
CJE 3444 SECURITY AND CRIME SCIENCE (3)

Department of Criminal Justice
Florida International University

Course Description and Objectives

Catalog description: Examines situational and legislative approaches to the prevention of crime and the apprehension of suspects. Emphasis on theories, problem-solving, implementation and consequences of these approaches.

Has increased security around the world led to a reduction in overall crime? Does hot spot policing reduce crime in particular areas and crime overall? Can we reduce terrorism by making it riskier to commit particular acts of terrorism? These are the type of big questions crime scientists routinely try to answer with their research in the pursuit of making society safer. Crime science is the scientific study of crime that has the objective of preventing crime in the first place or contribute to the identification and apprehension of suspects more readily should crime occur. Crime science operates from a multi-disciplinary framework that draws from environmental criminology, engineering design, economics, artificial intelligence, geography, public health, psychology, urban planning, and ecology, to name a few.

In this course, you will learn about how policy makers and crime scientists from around the world, and especially in Europe, Australasia, Africa, and North America, have implemented solutions to prevent crime and other unwanted social behavior. In doing so, one can use this knowledge to inform security strategies for other problematic behavior anywhere in the world while taking into account the social-economic and cultural conditions. *This is a global learning course that counts towards your global learning graduation requirement.*

Global Learning Course Outcomes

1. **Global awareness.** Demonstrate an understanding of the interrelatedness between local, national, and global crime problems and prevention.
2. **Global perspective.** Analyze problems and case studies at the local, global, and international levels from multiple perspectives (e.g. environmental, psychological, geographical, and sociological, to name a few) to better understand the nature of crime and disorder.
3. **Global engagement.** Formulate potential strategies related to domestic, transnational, and international problems such as terrorism, crowd control security, suicide, chronic homelessness, illicit trade in wildlife, street prostitution, and traffic fatalities.

Readings

There is only one book you must purchase from the bookstore (or an online marketplace like amazon.com). All other material will be given to you through Canvas online.

Required text: Felson, M and M. Eckert. (2016). Crime and Everyday Life, 5th Edition. Sage Publications. Thousand Oaks, CA. (CEL)

How will you succeed in the course?

Participate. You all have different backgrounds and bring different experiences to this class and I'd like for you to share your wisdom as it relates to classroom material and debate. Participating in class makes for a better learning environment, which helps you retain important material and helps your peers learn as well.

Read. One of the most important things you can do to succeed in this class is to read the material before coming to class. This gives you the foundational knowledge in the material that we will build upon through exercises within class. In addition to this, and I think more importantly, it inspires you to think about current policies and whether a crime science approach is more effective in reducing a problematic behavior. This type of critical thinking is what I hope this course fosters in every student.

How will I evaluate your progress?

Group Assessments. In class each week, you will be put into groups multiple times to (1) critically think about the nature of crime problems and (2) to problem solve. After discussion with your group members, students will need to submit a written answer as a group that sufficiently answers the question or set of questions at hand (about 1 page typed up).

Exams. There will be one final exam that is cumulative.

Quizzes. There will be 10 online quizzes that will be completed through the Canvas webpage before each class. Each quiz will cover the material for the upcoming lecture. Quizzes are 15 minutes in length and consist of 10 questions. By 1pm on Thursdays, the quiz will no longer be available and students will receive a zero for that week if they missed the opportunity to take it. Students are allowed to re-take each quiz once, as long as it completed before the due date. If one chooses to re-take a quiz, the highest grade from both attempts will be recorded. The point of these quizzes is twofold: to make sure you are competent in the material covered for that week and to prepare you for the upcoming class discussion, group assessment, and final exam. I feel that everyone can pass this course and having multiple quizzes helps ensure that result.

Grading. The final grade will be based on the following course requirements:

Final Exam	— 20%
Quizzes (10)	— 10% each
Group Assignments (10)	— 30% total

The following grading scale will be used to determine your course grades:

Grade	Percent	Grade	Percent
A	90-100%	C	70-77%
B+	87-89%	D+	67-69%
B	80-87%	D	60-67%
C+	77-79%	F	Below 60%

Tentative Schedule	
CLASS 1	Introduction
CLASS 2	NO CLASS (Labor Day)
CLASS 3	CEL - Ch.1 & 2
CLASS 4	Opportunity Makes the Thief, 1998 (PDF)
CLASS 5	CEL - Ch.3 & 9
CLASS 6	Using CPTED in Problem Solving (Guide No.8) CEL - Ch.10 Crime Analysis for Problem Solvers - Steps 38 - 4
CLASS 7	Hot Products, 1999 (PDF) & the Illicit Wildlife Trade
CLASS 8	Response Guide No. 2 & No. 4 Analyzing Repeat Victimization (Problem Solving Tool Guide No.4)
CLASS 9	The Hot Spotters (The New Yorker) The Power of Context & Broken Windows (NY Times) Malcolm Gladwell Crime Analysis for Problem Solvers - Steps 2-14; 16-19
CLASS 10	Crime Analysis for Problem Solvers - Steps 22-31; 34-37
CLASS 11	This American Life podcast: The 1 Party School Understanding Suicide in the UK, India, and the US (New York Times Magazine) Crime Analysis for Problem Solvers - Steps 48-52; 55-59
CLASS 12	CEL - Ch.4 Crowd Management in the UK, Germany, and the US (PDF)
CLASS 13	Preventing Terrorism in Ireland, Israel, and internationally (PDF) Chronic Homelessness & Million Dollar Murray (The New Yorker)
CLASS 14	FINAL EXAM