Criminology

SOCY 4014-100

Fall 2020

TuTh, 8:00-9:15

Meets Remotely

Instructor: Professor M.L. Radelet

163 Ketchum or Room 125, Institute of Behavioral Science

(303) 735-5811 (this rings in my research office in the Institute of

Behavioral Science, but sending an email is far preferable)

Radelet@Colorado.edu\*

\*Since I get a zillion emails every day, it would help a lot if you

put “Criminology – 8:00” in the subject line.

Office Hours: By appointment (phone or zoom)

Preferred pronouns: He/His/Hers

Preferred titles: Dr., Professor

Teaching Assistant: Ms. Ashley Blinkhorn

[Ashley.Blinkhorn@colorado.edu](mailto:Ashley.Blinkhorn@colorado.edu)

Office Hours: By appointment (phone or zoom)

I. Catalogue Description

Examines the scientific study of types of criminal behavior and explanations for criminal behavior, with special attention to social factors affecting criminal behavior. Prerequisite: SOCY 1001 or 1004 or 2044. Restricted to students with 57-180 credits (Juniors or Seniors).

II. Objectives

1. To foster development of a sociologically informed critical analysis of criminality, in all its forms, and the criminal justice system.

2. To assist the student in recognizing the distinction between questions of opinion vs. questions where empirical data can be used to generate answers.

3. To encourage the student in perceiving and demystifying the social forces and powers that influence and shape popular attitudes, beliefs, and ideologies about crime.

4. To help the student develop her or his thinking, writing, theoretical, and innovative skills.

III. Required Readings

1. University of Colorado Student Honor Code and supporting documents;

<https://www.colorado.edu/sccr/honor-code>

Please read the first few pages of “Honor Code and Procedures.” Students are prohibited from working with others on papers and quizzes. All papers are sent through a “plagiarism checker,” so I hope that no one would be so dumb that they would plagiarize anything.

2. Various materials on the web, or to be e-mailed. Students should expect to read

one or two newspaper articles or look at one or two web sites each week.

3. Books

Butterfield, Fox. All God’s Children: The Bosket Family and the American Tradition of Violence. New York: Knopf, 1995. Paper due on Canvas: Thursday, September 10, 8:00 am.

Bogira, Steve. Courtroom 302: A Year Behind the Scenes in an American Criminal Courthouse. New York: Knopf, 2005. Paper due on Canvas: Thursday, October 1, 8:00.

Alexander, Michelle. The New Jim Crow: Mass Incarceration in the Age of Colorblindness, 2012. We will be using the 10th anniversary edition, published in 2020. Paper due Thursday, October 22, 8:00 am.

Rideau, Wilbert. In the Place of Justice: A Story of Punishment and Deliverance. New York: Knopf, 2010. Paper due: Thursday, November 12, 8:00 am.

Prejean, Helen. Dead Man Walking. New York: Random House, 1993. Paper due: Thursday, December 3, 8:00 am.

IV. Special Note

The professor is a boomer, which carries certain advantages (e.g., worldwide reputation for research on capital punishment), but certain disadvantages (I am not so good with zoom or Canvas, but improving). My internet provider, Xfinity, also seems to go in and out. Expect difficulties and mistakes, and I apologize in advance. IF THE INTERNET GOES OUT DURING A LECTURE, PLEASE GIVE ME TEN MINUTES TO REAPPEAR.

V. Course Requirements

1. Class attendance. The final course grade will be reduced by one notch (e.g., from an "A" to an "A-") for each fourth unexcused absence (i.e., after the fourth and eighth absence). ALL REQUESTS FOR EXCUSED ABSENCES MUST BE SUBMITTED WITHIN ONE WEEK OF THE ABSENCE. In addition, any student with nine or more unexcused absences will receive a final grade of “F” in the course *regardless* of scores on the exams (and those taking the course Pass-Fail will receive an F).

Sorry, there are no excused absences from the exams. If you must miss an exam, the instructor must be notified BEFORE the exam, and notification does not mean the request for an excused absence will be approved.

\*IMPORTANT\* Students MUST sign on to zoom from their Colorado.edu addresses.

2. Two quizzes (covering lectures and all materials not in the five books), Oct. 8 (12 percent of final grade) and Dec. 12 (probably Dec. 12, 1:30) (13 percent of final grade). Note: there are no excused absences from the quizzes.

3. Five short (six-page or 1,800 words) “Critical Reaction Papers,” on the assigned books, due September 10, Oct. 1, Oct. 22, Nov. 12, and Dec. 3. Only four “count,” so I will drop the lowest grade (effectively making the course requirement four papers).

Papers must be submitted on Canvas as a .doc, docx, or .pdf (we will not attempt to view other file formats).

