SOCIOLOGY 410/510
TOPICS: CRIME, FILM, AND THE MEDIA (4 Credits)
Fully Online: Summer 2015
8 week summer session (June 22-August 16)

Professor Thompson
217F Cramer Hall: 503-725-3614
Office Hours: Online via email, or by appointment
mthomp@pdx.edu

COURSE DESCRIPTION
This course analyzes the images of crime and the criminal justice system that are presented through the major mass media within the U.S. Crime movies, television crime dramas, television news, and newspaper crime coverage will be the major sources of data for uncovering how the media portrays society's struggle with crime and what the media can add to our understanding of crime and criminal justice. Fictional realities in the form of media/films will operate (1) to make abstract concepts more “real” and (2) as an empirical referent to be explored through application of criminological concepts. Films/the media, in other words, operate as a means or vehicle to allow us to explore criminological themes, issues, and the role of analytic concepts in social analysis.

COURSE WEBSITE
THIS IS A COMPLETELY ON-LINE COURSE. In order to succeed, you must have reliable internet access that will allow you to navigate/search the web, use email, attach and upload documents, and download and save files.

 All course materials and grades will be available on D2L (https://d2l.pdx.edu). I will also use D2L to communicate with the class.
 If you are having trouble accessing your D2L account or do not have an ODIN account please contact the OIT help desk (Smith Memorial Student Union (SMSU) 18) at 503-725-HELP (4357) or help@pdx.edu.
 It is your responsibility to check D2L and your email regularly for important announcements and any changes to course requirements.

COURSE STRUCTURE
Each week throughout the eight week summer session, I will post weekly modules on Monday, which will include the following:
 Weekly Instructions: A brief statement of the week’s theme(s); reading outline and questions to guide your reading; reminders about upcoming due dates and course requirements.
 Weekly Quiz: The quizzes require that you’ve completed the required readings for the week. The quizzes are based solely on the week’s readings (not on PowerPoint slides or other material). The quizzes are open book/open notes, but you may not consult with your classmates or anyone else while taking the quiz. Once you start your quiz, you will be
limited in the amount of time you have to complete it, so even though it is open book/open note, you should be sure you’ve completed the week’s readings prior to starting the quiz. Your lowest quiz grade for the term will be dropped.

- **Weekly PowerPoints**: Lectures in the form of PowerPoint slides. These summarize some of the key information from your readings, but also provide additional information that is important for you to know as you prepare to discuss the week’s readings and other material in a discussion with your classmates.

- **Weekly discussion question(s)**: Discussions with your classmates. You will be expected to answer questions I pose. Answering these questions will require you to understand, and be able to apply, information from readings and PowerPoint slides to specific examples from the media and/or films. For most weeks, to be able to answer these discussion questions, students will first need to view an assigned film.

**TIME MANAGEMENT AND COURSE ORGANIZATION**

- Because this is an online course, the onus will be on you to stay on top of course material, and to find a sufficient amount of time to complete course requirements. You should be aware that because we do not have a scheduled “face-to-face” meeting, you will instead need to do an equivalent amount of work on your own time. If this were a class with regular face-to-face meetings, you would be expected to spend **approximately 4-5 hours** in a traditional lecture class; this 4-5 hours is in addition to the time spent on required readings and out-of-class assignments such as paper writing. Thus, rather than those 4-5 hours in lecture, you will instead be expected to spend an equivalent amount of time reviewing PowerPoint slides that will be posted weekly, viewing/reading films/media stories, and participating in discussions on D2L about these readings and media/film examples. In addition, like any class, you are also expected to complete required readings. Therefore, you do need to plan to find sufficient time each week to complete all course requirements.

- To help you establish a weekly routine for this course, I have set up the course so that you will have deadlines the same day/same time each week:
  - **FRIDAYS AT MIDNIGHT**: deadline for quizzes, based on required readings
  - **SUNDAYS AT MIDNIGHT**: deadline for discussion questions, plus other course requirements such as the paper assignment and the final exam.

- Of course, you can do the work whenever it works best in your schedule for the week, but these days/times are the latest you can submit your work to receive credit each week.

