

SOCIOLOGY 3101 AND 3101H
SOCIOLOGICAL PERSPECTIVES ON THE CRIMINAL JUSTICE SYSTEM
Spring 2025
Meetings: T/Th, 11:15 am - 12:30 pm
Anderson Hall 370
Period: Jan 21– May 5, 2025

TEACHING TEAM

Instructor: Ed Cornelius (he/him)

Email: ecorneli@umn.edu

Office: Social Sciences Building (SSB) 960

Office Hours: Tuesdays 5- 6 pm, Thursdays 4-5 pm and by appointment (in person or via Zoom)

Book here: [Ed's office hours](#)

Teaching Assistant: Nadia Fitch

Email: fitch145@umn.edu

Office: Social Sciences Building (SSB) 978

Office Hours: Wednesdays - 10-11:30 am and by appointment (in person or via Zoom)

Book here: [Nadia's office hours](#)

Teaching Assistant: Azalea Ray (she/her)

Email: ray00133@umn.edu

Office: Social Sciences Building (SSB) 1181

Office Hours: Mondays – 12h30 pm-2h30 pm and by appointment (in person or via Zoom)

Book here: [Azalea's office hours](#)

CONTACT INFORMATION

Your first point of contact should be Nadia and Azalea. For more private matters, including DRC accommodation letters and concerns about the class, you can message Ed directly. In all class-related emails, please include “SOC3101” in the subject line. **Please book your office hours at least 24 hours in advance using the links above.**

COURSE DESCRIPTION

How did the United States come to have the world's largest prison population? This course examines the main characteristics of the American punitive turn -- the shift toward tough-on-crime policies and mass incarceration. We will uncover how this transformation emerged from historical struggles among diverse groups, including politicians, economic elites, criminal justice workers, and social movements, each with overlapping and competing interests. We'll also explore how mass incarceration has shaped the lives of different communities, paying special attention to its impact on racialized groups. Students will gain a deeper understanding of how sociologists analyze the roots and consequences of America's carceral state.

COURSE OBJECTIVES

1. Develop a comprehensive understanding of the punitive turn;
2. Analyze the effects of criminalization and punishment on individuals and communities;
3. Mobilize sociological knowledge to critically evaluate media portrayals of crime and criminalized people;
4. Connect artistic expressions and sociological knowledge to analyze the experience of

criminalized people.

This course also engages CLA's [Core Career Competencies](#) through engaging the class material. Successful completion of this course will help you develop or strengthen these key skills:

- Analytical & Critical Thinking
- Oral & Written Communication
- Engaging Diversity
- Digital Literacy

ASSIGNMENTS

Assignment	Percentage of Final Grade	Date
Mid-term (multiple-choice)	20%	March 4
Media Analysis	25%	March 9
Critical Reflection	25%	April 24
Final Exam (multiple-choice)	20%	April 29
Participation	10%	Ongoing

Media Analysis: A 5-to-7-page paper using the course material to analyze a news story. More specific instructions will be posted on Canvas and discussed in class. This assignment can be written individually or in groups of 2 or 3 students.

Critical Reflection: A 5-to-7-page reflection connecting the course material with one or more pieces of art from the Seen Exhibit at the Weisman Art Museum. More specific instructions will be posted on Canvas and discussed in class. This assignment can be written individually or in groups of 2 or 3 students.

Mid-term and Final Exam: Two multiple-choice exams about the course material (readings and lectures) to be taken in class via Canvas. **Please bring a laptop to class and install Respondus on your device.** Each exam is worth 20% of the final grade. This assignment is to be taken individually.

Optional Final Exam: Students have the option to take an in-class final exam, which can replace the score of either the Midterm Exam or the Final Exam, whichever yields the lower grade.

Participation: During each lecture, you will respond to a short-answer question about class discussions via Canvas. They will be graded pass/fail. **Please bring a smartphone, tablet, or laptop** to class to complete participation assignments. Participation makes up 10% of the final grade. I will automatically disregard your four lowest participation grades. This means you can miss four classes and still receive a 100% participation grade.

