OBJECTIVES

This course exposes students to critical, theoretical understandings of state based attempts to control crime and promote security. We will explore major political and intellectual movements concerning the ‘problem’ of crime and security. While power can be theorized in many different ways, in this class we will look at core models of power as expressed in crime control which assume a ‘top down’ approach. The class begins by orienting students to three influential strains of critical criminology: Marxism / political economy, feminism and Foucaultian traditions. We will also survey other ‘movements’ in contemporary critical thought. Topics here will be determined based on class interest.

We WILL NOT study how to fix or prevent crime, how to treat people who commit crimes, the effectiveness of remedies to crime (legal or social) or take on in anyway the ‘what works’ question.

This is a theory driven course designed to orient advanced graduate students to the field of critical studies on crime and security. Students who complete the course will be well versed in the major debates in the field and will be oriented towards bodies of literature which can be explored in depth during the comprehensive exam process.

EVALUATION

There are three forms of evaluation in this course: participation, reading journals and a take home exam.

Participation: This is a small class focused on discussion. Students will need to come to class prepared to discuss the readings in detail. This discussion will in part be lead by the professor but will also focus on student questions and reactions to the readings.

Reading Journals: Students will be expected to keep a weekly reading journal in which they respond to each of the readings assigned in the class. As with facilitations, the purpose here is NOT to summarize. Instead, students are encouraged to consider the readings from their standpoints as researchers. As such they are encouraged to ask questions such as: what ideas presented in this reading could be of help in developing my own research interests? How do these ideas challenge the way I think about a particular issue? How do these ideas compliment or contrast with the ideas of other scholars interested in similar issues?

Students will be asked to submit reading journals periodically through the semester for evaluation.
Final Reflection: At the end of the semester students will complete a final, take home exam which will be distributed on the last day of class and will be due one week later.

Choose your own (collective) adventure

The final section of the class will be dedicated to exploring contemporary movements in theorizing crime and security. Topics here will vary depending on the interests of both the instructor and the students but could include: post colonial criminology, subjectivity and crime control, legal geography, crime, security and sexuality, resistance, cultural criminology, science studies and crime control and ethnography and interactionism. Scholars whose work could be covered here include: Erving Goffman, Ian Hacking, Judith Butler, Jeff Ferrell, Pierre Bourdieu, Sherene Razack, Nicholas Blomley, David Delaney, Bruno Latour, Michael Lynch, Sheila Jasanoff, Howard Becker, Pat O'Malley, Mary Bosworth and Mariana Valverde.

In the first class we will survey people's interests and decide on topics we will cover in the final classes. Based on those areas of interest I will finalize a reading list for those last classes by the second class.

MATERIALS

Readings will come from journal articles as well as texts. In the interest of keeping costs down I am not compiling a course reader. Most assigned readings are readily accessible on line or through the library. Because this is a small class I encourage you to help each other out in acquiring the readings and making copies as needed (in keeping with copyright law of course). Many of the readings come from what I would consider to be 'key texts'. I have put a star beside these readings and encourage you to acquire these texts as they will form the foundation of your scholarly library throughout your careers.

CLASS SCHEDULE

Thursday September 8th - The Study of Crime


Thursday September 15th - Structuralist Approaches: Political Economy


JOURNAL 1 DUE – Covers the Week of September 8

Tuesday September 20th - Structuralist – Political Econ Part 2

Left Realism


Thursday September 22nd  ·  Structuralism 2: Feminist Criminology


Tuesday September 27th  ·  Post-Structuralism: Foucault and his Aftermath

Forms of Power
Excerpts TBA from *History of Sexuality vol 1 and from *Security, Territory, Population

JOURNAL 2 DUE (September 15 – 22)

Thursday September 29th  ·  Post-structuralist implications

Risk

Thursday October 6th  ·  Foucault and Research

Visit from Mariana Valverde


Tuesday October 11th  ·  Security


Thursday October 13th  ·  Surveillance


Tuesday October 18th

Thursday October 20th

JOURNAL 3 IS DUE OCTOBER 24th
TAKE HOME DUE OCTOBER 31st

ALL DEADLINES ARE NON NEGOTIABLE.