- The course is not designed for “working at your own pace”, so working ahead on quizzes/discussions will not be allowed (i.e., I won’t activate quizzes and discussions early). This course is intentionally designed so that all students are at more or less the same place in the course at the same time. If you do need to “work ahead” due to an upcoming time conflict, you should “work ahead” on required readings and the paper.
ONLINE DISCUSSIONS
Weekly online discussions will be used to apply readings/core concepts to films and other media representations. The purpose of these discussions is to learn how the film/media example can be represented and understood by applying the readings. Key terms and concepts will be identified via quizzes and on PowerPoint slides, and you should think about how these might be used by you to offer an interpretation of the “social reality” depicted in the film &/or the media. Together with your classmates via D2L discussions, you will work toward a shared understanding of these key concepts and how they apply to the examples in the course.

REQUIRED TEXTS
2. PDFs of other required readings will be available on D2L.
3. Films: As part of the class, you are required to watch several films. These films, and various ways of accessing the films, are available in a document on D2L titled “Film Access”. The films are required viewing; weekly discussions and the final exam will both assume that each film has been watched. In general, the purpose of watching the films is (a) to apply concepts from readings/PowerPoints slides to these examples, and (b) to provide a frame of reference for discussions regarding the apparent “accuracy” of crime/criminal justice representations in film and the media. Students are expected to be aware of film viewing requirements for each week, and to be prepared to track down the relevant film with sufficient time to allow for viewing the film prior to corresponding discussion deadline.

COURSE POLICIES
• Late Assignments. Assignments should be completed by the due date/time. Late assignments may be accepted with a legitimate excuse, but will be penalized 10% per day late. Please document any family or medical emergency and notify the professor as soon as possible (email preferred).

• Course announcements. Please check D2L frequently (a minimum of 2 times per week) for any announcements related to the course.

• Contact for technical support: Helpdesk. Computing and D2L questions should be directed to the Helpdesk. They may be contacted in the following ways.
  o Phone: 503-725-4357 (5-HELP)
  o Email requesting assistance to: help@pdx.edu
  o Visit the helpdesk in the basement of Smith Memorial Student Union, room 18. Users experiencing wireless connectivity issues are especially encouraged to visit in person for hands-on troubleshooting.

• Class questions and contacting the professor. The best way to contact me is via email. Please allow approximately 24 hours for a response during the week and up to 48 hours over the weekend. If you have a question about the class or the syllabus, you can post your question on D2L in the discussion titled “Class questions” (in the “Course Material” folder).
If you see a question posted here and you know the answer, you are encouraged to answer the question yourself.

- **Offensive Material.** You will likely find some of the depictions and language presented in this class to be shocking, disgusting, or offensive. By definition, the subject matter of this course includes things that many people find objectionable on moral or other grounds. This course will require you to have a certain amount of tolerance for offensive language, actions, descriptions, and images. This does not mean that you have to approve of them, but you will have to keep your personal feelings in check in order to study these topics. I will be available to discuss any concerns you have with course materials.

- **Documented Disability.** If you are a student with a documented disability and registered with the Disability Resource Center (DRC), please contact me immediately to facilitate arranging academic accommodations. DRC contact information: Web: [http://www.pdx.edu/drc/](http://www.pdx.edu/drc/); phone: 503-725-4150; Fax: 503-725-4103; email: drc@pdx.edu.

- **Net Etiquette.** In all of your course communications, whether formal or informal, you are required to observe the rules of netiquette. These include the following net etiquette rules:
  - Avoid using all CAPS as it can give the impression that you are shouting. If you want to emphasize a point, use *asterisks* around a word.
  - Avoid personal attacks, otherwise known as "flaming." If you read a message that you suspect might be a personal attack, resist the temptation to fire off a response. Instead, let your response sit before sending or request that your instructor resolve the situation.
  - If you disagree with a fellow student, describe your perspective clearly and politely rather than primarily criticizing her/his comments. Avoid any personal criticism or potentially offensive language.
  - Be respectful when making a comment or responding to others’ comments. This rule is the same as for face-to-face classroom behavior. However, as we are not going to have body language and tone of voice in our online communications, please use formal English appropriately.
  - Be extra polite, careful, and kind about how you express yourself while posting to a discussion board or emailing me.
  - Avoid that thousands-word lengthy post, and avoid posting dozens of messages a week. In the interest of time only, which I know none of you have enough of, please work on being succinct.
  - Avoid the twitter and text message abbreviations. Not everyone knows them.
  - Finally, if you run into any netiquette-related problems—if something has offended or hurt your feelings, for instance—please e-mail me directly about it. I would like to be aware of any problems.