AI Policy: Artificial intelligence (AI) language models, such as ChatGPT, may be used for the media analysis and critical reflection assignments with appropriate citation (and according to specific instructions), but not for answering participation questions. **Specific instructions on how to use AI will be provided and discussed during class.** If you are in doubt as to whether you are using AI language models appropriately in this course, I encourage you to discuss your situation with me. Examples of citing AI language models are available at: libguides.umn.edu/chatgpt. You are responsible for fact checking statements composed by AI language models.

Late Policy: Assignments turned in late will receive a 5-point penalty. An additional 5-point

penalty will be added every 24 hours that the assignment is not turned in. Please let the teaching team know in advance if you are dealing with issues that might prevent you from submitting your assignments on time.

Contesting Grades. If you want to contest a grade, please wait 48 hours after you receive your grade and then email *your concerns to your instructor*. Students have one week from the time we return graded assignments to contest grades. If you contest a graded assignment, the professor will regrade the entire assignment. Your score could go up or down.

GRADING SCHEME

I do not "round up" final grades or place grades on a curve. The following are the University of Minnesota cutoff points for each letter grade:

A	100% to 93%	B-	< 83% to 80%	D+	< 70% to 67%
A-	< 93% to 90%	C+	< 80% to 77%	D	67% to 60%
B+	< 90% to 87%	C	< 77% to 73%	F	< 60% to 0%
B	< 87% to 83%	C-	< 73% to 70%		

HONORS SECTION

Students in the honors section will be required to fulfill additional expectations. First, the honors section will meet as a separate class at least once during the semester. Second, honors students will submit an expanded version of the Media Analysis and Critical Reflection Analyses. Guidelines for this assignment will be discussed during the honors section meeting.

COMMUNITY GUIDELINES

Recording and sharing lectures: Please do **not** record, share or live stream any materials from this course in the public domain or social media, in its entirety, or in small excerpts. Please note that this is a fundamental policy to maintain the safety and privacy of the teaching team and your classmates.

Changes to the Syllabus. If necessary, this syllabus and its contents are subject to revision; students are responsible for responding to any changes or modifications. We will announce any substantial changes (e.g. exam dates, reading assignments, class meetings, etc.) on Canvas.

Policy on artificial intelligence: Please do not use AI tools to write your assignments or input course material on AI tools. The assignments in this class challenge you to develop creativity and critical thinking; using AI can limit your capacity to do so.

COURSE READINGS

This course will use the two books below. You are responsible for acquiring them. Other readings will be provided and posted on Canvas.

Beckett, Katherine. (1997). Making crime pay: Law and order in contemporary American politics. Oxford University Press.

Available through the library.

Miller, Reuben. (2021). Halfway home: Race, punishment, and the afterlife of mass incarceration. Little, Brown and Company.

Available through the University Bookstore through Redshelf.

COURSE SCHEDULE

Complete the listed readings **before** our class session.

Week 1

Tuesday, Jan 21 (Introduction)

- Syllabus

Thursday, Jan 23

- Beckett, Chapter 1: Law and Order in Contemporary American Politics (12 p)

Week 2

Tuesday, Jan 28

- Beckett, Chapter 2: Setting the Public Agenda (15 p)

Thursday, Jan 30 – Law School Session

Podcast: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4CyLIJgwnzQ>

Week 3

Tuesday, Feb 4

- Beckett, Chapter 3: Creating the Crime Issue (17 p)

Thursday, Feb 6

- Media Analysis Workshop (1/3)

Week 4

Tuesday, Feb 11

- Beckett, Chapter 4: From Crime to Drugs and Back Again (19 p)

Thursday, Feb 13

- Media Analysis Workshop (2/3)

Week 5

Tuesday, Feb 18

- Beckett, Chapter 5: Crime and Drugs in the News (18 p)

