

AJ 159-Senior Seminar

Dr. David Simon

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Required Texts:

Kappeler, V. et al (2007) THE MYTHOLOGY OF CRIME AND CRIMINAL JUSTICE (Waveland); hereafter MCCJ.

Simon, D.R. & J. Henderson (1997) PRIVATE TROUBLES AND PUBLIC ISSUES (Harcourt Brace); hereafter PTPI

Walker, S. (2007) SENSE & NONSENSE ABOUT CRIME & DRUGS 5th Edition (Wadsworth); hereafter SNSCD.

Course Objectives:

In this course you will learn about:

- 1) a critical paradigm for the analysis of crime and related social problems
- 2) myths regarding all the major types of violent, property, organized, and white-collar crimes.
- 3) Myths concerning crime policies.

Logistics

The course grade will be determined by the following set of criteria, each of which will count one-third of the final grade:

- 1) Critical thinking exercise: content analysis in crime mythology or other topic related to the course. (Instructions will be passed out in class and gone over in depth.) Other options will also be considered such as a traditional term paper, or content analysis of media coverage of crime news.

- 2) In class oral presentations based on class and outside readings
- 3) Final examination

The exams will be objective and require the use of Scantron sheets. Review sessions will be held the week before the test.

4) Extra credit: Students wishing to earn extra credit may do a critical review essay on any optional volume or book approved by the instructor. The essay should be five to ten double spaced typed written pages, and constitute an analysis of the book. The analysis should be "critical," describing in depth what the reviewer did and did not like about the volume. Further instructions for the review will be discussed in class. Successful completion of the assignment means that if a student is between two grades (e.g., B+/A-) the student will receive the higher of the two marks.

Finally, please note the reading assignments below. I consider the information in the texts a useful guide for students. I assume everyone has read it. This means that I will not merely follow along with the text, but will summarize what you need to know and explore what I believe is significant about the methods and issues we study. I ALSO URGE STUDENTS TO REGULARLY ATTEND CLASS, ESPECIALLY SINCE A LARGE PORTION OF YOUR GRADE DEPENDS ON YOUR PERFORMANCE IN A TEAM ENVIRONMENT. HOWEVER, I WILL NOT TAKE ATTENDANCE, AND PLEASE DO NOT CALL ME TO TELL ME YOU ARE NOT GOING TO BE IN CLASS. IF YOU MISS CLASS, GET THE NOTES FROM ANOTHER STUDENT, OR COME SEE ME IN AN OFFICE HOUR.

STUDENT CONDUCT:

NOTE: YOUR INSTRUCTOR IS BLESSED/CURSED WITH EXCEPTIONALLY ACUTE HEARING, AND HAS EXTREMELY LOW TOLERANCE OF EXTRANEOUS NOISE. NO WHISPERING, NOTE PASSING, OR OTHER DISTRACTIVE

CONVERSATIONS BETWEEN STUDENTS ARE ALLOWED DURING CLASS LECTURES/DISCUSSIONS. STUDENT CLASS PARTICIPATION IS VERY MUCH ENCOURAGED, AND STUDENT COMMENTS AND QUESTIONS ARE ALWAYS WELCOME. RUDENESS IN THE FORM OF DISRUPTION IS UNFAIR TO BOTH THE INSTRUCTOR AND STUDENTS DESIRING TO LEARN. IT WILL NOT BE TOLERATED, AND THOSE STUDENTS WHO FAIL TO REFRAIN FROM DISRUPTIVE NOISE DURING CLASS WILL BE ASKED TO LEAVE.

READINGS & ASSIGNMENT DUE DATES

Week #/ Date

Topic(s)

Assignment

Part I: PARADIGMS

1: INTRODUCTION

2: CRITICAL CRIMINOLOGY PARADIGM PTPI, CH 1; MCCJ, Ch. 1

3: SOCIAL STRUCTURAL FOUNDATIONS PTPI, CH.2 & 7

4: CRIME & ALIENATION PTPI, CH.3 & 10

5: CRIME POLICY FOUNDATIONS PTPI, CH. 4; SNSCD, CH. 1

PART II: CRIME MYTHS & THE CRIME DRUG NEXUS

6: THE AMERICAN CRIME FACTORY PTPI, CH. 8 & 9

7: Abduction , Serial Killers, & Stalkers

MCCJ, Chs. 2 , 3, & 4

