Crime, Media, and Culture
Sociology 300A
Fall 2016
Aug 22 – Dec 6

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Required Material:

- Crime and Media Studies: Diversity of Method, Medium, and Communication. Frank Wilson
- Additional readings will be assigned and will be made available electronically.

This course will make use of Canvas. Students should visit the site regularly as assignments, scores, and important course information will be posted there.

Introduction

Crime is considered a major social problem in our country, but our understandings of crime and justice are derived more from indirect mediated images than direct personal experience. Popular culture, distributed through mass media and composed of popular news and entertainment, is a major source for shaping our understandings of the world, especially when it comes to crime because crime is a staple of mass media. This course will explore the complex relationship between crime, media, and pop culture. Through books, movies, music, and television – crime enters our private lives in many ways. These representations of crime and criminal justice shape our understandings of law, policing, criminality, and justice but may not always reflect an accurate reality. By taking a practical socio-historical approach, this course examines these issues from multiple angles by looking at the ways in which media and pop culture reflect, reinforce, and influence crime and criminal justice policies in North America.

Course Objectives

- Provide an academic experience that will inform students about how knowledge about crime and the criminal justice system is created and disseminated through media
- Provide critical thinking skills that will help students as researchers and citizens to determine the accuracy of information presented about crime in the media.
- Develop research-related skills and consider methodological problems with scientifically generated crime data (NCVS) - emphasis on content analysis.

Student Learning Objectives - Upon successful completion of this course you should be:

- Aware of issues regarding mass media, crime, and justice and be able to discuss them.
• Aware of the social science research in this area and be able to critique it.
• Able to critically evaluate mass media offerings in terms of how crime and the criminal justice system are depicted.
• Act as an educated consumer of media portraying crime or criminal behavior

Policies and Procedures

Due to the nature of this topic, I will treat this class more like a seminar than a lecture. As such, you will be responsible for having read material before class and coming prepared to discuss the material in depth. You are required to attend class, complete assignments, read, think, write, and discuss. In this format, it is critical that you attend class faithfully and that you come prepared to discuss the subject matter. Attendance will be taken and excessive absences will negatively impact your grade.

Course Evaluation

1. Attendance – 50 pts
2. Discussion participation – 200 pts
3. Quizzes – 10 @ 20 pts – 200 pts
4. Short writing exercises – 3 @ 50 pts – 150 pts
5. Final paper – 200 pts

Total of 800 points possible. Grades will be awarded as follows:

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<th>Grade</th>
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<tr>
<td>A</td>
<td>750–800</td>
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<td>A-</td>
<td>720-749</td>
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<td>B+</td>
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<td>B</td>
<td>670-699</td>
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<td>B-</td>
<td>640-669</td>
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<td>C+</td>
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<td>C</td>
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Borderline grades, curves, and other grade inflators. I am more than happy to help you succeed in this course. However, grades for this course will not be “curved.” I do not grade on the basis of need. If you “need” an A in this course, note the total number of points necessary to earn an A, and I will be glad to give you advice on how to achieve that goal. Do not come to me and ask me to change your final grade unless you suspect a mathematical error has been made. Results of individual assignments may be discussed via email, by phone, or in my office.

General Education

Purpose: Emporia State University is committed to providing a liberal education for all its students. One important component of this liberal education is the completion of all designated general education requirements. This general education core curriculum is the heart of the college experience at ESU and is integral to the student’s major program. The goals of this general education program reflect the mission of this institution and are common to all student programs, regardless of majors and career goals. The general education curriculum provides the intellectual background and skills necessary to be “an educated person,” as it improves and enhances quality of life. As a result of completing the general education program, graduates of Emporia State University will be knowledgeable of our pluralistic society; be able to think with breadth and
comprehension, to communicate effectively, to understand what it means to be human, and to function with skill and knowledge in the everyday world.

**Goals:**

1. Develop proficiency in written and oral communication, and in mathematical computation, reasoning and problem solving. Graduates of ESU must achieve proficiency in basic skills. Our goal is to significantly raise the basic skills of Emporia State University students.

2. Learn the basic concepts and principles, the history, and the mode of inquiry of the various general education disciplines: the fine arts, history, literature and philosophy, the social behavioral sciences, and the life and physical sciences.