Thursday, Feb 20

- Media Analysis Workshop (3/3)

Week 6

Tuesday, Feb 25

- Beckett, Chapter 6: Crime and Punishment in American Political Culture (11 p)

Thursday, Feb 27

- Midterm Review (no reading)

Week 7

Tuesday, March 4

- Midterm

Thursday, March 6

- Beckett, Chapter 7: Institutionalizing Law and Order (17 p)
- *Media Analysis due March 6 with bonus, March 9 without bonus

Week 8 – Spring Break

Tuesday, March 11

- No class

Thursday, March 13

- No class

Week 9

Tuesday, March 18

- Miller, Introduction (12 p) + Appendix (10 p)

Thursday, March 20

- Miller, Chapter 1: Confession (27 p)

Week 10

Tuesday, March 25

- Miller, Chapter 2: Guilt (25 p)

Thursday, March 27

- Miller, Chapter 3: Sinnerman (23 p)

Week 11

Tuesday, April 1

- Miller, Chapter 4: Millions of Details (23 p)

Thursday, April 3

- Museum Visit 1 (one-half of the class)
- Goffman, Stigma and Social Identity (40p)

Week 12

Tuesday, April 8

- Miller, Chapter 5: In Victory and Spectacular Defeat (23 p)

Thursday, April 10

- Museum Visit 2 (another half of the class)
- Goffman, Stigma and Social Identity (40p)

Week 13

Tuesday, April 15

- Miller, Chapter 6: Chains and Corpses (26 p)

Thursday, April 17

- Miller, Chapter 7: Treatment (17 p)

Week 14

Tuesday, April 22 (Reading Quiz 2)

- Miller, Chapter 7: Power (18 p) + America, Goddam! (8 p)

Thursday, April 24 (Final Exam)

- Review Final

*Critical Reflection due April 24 with bonus, April 27 without bonus

Week 15

Tuesday, April 29

- Final Multiple-Choice Exam

Thursday, May 1 (Final Exam)

- In-Class Final Written Exam

COLLEGE OF LIBERAL ARTS POLICIES

GRADES: University academic achievement is graded under two systems: A-F (with pluses and minuses) and S-N. Choice of grading system and course level (1xxx/3xxx/4xxx) is indicated on the registration website; changes in grade scale may not be made after the second week of the semester. Some courses may be taken under only one system; limitations are identified in the course listings. The Department of Sociology requires A-F registration in courses required for the major/minor. University regulations prescribe the grades that will be reported on your transcript.

- A Represents achievement that is outstanding relative to the level necessary to meet course requirements (4.00 grade points)
- A- 3.67 grade points
- B+ 3.33 grade points
- B Achievement significantly above the level necessary to meet course requirements (3.00 grade points)
- B- 2.67 grade points
- C+ 2.33 grade points
- C Achievement that meets the basic course requirements in every respect (2.00 grade points)
- C- 1.67 grade points
- D+ 1.33 grade points
- D Achievement worthy of credit even though it fails to meet fully the course requirements (1.00 grade point)
- F Performance that fails to meet the basic course requirements (0 grade points)
- S Represents achievement that is satisfactory, which is equivalent to a C- or better.
- N No credit. Its use is now restricted to students not earning an S on the S-N grade base
- I Incomplete, a temporary symbol assigned when the instructor has a "reasonable expectation" that you 1) can successfully complete unfinished work on your own no later than one year from the last day of classes and 2) believes that legitimate reasons exist to justify extending the deadline for course completion. The instructor may set date conditions for make-up work
- W Official withdrawal from a course after the end of the second week of the semester.