The paper should be equally divided into two parts. In the first half (approximately 3 pages), *describe and summarize* the book, much as a book review in the Sunday *New York Times* tries to tell readers -- most of whom have not read the book and probably never will -- what a given book is all about. What are the major themes and conclusions of the book? Where is the author coming from? The second part of your paper (and please make it clear where you are starting Part II) should describe your *critical reactions* to the book. Here each student has a lot of flexibility, but examples of questions the student might discuss include: What did the author get right (if anything), and what did he/she get wrong (if anything)? Did the book remind you of any events in your own life or of other issues that we discussed in class? What do you feel were the most thought-provoking points in the book?

VI. Grading

Four six-page papers, each worth 17 points ……..……….. 68 percent

Midterm Quiz on lecture materials, in class on Oct. 8 …… 16 percent

Final Exam on lecture materials, Dec. 12, 1:30 ………….. 16 percent (partially

cumulative)

VI. Special Notes

1. Sorry, no transcribing or audio or video recording of class sessions is permitted without WRITTEN permission from the instructor
2. No extra credit work will be permitted.

3. Absences will be excused only for medical reasons or documented emergencies, not personal obligations (e.g., weddings, delayed airplane flights, work obligations, etc.). To request an excused absence simply send an email to Prof. Radelet

4. Religious Holidays

Campus policy regarding religious observances requires that faculty make every effort to deal reasonably and fairly with all students who, because of religious obligations, have conflicts with scheduled exams, assignments or required attendance. PLEASE NOTIFY PROFESSOR RADELET BEFORE THE END OF THE SECOND WEEK OF THE SEMESTER IF YOU PLAN TO REQUEST AN EXCUSED ABSENCE BECAUSE OF RELIGIOUS ACTIVITIES.

See the [campus policy regarding religious observances](http://www.colorado.edu/policies/observance-religious-holidays-and-absences-classes-andor-exams) for full details.

5. Honor Code

All students enrolled in a University of Colorado Boulder course are responsible for knowing and adhering to the Honor Code. Violations of the policy may include: plagiarism, cheating, fabrication, lying, bribery, threat, unauthorized access to academic materials, submitting the same or similar work in more than one course without permission from all course instructors involved, and aiding academic dishonesty. All incidents of academic misconduct will be reported to the Honor Code ([honor@colorado.edu](mailto:honor@colorado.edu)); 303-492-5550). Students who are found responsible for violating the academic integrity policy will be subject to nonacademic sanctions from the Honor Code as well as academic sanctions from the faculty member. Additional information regarding the Honor Code academic integrity policy can be found at the [Honor Code Office website](https://www.colorado.edu/osccr/honor-code).

**Prof. Radelet’s policy**: Any violation of the University of Colorado Honor Code, including falsification of attendance records, will result in an automatic failing grade in the class.

# Accommodation for Disabilities

If you qualify for accommodations because of a disability, please submit your accommodation letter from Disability Services to Prof. Radelet within the first two weeks of the semester or within 72 hours of receiving your “official” letter so that your needs can be addressed. Disability Services determines accommodations based on documented disabilities. Information on requesting accommodations is located on the [Disability Services website](http://www.colorado.edu/disabilityservices/students). Contact Disability Services at 303-492-8671 or [dsinfo@colorado.edu](mailto:dsinfo@colorado.edu) for further assistance. If you have a temporary medical condition or injury, see [Temporary Medical Conditions](http://www.colorado.edu/disabilityservices/students/temporary-medical-conditions) under the Students tab on the Disability Services website.

1. Sexual Misconduct, Discrimination, Harassment and/or Related Retaliation

The University of Colorado Boulder (CU Boulder) is committed to fostering a positive and welcoming learning, working, and living environment. CU Boulder will not tolerate acts of sexual misconduct (including sexual assault, exploitation, harassment, dating or domestic violence, and stalking), discrimination, and harassment by members of our community. Individuals who believe they have been subject to misconduct or retaliatory actions for reporting a concern should contact the Office of Institutional Equity and Compliance (OIEC) at 303-492-2127 or cureport@colorado.edu. Information about the OIEC, university policies, [anonymous reporting](https://cuboulder.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_0PnqVK4kkIJIZnf), and the campus resources can be found on the [OIEC website](http://www.colorado.edu/institutionalequity/).

*Please know that faculty and instructors have a mandatory responsibility to inform OIEC when made aware of incidents of sexual misconduct, discrimination, harassment and/or related retaliation, to ensure that individuals impacted receive information about options for reporting and support resources.*

1. Trigger Warning

In this class we will read about and discuss upsetting issues: racism, sexism, exploitation, violent criminality (including prison rape), experiences of families of homicide victims and the like. Students should contact the instructor immediately (and stop reading) if these [upsetting] discussions or readings are unduly stressful.