

**SOCIOLOGY 4162**  
CRIMINAL PROCEDURE IN AMERICAN SOCIETY  
Spring 2025  
Meetings: T/Th, 11:15 am - 12:30 pm  
Blegen Hall 130  
Period: Jan 21– May 5, 2025

## TEACHING TEAM

**Instructor:** Ed Cornelius (he/him)

**Email:** [ecorneli@umn.edu](mailto:ecorneli@umn.edu)

**Office:** Social Sciences Building (SSB) 960

**Office Hours:** T/Th 1:15 pm - 2:15 pm and by appointment (in person or via Zoom) and by appointment (in person or via Zoom)

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

## CONTACT INFORMATION

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 link above.**

## COURSE DESCRIPTION

How do social forces shape criminal procedural rules? How do legal actors and criminalized people experience this process? We will explore these questions by examining the intersections between law and economy, politics, imperialism, culture, media, gender, and racialization. Course materials include empirical research, judicial decisions, documentaries, news stories, and more.

## COURSE OBJECTIVES

1. Develop a general understanding of ‘*on the books*’ criminal procedural rules;
2. Develop a comprehensive understanding of how criminal procedure operates ‘*in action*’;
3. Connect artistic expressions and sociological knowledge to analyze the experience of criminalized people;
4. Connect artistic expressions and sociological knowledge to analyze the daily workings of criminal courts.

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)	15%	March 4
Documentary Analysis	25%	March 6
Critical Reflection	25%	April 24
Final Exam (multiple-choice)	15%	April 29
Participation	20%	Ongoing

**Documentary Analysis:** A 5-to-7-page paper using the course material to analyze the documentary “Gideon’s Army.” More specific instructions will be posted on Canvas and discussed in class. This assignment must be written in groups of 2 to 3 students. You will be given time in class to prepare.

**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 must be written in groups of 2 to 3 students. You will be given time in class to prepare.

**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:** Before each lecture, you are expected to answer a “pre-class participation question”. The question will be in the assignment instructions. This activity will make up 20% of your participation in that class. They will be graded pass/fail. During each lecture, you will respond to a short-answer question about class discussions via Canvas. This activity will make up 80% of your participation grade. They will be graded pass/fail. **Please bring a smartphone, tablet, or laptop** to class to complete participation assignments. Participation makes up 20% 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 documentary 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](http://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%	

## 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

All readings will be posted on Canvas.

# COURSE SCHEDULE

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

## INTRODUCTION

### Week 1

#### **Tuesday, Jan 21 (Introduction)**

- Syllabus Review

#### **Thursday, Jan 23**

- Lavi, Shai, and Galia Schneebaum. 2014. "Criminal Law and Sociology." In *The Oxford Handbook of Criminal Law*, edited by Markus D. Dubber and Tatjana Hörnle, 1–17. Oxford: Oxford University Press.

## LAW ON THE BOOKS

### Week 2

#### **Tuesday, Jan 28 - Documentary Screening (1/2)**

- Samaha, J. (2017). *Criminal Procedure: Selected Passages*.

#### **Thursday, Jan 30 - Documentary (2/2)**

- Samaha, J. (2017). *Criminal Procedure: Selected Passages*.

### Week 3

#### **Tuesday, Feb 4**

- Lippke, Richard. 2019. 'Fundamental Values of Criminal Procedure'. P. 1-16 in *The Oxford Handbook of Criminal Process*, edited by D. K. Brown, J. I. Turner, and B. Weisser. Oxford University Press.

#### **Thursday, Feb 6**

- Samaha, J. (2017). *Criminal Procedure: Selected Passages*.

## LAW IN ACTION

### Week 4

#### **Tuesday, Feb 11**

- Hessick, Carissa Byrne. 2021. "The Rise of Plea Bargaining." In *Punishment Without Trial: Why Plea Bargaining Is a Bad Deal*, 18–42. New York: Abrams Press.