FINAL EXAMINATIONS (see schedule on the Calendar web site at onestop.umn.edu/calendar/final-exam-times): You are required to take final examinations at the scheduled times. Under certain circumstances, however, you may request final examination schedule adjustment in your college office. Instructors are obligated to schedule make-up examinations within the final examination period for students who have three final examinations within a 16-hour period. Instructors also are encouraged to reschedule examinations for students with religious objections to taking an examination on a given day. You must submit your request for an adjustment in your schedule at least two weeks before the examination period begins. For assistance in resolving conflicts, call the CLA Student Information Office at 625-2020. If you miss a final, an F or N is recorded. You must obtain the instructor's permission to make up the examination. Final examinations may be rescheduled by the instructor only through the official procedure for that purpose (as noted on the above web page). Final examinations may not be scheduled for the last day of class or earlier or for Study Day. If an examination is rescheduled at the instructor's request, and you have an examination conflict because of it, you are entitled to be given the final examination at an alternative time within the regularly scheduled examination period for that semester.

CLASS ATTENDANCE: As a student, you are responsible for attending class and for ascertaining the particular attendance requirements for each class or department. You should also learn each instructor's policies concerning make-up of work for absences. Instructors and students may consult the CLA Classroom, Grading, and Examination Procedures Handbook for more information on these policies (<https://policy.umn.edu/education/makeupwork>).

COURSE PERFORMANCE AND GRADING: Instructors establish ground rules for their courses in conformity with their department policies and are expected to explain them at the first course meeting. This includes announcement of office hours and location, the kind of help to be expected from the instructor and teaching assistants, and tutorial services, if available. The instructor also describes the general nature of the course, the work expected, dates for examinations and paper submissions, and expectations for classroom participation and attendance. Instructors determine the standards for grading in their classes and will describe expectations, methods

of evaluation, and factors that enter into grade determination. The special conditions under which an incomplete (I) might be awarded also should be established. The college does not permit you to submit extra work to raise your grade unless all students in the class are afforded the same opportunity.

CLASSROOM BEHAVIOR: You are entitled to a good learning environment in the classroom. Students whose behavior is disruptive either to the instructor or to other students will be asked to leave (the policies regarding student conduct are outlined on-line at <https://communitystandards.umn.edu/policies-and-procedures/what-kind-consequences-could-i-face>

ELECTRONIC DEVICES: University instructors may restrict or prohibit the use of personal electronic devices in his or her classroom, lab, or any other instructional setting. For the complete policy, visit: <http://policy.umn.edu/education/studentresp>

SCHOLASTIC CONDUCT: The University Student Conduct Code defines scholastic dishonesty as follows: Scholastic Dishonesty means plagiarizing; cheating on assignments or examinations; engaging in unauthorized collaboration on academic work; taking, acquiring, or using test materials without faculty permission; submitting false or incomplete records of academic achievement; acting alone or in cooperation with another to falsify records or to obtain dishonestly grades, honors, awards, or professional endorsement; altering, forging, or misusing a University academic record; or fabricating or falsifying data, research procedures, or data analysis. **Students cannot evade (intentionally or unintentionally) a grade sanction by withdrawing from a course before or after the misconduct charge is reported. This also applies to late withdrawals, including discretionary late cancellation (also known as the "one-time-only drop").** For the complete policy, visit: http://regents.umn.edu/sites/default/files/policies/Student_Conduct_Code.pdf

STUDENT MENTAL HEALTH AND STRESS MANAGEMENT: As a student you may experience a range of issues that can cause barriers to learning, such as strained relationships, increased anxiety, alcohol/drug problems, feeling down, difficulty concentrating and/or lack of motivation. These mental health concerns or stressful events may lead to diminished academic performance or reduce a student's ability to participate in daily activities. University of Minnesota services are available to assist you with addressing these and other concerns you may be experiencing. You can learn more about the broad range of confidential mental health services available on campus via <http://www.mentalhealth.umn.edu/>.

A REMINDER OF RELEVANT POLICIES AND PROCEDURES
*** SOCIOLOGY DEPARTMENT POLICIES ***

GRADE INFORMATION: Grades are due in the Office the Registrar within 3 business days after the final examination. No information regarding grades will be released by the department office staff to anyone except designated personnel in Records and college offices. Students may access their own grades through the MyU Portal.