- **Academic Misconduct.** According to the PSU Student Code of Conduct, a student is subject to disciplinary action for academic dishonesty. Academic dishonesty is the act of knowingly or intentionally seeking to claim credit for the work or effort of another person or
participation in such acts. This includes, but is not limited to: (a) cheating, (b) fraud, (c) plagiarism, such as word for word copying, using borrowed words or phrases from original text into new patterns without attribution, or paraphrasing another writer’s ideas; (d) The buying or selling of all or any portion of course assignments and research papers; (e) Performing academic assignments (including tests and examinations) for other persons; (f) Unauthorized disclosure or receipt of academic information. Students who engage in academic misconduct will receive a failing grade on the corresponding assignment.

- **Resources to Help You Succeed at PSU**
  - **Writing Center** ([http://www.writingcenter.pdx.edu](http://www.writingcenter.pdx.edu))
    - One-on-one help with writing, on a drop-in or appointment basis
    - 188 Cramer Hall, 725.3570
  - **Millar Library** ([http://www.library.pdx.edu/](http://www.library.pdx.edu/))
  - **Student Health and Counseling Center (SHAC)** ([http://www.pdx.edu/shac/](http://www.pdx.edu/shac/))
    - Counseling, psychological evaluation and intervention, testing services, and all health-related concerns. 1880 SW 6th Ave., 725-2800

- **Other Recommended Materials:**
  - Here are some helpful on-line grammar and writing resources:
    - The OWL at Purdue University
      [http://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/679/01/](http://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/679/01/)
    - The Emory Writing Center
      [http://writingcenter.emory.edu/students/resources/index.html](http://writingcenter.emory.edu/students/resources/index.html)

### COURSE REQUIREMENTS AND GRADES: items 1-4 are required for both 410 and 510 students

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Associated Points</th>
<th>1. <strong>Weekly Discussion Participation:</strong> There will be eight online discussions under “Discussions” on D2L. Everyone is expected to review the posted materials and participate in the discussions. More instructions about discussions will be provided in the weekly instructions.</th>
<th>80</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2. <strong>Quizzes:</strong> There will be seven quizzes throughout the term that you will complete via D2L. Quizzes will be based on the required readings for that week. Each quiz will be worth 10 points. You will be able to drop your lowest quiz score (I will only count the 6 highest of the 7 scores). You will have 30 minutes to complete each quiz once you begin. You will have an available window of 5 days to complete the quizzes (Monday through Friday).</td>
<td>60</td>
<td></td>
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*Note: Graduate students are expected to take a leadership role in this activity.*
3. **Paper assignment.** An analysis on a topic of your choice regarding the media/films and crime. Wherever possible, the paper must draw on/tie to class material, especially PowerPoint material and the required readings.

4. **Final exam:** An open-book/open-note final exam, which includes material from readings, PowerPoint slides, films, and discussions.

| TOTAL POSSIBLE POINTS FOR UNDERGRADUATE STUDENTS | 300 |

5. **ADDITIONAL graduate student (SOC 510) requirement: Presentation.** In addition to the above requirements, graduate students are also required to review the course topics in the “Course Schedule” (below) and identify a topic in the area of: (a) crime and the media, or (b) crime and film that is *not* covered in the course (or that is covered somewhat superficially). You will conduct research into this topic and present the details of your research to the class using PowerPoint or a similar medium -- about 15-20 slides but no more than 30 slides. Please email me with your topic by **July 19** (Sunday by 11:59 pm) so I can approve your topic. These presentations must be posted on D2L by Sunday, **August 2** at 11:59pm.

| TOTAL POSSIBLE POINTS FOR GRADUATE STUDENTS | 375 |

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grading Scale</th>
<th>Letter Grade</th>
<th>Undergraduates: Point Ranges for Associated Grade</th>
<th>Graduates: Point Ranges for Associated Grade</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>92% and above</td>
<td>A</td>
<td>276-300</td>
<td>345-375</td>
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<tr>
<td>90-91%</td>
<td>A-</td>
<td>270-275</td>
<td>338-344</td>
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<td>88-89%</td>
<td>B+</td>
<td>264-269</td>
<td>330-337</td>
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<tr>
<td>82-87%</td>
<td>B</td>
<td>246-263</td>
<td>308-329</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>80-81%</td>
<td>B-</td>
<td>240-245</td>
<td>300-307</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>78-79%</td>
<td>C+</td>
<td>234-239</td>
<td>293-299</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>72-77%</td>
<td>C</td>
<td>216-233</td>
<td>270-292</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>70-71%</td>
<td>C-</td>
<td>210-215</td>
<td>263-269</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>60-69%</td>
<td>D</td>
<td>180-209</td>
<td>225-262</td>
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<tr>
<td>Below 60%</td>
<td>F</td>
<td>179 and under</td>
<td>224 and under</td>
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# COURSE SCHEDULE

