CRIME PREVENTION (CRIM 4040)  
Fall 2015

Professor Brandon C. Welsh, Ph.D.  
Northeastern University  
School of Criminology and Criminal Justice  
Churchill Hall 401B  
Phone: (617) 373-8078; E-mail: b.welsh@neu.edu  
Office hours: Thursday 10:30-11:30 a.m. (or by appointment)

Teaching Assistant: Steven Zane, J.D., M.A.  
E-mail: s.zane@neu.edu

Lecture Room: Shillman Hall 305

Lecture Times: Monday and Thursday 11:45 a.m.—1:25 p.m.

Course Description: This course examines crime prevention as an alternative to criminal justice responses to crime. It reviews current theories of and leading research on the main approaches to preventing crime, including developmental, situational, and community prevention. A special focus is on assessing effectiveness of prevention programs and policies.

Key Objectives:
1. To introduce students to alternative or non-criminal justice responses to crime.
2. To provide students with an understanding of the history, main concepts, main theories, principles, and applications of alternative crime prevention strategies.
3. To further develop students’ skills in assessing program effectiveness.
4. To introduce students to current developments in crime prevention research and policy.
5. To help students apply crime prevention theory and research on what works to addressing real-life crime problems.

Required Readings: Students are responsible for reading the required works prior to class. There are two books and a number of journal articles. All of the articles are available through the library’s e-journals service. The books can be purchased at Northeastern University’s bookstore. The books are as follows:


Grading Policy: There will be a midterm exam, a final exam, and a research paper. The midterm exam will be held on October 19 and will count for 25% of the course grade. The final exam will be held during the exam period in December and will count for 30% of the course grade. The research paper will be discussed and assigned on September 17, and will be due at the beginning of class on December 3. The paper will count for 35% of the course grade. The two exams will be based on material covered in the class lectures and required readings.

Attendance/participation: Students are expected to attend each class. Attendance will be taken at each class. Attendance and participation will count for 10% of the course grade.

Grading Scale:
A  93-100%   B+  87-89%   C+  77-79%   D+  67-69%   F  0-59%
A-  90-92%    B   83-86%    C   73-76%    D   63-66%
     B-  80-82%   C-  70-72%   D-  60-62%

Blackboard: Students are required to regularly check the blackboard page for the course.

Lectures and Required Readings:

Sept. 10: Course Introduction and Overview

Sept. 14 & 17: New Directions in Preventing Crime
Lab (2014). Crime prevention (pp. 21-33).

Note: The research paper will be discussed and assigned on September 17.

Sept. 21 & 24: Evaluating Crime Prevention
Lab (2014). Evaluation and crime prevention (pp. 35-50).
Sept. 28 & Oct. 1: Evaluating Crime Prevention (continued)


Oct. 5 & Oct. 8: Developmental Crime Prevention

Lab (2014). Developmental crime prevention (pp. 157-172).

Farrington & Welsh (2007). Individual factors (pp. 37-54), and Family factors (pp. 55-75).

Farrington & Welsh (2007). Individual prevention (pp. 105-119), and Family prevention (pp. 121-136).


Note: There is no class on October 12; it is Columbus Day.

Oct. 15: Community Crime Prevention

Farrington & Welsh (2007). Socioeconomic, peer, school, and community factors (pp. 77-89), and Peer, school, and community prevention (pp. 137-156).


Oct. 19: Midterm exam

Oct. 22: Media and Crime Prevention

Lab (2014). The mass media and crime prevention (pp. 135-155).

Oct. 26 & 29: Situational Crime Prevention


Lab (2014). Displacement and diffusion (pp. 111-133).
Nov. 2 & 5: Crime Prevention Partnerships


Nov. 9 & 12: National Crime Prevention Policies


Nov. 16 & 19: School-Based Crime Prevention

Lab (2014). The school and crime prevention (pp. 275-296).

Nov. 23: Critical Views on Crime Prevention

Readings will be assigned.

Note: There is no class on November 26; it is Thanksgiving Day.

Nov. 30 & Dec. 3: Future of Crime Prevention


Note: The research paper is due at the beginning of class on December 3.

Dec. 7: Course Wrap-up
Other Class Policies:

The highest standards of academic integrity are expected in this course. All students should remind themselves of Northeastern University’s Academic Honesty and Integrity policy, which can be found in the Student Handbook. Any instances of cheating, fabrication, plagiarism, unauthorized collaboration, or other academic dishonesty, will be dealt with in accordance with the University’s official policies (also described in the Student Handbook).

Exams must be taken as scheduled. Exams will only be rescheduled for those who have a valid medical note or who have consulted with me prior to the exam.

The use of portable electronic devices of any kind – including computers - is not permitted at any time during class. Please turn off all computers, cell phones, pagers, pdas, mp3 players, and so on prior to the beginning of class. If you need to use a recording device or computer in class and have a legitimate reason please consult with me first.

Please bring to my attention as early as possible any special educational needs you may have. The University’s Disability Resource Center provides services to students needing special accommodations (see http://www.accessdisability-deaf.neu.edu/).