CRIM 4949 SENIOR CAPSTONE SEMINAR-SPRING 2015
5:30-8:15pm: Wednesday, 200 Churchill

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Office Days and Hours: Wednesday and Friday, 10-11:00 am, and by appointment.

Teaching Assistant: Noelle Smart, M.A., Hayden 502B; E-mail: smart.n@husky.neu.edu.
Office Days and Hours: Tuesday, 4:30-6:30 pm, and by appointment.

Course description and objectives:
The published course description states: “The Senior Capstone Seminar requires students to question and to reflect on their knowledge of crime and justice in the context of their academic and experiential learning. Students are expected to develop their critical thinking skills through class discussions, writing assignments, and presentations.” Capstone is designated as a writing intensive course. The selected readings and class assignments are designed to meet the critical thinking and writing intensive objectives of the course. Written assignments will be evaluated based on your ability to write critically on theories, generated interests, and social facts related to a crime control policy of your choosing. Below a diagram relates how you should think about the course objectives:
Course Readings

Books:
Cook, Kevin. 2014. Kitty Genovese: The Murder, the Bystanders, the Crime that Changed America: WW Norton & Company.

Articles:**

*Available at the NU bookstore and are on reserve in the NU library.
**Articles posted on Blackboard.

Course Requirements and Grading Points:

*Semester papers (60 points total):* Your semester paper will be divided into parts. The first will consist of an introduction/thesis/theory part that will be evaluated as your first short paper. The second part will consist of a literature/data review. Your second paper must include a critical assessment of the literature that you have reviewed. Your final paper will be your end product, bringing together your interest in the theory and facts of a crime control policy. Grading: Short papers are worth a total of 15 points each, of which the first instructors draft counts for 5 points. Your final semester paper is worth 30 points. All papers should draw on scholarly references. The minimum number of scholarly references for your first paper is 3 and your second paper 5. The format and grading rubrics for your papers are on Blackboard.

*Class quizzes (20 points):* Individual and group readiness assessment quizzes facilitate class discussion and reward those prepared to discuss the assigned reading. The quizzes will be first taken individually and then as a group. Group bonus points will provide you with an additional 5 points. You will need to bring a TurningPoint “ResponseCard clicker,” available in the NU book store.

*Group facilitation (10 points):* Each group will organize a presentation on its assigned book chapters. Group members will decide how to divide the book chapters, facilitating and responding to the assigned chapters. Each group member is expected to post chapter comments on Blackboard. In addition the group will make a coordinated 20 minute multi-media presentation of their choosing on its assigned chapters. Each group member’s facilitation should include three multiple choice questions related to their chapter. Facilitators must post their individual summary and questions by 5PM before the day of the class on Blackboard. Facilitator posting should be between 300 and 500 words. A grading rubric rubric for evaluating posted facilitation and group presentation is posted in the assignment section of Blackboard.
*Class participation (5 points):* Showing up having read the assigned chapter, contributing to class discussions, completing announced assignments will lead to maximum credit.

*Group participation (5 points):* Class members will be organized in groups. Group participation and peer reviews count towards your group participation grade. If you take care in reviewing each other’s drafts and actively participate in your group, you will receive maximum credit.

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<th>Grading Criteria</th>
<th>94</th>
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<th>87</th>
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Submission of writing requirements:
- You must submit your writing assignments through Blackboard’s journal and TurnItIn program. Your writing must be independent of others, which means that you cannot plagiarize another paper as if it was your own. You should not duplicate more than 20% of papers that you have produced in other courses. Your paper must be based on proper academic formatting and referencing as posted on the NU library website: [http://www.lib.neu.edu/online_research/help/citations_footnotes](http://www.lib.neu.edu/online_research/help/citations_footnotes).

Due dates:
- Introduction and thesis paper: Receive first draft comments from your working group 2/18; submit second draft for instructor’s review 2/25; submit final draft within a week after comments received.
- Literature/data review paper: Receive first draft comments from your working group 3/18; submit second draft for instructor’s review 3/25; submit final draft within a week after comments received.
- Semester final paper: Semester paper presentation power-points due 4/14; presentation 4/15; final paper due 4/22.

Course rules:
- No internet surfing, instant messaging, texting, or Facebooking during class time. Laptops are for the exclusive purpose of taking notes. Cell phones should not to be used in class.
- Students must act in accordance with the Academic Integrity Policy in the NU student handbook (Pp. 36-37: [http://www.northeastern.edu/admissions/pdfs/UndergradHandbook.pdf](http://www.northeastern.edu/admissions/pdfs/UndergradHandbook.pdf)), which includes making sure that your work is your own and appropriately referenced.
- Students with documented disabilities will be fully accommodated following stated NU procedures.
- If you are unable to complete an assignment or attend class because of a family emergency or illness, you should email me. Please put the course name in the subject heading.
- Unless sufficient medical or family justification is provided, a late submission will be subject to a half-point penalty for each day past its posted due date.
**Course Schedule***

Jan 14: Introduction: Critical thinking about crime and justice.

Jan 21: Can offenders change? Read Mike Tyson’s Op-Ed; Gottfreson and Hirschi; Wilson and Kelling.

Jan 28: Media interests: Read Cook, Chps. 1 to 10. *Facilitator Group, Forest Hills.*

Feb 18: Generated myths as facts: Read Cook, Chps. 11 to end. *Facilitator Group, Detroit.*

*Assignment:* Post first two paragraphs of introduction/thesis.

Feb 25: Introduction and thesis: Instructor’s draft due, individual meetings.


Mar 18: Impoverished inner city life: Read Goffman, Chps 5 to end. *Facilitator Group Bronx.*

*Assignment:* Post first two paragraphs of literature/data review.

Mar 25: Literature/data review: Instructor’s draft due, individual meetings

Apr 1: Affluent suburban cities: Read Singer, Chps. 1 to 4. *Facilitator Group, Buffalo.*

Apr 8: Delinquency: Read Singer, Chps. 5 to end. *Facilitator Group, Amherst*

Apr 15: Semester paper presentations

Apr 22: Assessments

*Schedule tentative and subject to change*