3. Learn how to make connections between the disciplines within the general education curriculum, apply knowledge from the perspective of these disciplines, think critically, analyze issues, and clarify values.

4. Understand cultural diversity in the contemporary world, and increase their awareness and acceptance of similarities and contrasts in people of different cultures, nationalities, religions, races, and genders.

5. Develop a commitment to scholarship, intellectual curiosity, lifelong learning and the life skills necessary to function as healthy and effective citizens.

**Emporia State University Policies**

*Disability Services:* Emporia State University will make reasonable accommodations for persons with documented disabilities. Students need to contact the Director of Disability Services and the professor as early in the semester as possible to ensure that classroom and academic accommodations are implemented in a timely fashion. All communication between students, Disability Services, and the professor will be strictly confidential.

**3D.0701 ACADEMIC DISHONESTY POLICY** (FSB 95002 approved by President 1/31/96; FSB 03002 passed by Faculty Senate 1/20/04; approved by President 2/9/04; FSB 05002 passed by Faculty Senate 1/17/06; approved by President 2/7/06; title update approved by President of the Faculty 8/22/2010; FSB 10007 passed by Faculty Senate 3/15/2011; approved by President 3/21/2011).

Academic dishonesty, a basis for disciplinary action, includes but is not limited to activities such as cheating and plagiarism (presenting as one's own the intellectual or creative accomplishments of another without giving credit to the source or sources). The faculty member in whose course or under whose tutelage an act of academic dishonesty occurs has the option of failing the student for the academic hours in question, or for any components or requirements for that course. Departments, schools, and colleges may have provisions for more severe penalties. Emporia State University may impose penalties for academic dishonesty up to and including expulsion from the student’s major or from the University. In addition, acts of academic dishonesty shall be grounds to deny admission to a department or program. In addition to the penalties above, the faculty member shall notify in writing his/her department chair and the registrar of the infraction. The department chair shall forward a report of the infraction to the Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs and Student Life. The registrar shall block the student from withdrawing from the course to avoid the penalties that result from the infraction. The Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs and Student Life shall act as the record keeper for student academic infractions. The Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs and Student Life will notify the student in writing that an infraction has been reported and inform the student of the right to appeal and of the appropriate appeal procedures. The Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs and Student Life shall notify the student, the department chair, and the faculty member that initiated the proceedings, of any additional action taken beyond those already imposed by the faculty member. Should a single infraction be so egregious, or should a student have a record of multiple infractions, the Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs and Student Life may impose additional penalties, including expulsion of the student from the University. The student has the right to appeal the
charge of academic dishonesty (see Student Conduct section). If after an appeal it is found that the student did not commit an act of academic dishonesty, no penalties will be imposed on the student. 3-65 A chair of a department of director of a program may request from the Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs and Student Life a list of all currently enrolled ESU students within that major or program who have committed acts of academic dishonesty. This request may be a standing request to be filling automatically during each semester until the chair or director rescinds the request. In addition, a chair of a department or director of a program may submit to the office of the Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs and Student Life a list of applicants to a program or major and the chair or director may be informed if any of the applicants has committed any acts of academic dishonesty. Prior to the beginning of the next academic year, the office of the Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs and Student Life shall send to the Chair of the Academic Affairs Committee of the Faculty Senate a list containing nonspecific student identifiers, such as Student 1, Student 2, etc., their specific academic infraction(s) reported to the Provost’s office, the total number of infractions that have been reported for each student, and any actions taken by the Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs and Student Life.