#### **Thursday, Feb 13**

- Euvrard, Elsa, and Chloe Leclerc. 2017. 'Pre-Trial Detention and Guilty Pleas: Inducement or Coercion?' *Punishment & Society* 19(5):525–42.

## **Week 5**

### **Tuesday, Feb 18**

- Sudnow, David. 1965. 'Normal Crimes: Sociological Features of the Penal Code in a Public Defender Office'. *Social Problems* 12(3):255–76. doi: [10.2307/798932](https://doi.org/10.2307/798932).

### **Thursday, Feb 20**

- Documentary Analysis Workshop (1/2)

## **Week 6**

### **Tuesday, Feb 25**

- Baćak, Valerio, Sarah Esther Lageson, and Kathleen Powell. 2024. 'The Stress of Injustice: Public Defenders and the Frontline of American Inequality.' *Social Forces*. doi: [10.1093/sf/soae027](https://doi.org/10.1093/sf/soae027).

### **Thursday, Feb 27**

- Documentary Analysis Workshop (2/2)

## **Week 7**

### **Tuesday, March 4**

- Midterm review

### **Thursday, March 6**

- Midterm

\* Documentary Analysis due March 6 with bonus point, March 9 without bonus

## **Week 8 – Spring Break**

### **Tuesday, March 11**

- No class

### **Thursday, March 13**

- No class

## **Week 9**

### **Tuesday, March 18**

- Feeley, Chapter 7: The Process is the Punishment. Read p. 199-224 (until 'Failure to Appear').

### **Thursday, March 20**

- Feeley, Chapter 7: The Process is the Punishment. Read until the end of Chapter 7 (p. 224-241).

## **Week 10**

### **Tuesday, March 25**

- Kohler-Hausman, Chapter 1: The Rise of Mass Misdemeanors. Read p. 25-38 (until 'Compstat and Some Unintended Consequences of the Plan').

### **Thursday, March 27**

- Kohler-Hausman, Chapter 1: The Rise of Mass Misdemeanors. Read until the end of Chapter 1 (p. 38-59).

## **Week 11**

### **Tuesday, April 1**

- Goffman, Stigma and Social Identity (40p)

### **Thursday, April 3**

- Museum Visit

## **Week 12**

### **Tuesday, April 8**

Museum Reflection Workshop (1/2)

### **Thursday, April 10**

- Kohler-Hausman, Chapter 3: Working in Misdemeanorland. Read p. 99-124 (until ‘The Pressure of Arraignments’).

## **Week 13**

### **Tuesday, April 15**

- Kohler-Hausman, Chapter 3: Working in Misdemeanorland. Read until the end of Chapter 3 (p. 124-140).

### **Thursday, April 17**

Museum Reflection Workshop (2/2)

## **Week 14**

### **Tuesday, April 22**

- Kohler-Hausman, Conclusion (p. 258-268).

### **Thursday, April 24 (Final Exam)**

- Review for Final Exam

**\*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](http://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](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](mailto:socadvis@umn.edu) or visit the Department of Sociology in 909 Social Sciences Building, 271 19<sup>th</sup> 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](mailto:eoaa@umn.edu) For the complete policy, visit [policy.umn.edu/hr/sexharassassault](http://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](mailto:soc@umn.edu)  
Coordinator of Undergraduate Advising, Bobby Bryant – [socadvis@umn.edu](mailto:socadvis@umn.edu)  
Director of Undergraduate Studies, Prof. Jane VanHeuvelen – [jvanheuv@umn.edu](mailto:jvanheuv@umn.edu)  
Soc Honors Faculty Representative, Prof. Joe Gerteis – [gerte004@umn.edu](mailto:gerte004@umn.edu)  
Director of Graduate Studies, Professor Michelle Phelps – [phelps@umn.edu](mailto:phelps@umn.edu)  
Graduate Program Associate, Evva Parsons – [eparsons@umn.edu](mailto: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/>