Course schedule subject to change with reasonable notice

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Topic</th>
<th>Required Readings</th>
<th>Deadlines</th>
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</thead>
</table>
| Week 1       | ● Course Introduction  
               ● The Mediated World of Crime and Justice  
               FILM: “Reefer Madness” | ● Surette, chapters 1 & 8 (pp. 1-29 & pp. 177-202)  
               ● Renauer, B. 2011. “Do Oregonians Know About the Crime Drop?” CIPRI.     | Quiz #1 Opens 6/22; Closes 6/26 at 11:59pm  
              Discussion #1 Opens 6/22; Closes 6/28 at 11:59pm |}
| June 22-     | ● Social Construction of Reality  
               ● Media Construction of “Typical Criminals” and “Typical Victims”  
               FILM: “Bowling for Columbine” | ● Surette, chapter 2 (pp. 30-56)  
               ● Dixon and Linz. 2000. “Overrepresentation and underrepresentation of African Americans and Latinos as lawbreakers on TV news.” | Quiz #2 Opens 6/29; Closes 7/3 at 11:59pm  
              Discussion #2 Opens 6/29; Closes 6/5 at 11:59pm |}
| June 28      | ● Gangs, Drugs, and Crime  
               ● “American Drug War”  
               FILM: “The Interrupters” | ● Surette, chapter 3 (pp. 57-73)  
               ● Esbensen & Tusinski. 2006. “Youth gangs in the print media.” (pp. 21-38).  
              Discussion #3 Opens 7/6; Closes 7/12 at 11:59pm |}
| Week 3       | ● Gangs, Violence and Crime  
               ● Explanations for criminal activity  
               FILM: “Law & Disorder” & “Paradise Lost 3” | ● Surette, chapters 4 & 11 (pp. 74-99 & 247-267)  
              Discussion #4 Opens 7/13; Closes 7/19 at 11:59pm |}
| July 6-      | Regulation and Social Control: Police and Courts  
               FILMS: “Law & Disorder” & “Paradise Lost 3” | ● Surette, chapters 5 & 6 (pp. 100-152).  
               ● Tyler, T. (2004). “Enhancing police legitimacy.” | Quiz #5 Opens 7/20; Closes 7/24 at 11:59pm  
              Discussion #5 Opens 7/20; Closes 7/26 at 11:59pm |}
| July 12      | Regulation and Social Control: Corrections  
              Discussion #6 Opens 7/27; Closes 8/2 at 11:59pm |}
| Week 5       | ● The Mediated World of Crime and Justice  
               FILM: “Reefer Madness” | Quiz #1 Opens 6/22; Closes 6/26 at 11:59pm  
              Discussion #1 Opens 6/22; Closes 6/28 at 11:59pm |}
| July 20-     | ● Gangs, Drugs, and Crime  
               ● “American Drug War”  
               FILM: “The Interrupters” | Quiz #2 Opens 6/29; Closes 7/3 at 11:59pm  
              Discussion #2 Opens 6/29; Closes 6/5 at 11:59pm |}
| July 26      | ● Gangs, Violence and Crime  
               ● Explanations for criminal activity  
               FILM: “Law & Disorder” & “Paradise Lost 3” | Quiz #3 Opens 7/6; Closes 7/10 at 11:59pm  
              Discussion #3 Opens 7/6; Closes 7/12 at 11:59pm |}
| Week 4       | ● Gangs, Drugs, and Crime  
               ● “American Drug War”  
               FILM: “The Interrupters” | Quiz #4 Opens 7/13; Closes 7/17 at 11:59pm  
              Discussion #4 Opens 7/13; Closes 7/19 at 11:59pm |}
| July 13-     | Regulation and Social Control: Police and Courts  
               FILMS: “Law & Disorder” & “Paradise Lost 3” | Quiz #5 Opens 7/20; Closes 7/24 at 11:59pm  
              Discussion #5 Opens 7/20; Closes 7/26 at 11:59pm |}
| July 19      | Regulation and Social Control: Corrections  
               FILMS: “Locked Up in America: Prison State” & “Shawshank Redemption” | Quiz #6 Opens 7/27; Closes 7/31 at 11:59pm  
              Discussion #6 Opens 7/27; Closes 8/2 at 11:59pm |}
| Week 6       | ● Gangs, Violence and Crime  
               ● Explanations for criminal activity  
               FILM: “Law & Disorder” & “Paradise Lost 3” | Quiz #3 Opens 7/6; Closes 7/10 at 11:59pm  
              Discussion #3 Opens 7/6; Closes 7/12 at 11:59pm |}
| July 27-     | ● Gangs, Drugs, and Crime  
               ● “American Drug War”  
               FILM: “The Interrupters” | Quiz #4 Opens 7/13; Closes 7/17 at 11:59pm  
              Discussion #4 Opens 7/13; Closes 7/19 at 11:59pm |}