INCOMPLETES: It is the instructor's responsibility to specify conditions under which an Incomplete (I) grade is assigned. Students should refer to the course syllabus and talk with the instructor as early as possible if they anticipate not completing the course work. Coursework submitted after the final examination will generally be evaluated down unless prior arrangements are made in writing by the instructor. University policy states that if completion of the work requires the student to attend class in substantial part a second time, assigning an "I" grade is NOT appropriate. Incompletes are appropriate only if the student can make up the coursework independently with the same professor. Students need to have completed a substantial portion of the course in order to be even considered for an Incomplete.

MAKE-UP EXAMINATIONS: Arrangements for special examinations must be made directly with the instructor who taught the course and who is responsible for approving and supervising the examination or making individual arrangements. Circumstances for missing an exam include, but are not necessarily limited to: verified illness, participation in athletic events or other group activities sponsored by the University, serious family emergencies, subpoenas, jury duty, military service, and religious observances. It is the responsibility of the student to notify faculty members of such circumstances as far in advance as possible.

GRADE CHANGES: Grades properly arrived at are not subject to renegotiation unless all students in the class have similar opportunities. Students have the right to check for possible clerical errors in the assignment of grades by checking with the instructor and/or teaching assistant.

Students with justifiable complaints about grades or classroom procedures have recourse through well-established grievance procedures. You are expected to confer first with the course instructor. If no satisfactory solution is reached, the complaint should be presented in writing to the department Director of Undergraduate Studies or the Coordinator of Undergraduate Advising (909 Soc Sci). If these informal processes fail to reach a satisfactory resolution, other formal procedures for hearing and appeal can be invoked.

DISABILITY SERVICES: Students with disabilities that affect their ability to participate fully in class or to meet all course requirements are encouraged to bring this to the attention of the instructor so that appropriate accommodations can be arranged. For more info contact Disability Resource Center in 180 McNamara. <https://disability.umn.edu>. This publication/material is available in alternative formats upon request. Please contact the Coordinator of Undergraduate Advising at socadvis@umn.edu or visit the Department of Sociology in 909 Social Sciences Building, 271 19th Ave SE, Minneapolis, MN 55455

SEXUAL HARASSMENT: "Sexual harassment" means unwelcome sexual advances, requests for sexual favors, and/or other verbal or physical conduct of a sexual nature. Faculty, Graduate Students, and full time Staff are Mandated Reporters for prohibited conduct. Such behavior is not acceptable in the University setting. If you have experienced sexual misconduct, discrimination, harassment, or related retaliation; or if you have questions about any EOAA-related issue, please contact Equal Opportunity and Affirmative Action (EOAA) at (612) 624-9547 or eoaa@umn.edu For the complete policy, visit policy.umn.edu/hr/sexharassassault

SOCIOLOGY PROGRAMS INFORMATION: The Sociology Department offers two options for the Bachelor of Arts degree and a Bachelor of Science degree. Students interested in majoring in Sociology should view the online-information session about the major. Further information can be obtained from the following persons via email or online at <http://cla.umn.edu/sociology>

General information, Sociology Department – soc@umn.edu
Coordinator of Undergraduate Advising, Bobby Bryant – socadvis@umn.edu
Director of Undergraduate Studies, Prof. Jane VanHeuvelen – jvanheuv@umn.edu
Soc Honors Faculty Representative, Prof. Joe Gerteis – gerte004@umn.edu
Director of Graduate Studies, Professor Michelle Phelps – phelps@umn.edu
Graduate Program Associate, Evva Parsons – eparsons@umn.edu

Undergraduate jobs, internships, volunteer and research opportunities, scholarships, and much more can be found in the Undergraduate Resources site - <https://sociologyundergrad.wordpress.com/>

SyllabusSupplement Fa24 and Sp25 AY

1/14/2025