**3D.07 STUDENT CONDUCT (FSB 01011 approved by President, 4/29/02)**

Excessive absenteeism is defined as a number of absences beyond which the faculty member has determined on his/her syllabus that a student cannot complete the course without the academic integrity of the course being compromised. Emporia State University is committed toward development of sensitive and responsible individuals and believes this goal is best achieved through a sound educational program and reasonable policies concerning student conduct, both in and out of the classroom. Operating from this concept, recognition is given to the importance of an honest approach to learning which ideally is shared by the instructor and the student. Faculty members may make the disposition of any cases of disruptive behavior, excessive absenteeism, or academic dishonesty within their classes as they deem appropriate. Following such cases, the faculty member shall make available to the chair of the department and to the office of the Vice President for Student Affairs a record of such student absenteeism or disruptive behavior and the action taken by the faculty member. (This information will be helpful in dealing with those students who may have had similar problems in other classes or departments.) If the problem is not settled between the faculty member and the student, assistance will be given from the office of the Vice President for Student Affairs. If the problem cannot be resolved at this point the student may request a hearing. This request must be in writing. If a case of dishonesty, excessive absenteeism, or disruptive behavior also involves a disagreement regarding a grade, the student may be referred to the committee which hears academic appeals. If the behavior is such that broader disciplinary action by the school/college is recommended, a hearing board shall be established by the President of the University to make disposition of the case. (In all cases of disciplinary action the office of the Vice President for Student Affairs is available for assistance.) At any point where student conduct directly interferes with the health, safety, or well being of individuals in the campus community, the University may apply sanctions or take other appropriate action. Since the University is responsible for the subsidiary duties of maintaining property, keeping records, providing living accommodations, and sponsoring a variety of nonclassroom activities, it is necessary that a climate supportive of such duties be maintained. Student status will not be a basis for any special consideration from the University when a community, state, or national law has been violated, although every effort will be made to assist with the rehabilitation of a student violating such laws. This is done by working with law enforcement or other agencies, and ordinarily further sanctions are not applied after such a case is closed. No disciplinary sanction as serious as suspension, probation, or adverse notation on permanent records (available to other than official personnel of the college) will be imposed without proper notification given to the student in writing. This notification will state the charges and will give the accused the opportunity to appear alone, or with appropriate representation before the proper committee, judicial council, court, or official. Included will be the nature and source of evidence and the encouragement for the student to present evidence in turn. Following this review final disciplinary action will be taken by the University. Students may also request that such 3-64 appearance before committees, councils, courts, or officials be waived and the case be determined in conference with appropriate campus officials. The University conduct policy commits all individuals serving on any of the above named groups dealing with student problems to a code of confidence. Failure to comply may lead to sanctions from student, faculty, or administrative governing bodies, or officials. Students, faculty, and administration shall have the opportunity to participate fully in the formulation of policies and rules and their enforcement. Penalties for men and women shall be based equally; like penalties following like violations.

**4E.13 FACULTY INITIATED STUDENT WITHDRAWAL (FSB 76006; FSB 95008 approved by President 5/9/96; FSB 09016 approved by President 5/3/2010)**
If a student's absences from class, disruptive behavior, lack of prerequisites, or academic dishonesty become detrimental to the student's progress or that of other students in the class, the faculty member may advise the student to withdraw from the class. Withdrawal may also be advised if the student is inappropriately enrolled in the class. If the faculty member chooses to withdraw the student, he/she shall attempt to notify the student in writing that a faculty initiated withdrawal is in progress. This notification will be copied to the department chair and Academic Affairs office to serve as the request for withdrawal. If efforts to contact the student have been unsuccessful, or unacknowledged, the faculty member shall then seek the aid of the Academic Affairs office in contacting the student. The Academic Affairs office shall provide the student with information about the existing appeals procedures. Upon receiving a written request for withdrawal from the faculty member, the Academic Affairs office may initiate a student withdrawal from the class. None of the above implies or states that faculty members are required to initiate any student withdrawal.

**Class Policies**

*Canvas.* Please check Canvas for various kinds of information usually provided in handouts or other kinds of feedback. **It is your responsibility to check these sources for any announcements or information pertinent to class and class assignments.**

*Class attendance.* Class attendance is monitored. There is an old saying that 90% of life is just showing up. This statement holds true in education. Habitual tardiness/absences will negatively impact your grade. A significant portion of the grade in this class is based upon active engagement and participation in class discussion. You cannot participate if you are not here.

*Class Etiquette.* Be sure that your cell phones are turned off. Texting, facebooking, yik yaking, tweeting, surfing the net, arriving late, and packing up early are distracting to your colleagues AND the instructor. Please be respectful. If laptops become a nuisance, you will be asked to close them.

*Late Assignments.* Typically, late assignments will be penalized **10% for each day past due.**

*Makeup work.* Typically, no makeups for exams or other assignments will be given. You are expected to notify me at least one week in advance if you must miss a scheduled assignment.

*Office hours.* I will be available for communication during the times listed above. This is a time when you can drop in to talk about your progress in the course or any other course related matters. I am also available by appointment. I also encourage e-mail communication and will reply with timeliness.