| August 2     | Regulation and Social Control: Corrections  
               FILMS: “Locked Up in America: Prison State” & “Shawshank Redemption” | Quiz #5 Opens 7/20; Closes 7/24 at 11:59pm  
              Discussion #5 Opens 7/20; Closes 7/26 at 11:59pm |}
| Week 5       | ● The Mediated World of Crime and Justice  
               FILM: “Reefer Madness” | Quiz #1 Opens 6/22; Closes 6/26 at 11:59pm  
              Discussion #1 Opens 6/22; Closes 6/28 at 11:59pm |}
| July 20-     | ● Gangs, Drugs, and Crime  
               ● “American Drug War”  
               FILM: “The Interrupters” | Quiz #2 Opens 6/29; Closes 7/3 at 11:59pm  
              Discussion #2 Opens 6/29; Closes 6/5 at 11:59pm |}
| July 26      | ● Gangs, Violence and Crime  
               ● Explanations for criminal activity  
               FILM: “Law & Disorder” & “Paradise Lost 3” | Quiz #3 Opens 7/6; Closes 7/10 at 11:59pm  
              Discussion #3 Opens 7/6; Closes 7/12 at 11:59pm |}
| Week 4       | ● Gangs, Drugs, and Crime  
               ● “American Drug War”  
               FILM: “The Interrupters” | Quiz #4 Opens 7/13; Closes 7/17 at 11:59pm  
              Discussion #4 Opens 7/13; Closes 7/19 at 11:59pm |}
| July 13-     | Regulation and Social Control: Police and Courts  
               FILMS: “Law & Disorder” & “Paradise Lost 3” | Quiz #5 Opens 7/20; Closes 7/24 at 11:59pm  
              Discussion #5 Opens 7/20; Closes 7/26 at 11:59pm |}
| July 19      | Regulation and Social Control: Corrections  
               FILMS: “Locked Up in America: Prison State” & “Shawshank Redemption” | Quiz #6 Opens 7/27; Closes 7/31 at 11:59pm  
              Discussion #6 Opens 7/27; Closes 8/2 at 11:59pm |}
| Week 6       | ● Gangs, Violence and Crime  
               ● Explanations for criminal activity  
               FILM: “Law & Disorder” & “Paradise Lost 3” | Quiz #3 Opens 7/6; Closes 7/10 at 11:59pm  
              Discussion #3 Opens 7/6; Closes 7/12 at 11:59pm |}
| July 27-     | ● Gangs, Drugs, and Crime  
               ● “American Drug War”  
               FILM: “The Interrupters” | Quiz #4 Opens 7/13; Closes 7/17 at 11:59pm  
              Discussion #4 Opens 7/13; Closes 7/19 at 11:59pm |}
| August 2     | Regulation and Social Control: Corrections  
               FILMS: “Locked Up in America: Prison State” & “Shawshank Redemption” | Quiz #5 Opens 7/20; Closes 7/24 at 11:59pm  
              Discussion #5 Opens 7/20; Closes 7/26 at 11:59pm |}
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<th>Date</th>
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</table>
| Week 7     | Mental Illness, Crime, and Criminal Justice Policy  | • Surette, chapters 9 (pp. 180-218).  
Discussion #7 Opens 8/3; Closes 8/9 at 11:59pm  
Film/media analysis papers due 8/9 at 11:59pm |
| August 3-  |                                                      |                                                                                               |                                                                           |
| August 9   |                                                      |                                                                                               |                                                                           |
|            | FILM: “Taxi Driver”                                  |                                                                                               |                                                                           |
| Week 8     | Youth, Gender, and Crime                             | • Surette, chapters 10 (pp. 180-218).  
Discussion #8 Opens 8/10; Closes 8/16 at 11:59pm |
| August 10- | The present and future of moral panics               |                                                                                               |                                                                           |
| August 16  |                                                      |                                                                                               |                                                                           |