monica W. Varsanyi. 2009. "Immigration and Local Policing: Results from a National Survey of Law Enforcement Executives," Pp. 169-179 (Appendix G) in *The Role of Local Police: Striking a Balance between Immigration Enforcement and Civil Liberties*. Washington, DC: Police Foundation.

#### **Monday, November 15 - Differential Perceptions of Crime and Safety in Context**

Readings: Krivo, Lauren J., Ruth D. Peterson, and Diana Karafin. 2006. "Perceptions of Crime and Safety in Racially and Economically Distinct Neighborhoods." Pp. 237-255 in *The Many Colors of Crime: Inequalities of Race, Ethnicity and Crime in America*, edited by Ruth D. Peterson, Lauren J. Krivo, and John Hagan. New York: New York University Press.

### **III. CONNECTIONS OF COMMUNITIES WITH THE CRIMINAL JUSTICE SYSTEM**

#### **Wednesday, November 17 - Policing**

Readings: Skogan, Wesley G., Lynn Steiner, Jill DuBois, J. Erik Gudell, and Aimee Fagan. 2002. "Taking Stock: Community Policing in Chicago." Washington, DC: U.S. Department of Justice, Office of Justice Programs, National Institute of Justice. NCJ 189909.

Weitzer, Ronald. 2000. "White, Black, or Blue Cops? Race and Citizen Assessments of Police Officers." *Journal of Criminal Justice* 28:313-324.

#### **Monday, November 22 - Police and Youth in Communities**

Readings: Rod K. Brunson and Ronald Weitzer. 2009. "Police Relations with Black and White Youths in Different Urban Neighborhoods." *Urban Affairs Review* 44:858-885.

Solis, Carmen. Edwardo L. Portillos, and Rod K. Brunson. 2009. "Latino Youths' Experiences with and Perceptions of Involuntary Police Encounters." *The Annals of the American Academy of Political and Social Science*, 623:39-51.

#### **Wednesday, November 24 - Thanksgiving break, No classes**

#### **Monday, November 29 - The Impact of Incarceration on Communities**

Readings: Clear, Todd. 2007. "Chapter 4, Communities, Coercive Mobility, and Public Safety." Pp. 69-91 in *Imprisoning Communities: How Mass Incarceration Makes Disadvantaged Neighborhoods Worse*. New York: Oxford University Press.

Robert J. Sampson & Charles Loeffler. 2010. "Punishment's Place: the Local Concentration of Mass Incarceration." *Dædalus* Summer, 20-31.

#### **Wednesday, December 1 - Prisoner Reentry**

Readings: Petersilia, Joan. 2004. "What Works in Prisoner Reentry? Reviewing and Questioning the Evidence." *Federal Probation*, September, pp. 4-9.

Visher, Christy, Jennifer Yahner, and Nancy La Vigne. 2010. "Life after Prison: Tracking the Experiences of Male Prisoners Returning to Chicago, Cleveland, and Houston." Research Brief, May. Washington DC: The Urban Institute.

Guest speaker, William Goldsby, Founder and Chair, Reconstruction, Inc., Philadelphia.

**Monday, December 6** - Research Project Presentations

**Wednesday, December 8** - Research Project Presentations

**Monday, December 13** - Research Project Presentations

**TUESDAY DECEMBER 21 FINAL EXAM - 12:00pm-3:00pm in the regular classroom**