

**Crime and Society  
Spring 2026**

Class time: Wednesdays 5:00 – 7:50 pm  
Location: COA B27 (Coalition Bldg.)  
Instructor: Frank Jackson  
Phone: (619) 606-2493 (email preferred)  
E-Mail: [f3jackson@ucsd.edu](mailto:f3jackson@ucsd.edu) (best contact)  
Office: SSB 473  
Office Hours: By appointment before or after class or other mutually convenient time  
(Zoom or in person)

Course Objectives:

This course will focus on a study of the social origins of criminal law, the administration of justice, causes and patterns of criminal behavior, the prevention and control of crime, including individual rehabilitation and institutional change, and the politics of legal, police and correctional reform. We will study crime and its effects on society from the viewpoint of the offenders, victims, defense attorneys, prosecutors, police, judges, and others involved in the administration of justice.

Text:

Sue Titus Reid. Crime and Criminology. (15<sup>th</sup> edition). There is not an electronic book option for the text. The “online supplement” is not required and no longer supported.

Additional readings may be assigned throughout the quarter and will be assigned through Canvas.

Classroom ethics:

Sociology is the study of society. In some instances, the study of crime’s intersection with society can be a sensitive topic. We will be reading, discussing and writing about topics including, but not limited to: violent crime, policing, the incarceration of offenders, etc. Please come prepared to confront and discuss these topics, even if personally sensitive. If the curriculum will not allow you to fully participate, please consider whether this course is right for you.

In classroom discussion, I encourage all of you to draw on your own unique backgrounds and experiences. These are how one develops a personal perspective on issues. In this vein, disagreements during classroom discussions or differing perspectives on controversial issues are healthy and to be celebrated. When possible, we should look to politely challenge one another with reason, or sometimes simply question “why.” Frankly, at the end of the day we won’t all agree on every issue, which is perfectly fine. Personal attacks, however, will not be tolerated. A lack of courtesy will get you dismissed from the lecture, among other consequences.

Course Requirements:

Attendance at each class will be taken.

Class participation (completion of the reading assignments during the week prior to the class, and regular and informed participation in discussions) is 10% of your final grade. View class participation as your chance to develop your oral expression skills and to practice thinking on your feet. Your grade is not dependent on your viewpoint, but rather on your ability to express and defend it, or the insightful questions you pose.

There will be no term paper for this class. Grades are determined by two midterms, one final exam, and attendance and participation.

Both the midterms and final will consist of two parts:

- a short multiple-choice test – taken in class
- short in-class essays - taken in class (bring Bluebook(s) to write the essays)

Both parts will be closed book and no outside resources will be permitted to be used.

The multiple-choice tests will be based primarily on the readings. The short essays will be based on the readings, lectures and class discussions.

**MAKE-UP EXAMS WILL NOT BE OFFERED, EXCEPT FOR VERIFIED MEDICAL EMERGENCIES.** If you have a testing accommodation, it is your responsibility to schedule a time for the in-class portions of the examination.

Grading weights:

Midterm #1	30%
Midterm #2	30%
Final (non-cumulative)	30%
Attendance and Participation	10%
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Total	100%

If you faithfully attend class, come prepared having done the readings, and participate in the discussions, you will be extremely well prepared for the midterm and final.

**Course Schedule:**

**THIS SCHEDULE OF TOPICS IS SUBJECT TO CHANGE AND ADJUSTMENT THROUGHOUT THE QUARTER. It will serve as our rough guide, but we will not let it dictate the length of class discussions on topics of interest. Changes will be announced in class and/or through Canvas.**

April	1	Introduction	
		Crime, Criminal Law & Criminology	Ch 1
		The Measurement of Crime and Its Impact	Ch 2
	8	Early Explanations of Criminal Behavior	Ch 3
		Biological & Psychological Theories	Ch 4

	15	Sociological Theories: Social-Structural Approach Sociological Theories: Social-Process Approach	Ch 5 Ch 6
	22	Violent Crimes <b>Midterm #1 - Chapters 1-6</b> <b>Multiple choice and Bluebook essays - (in class)</b>	Ch 7
	29	Property Crimes Business and Government-Related Crimes Drug Abuse, Trafficking and Organized Crime	Ch 8 Ch 9 Ch 10
May	6	Confinement of Offenders Corrections in the Community	Ch 14 Ch 15
	13	<b>Midterm #2 – Chapters 7-10 and 14-15</b> <b>Multiple choice and Bluebook essays - (in class)</b> Police (The midterm will take place at 5:00 during the class period and the lecture will be asynchronous and available via Canvas)	Ch 12
	20	Discussion of Chapter 12 U.S. Criminal Justice Systems	Ch 11
	27	Continued discussion of Chapters 11 and 12 Court Systems	Ch 13
June	3	Continued discussion of Chapters 11, 12, and 13	

**FRIDAY June 12 - FINAL EXAMINATION (Focused on chapters 11-13)**  
**7:00 - 10:00 p.m.**  
**Location TBA**  
**Multiple choice and Bluebook essays - taken in class.**