

CJ 7350g Seminar in Marco Criminology  
Section 251  
Class Tuesday 6:30-9:20  
Classroom Hines 203

Dr. M. Chamlin  
Office: Hill House 109  
Office hrs. T 5:30 - 6:15  
by appointment, & any time that I  
am in my office.

Spring Semester 2015

**Course Objectives:** The purpose of this seminar is straightforward. Each week we will read, critically evaluate, and discuss 4-6 articles dealing with some facet of macro-criminology. Further, each of you will write a short (no longer than 1 and ½ pages) review of each of the required readings. These writing assignments will serve a number of functions. First and foremost, they will form the basis for our class discussions. Second, they will help you hone your analytic and writing skills. Lastly, they will become an invaluable resource as you prepare for your comprehensive examinations.

## **I. Decorum Policies**

- 1) All electronic devices must be turned off and placed out of sight before entering the classroom. This may seem a bit strange to you. Unfortunately, I have some recurrent problems with students inappropriately using cell phones and computers during my lectures. I take this matter very seriously. **Please respect my wishes with regard to this matter.** Failure to adhere to this policy will lead to a reduction in your final grade or **outright failure in the course.**
- 2) **Attendance** policy. Attendance is required. Exceptions will be made for extraordinary circumstances.
- 3) **Lateness** policy: Coming to class late is very disruptive. Therefore, I have decided upon the following policy. If you are planning to come late, you need to let me know in advance. Otherwise, you must be in class by 6:40 PM (no more than 10 minutes late).

## **II. General Comments**

- 1) There will be weekly writing assignments (they will be discussed below)
- 2) **Final Grades:** To earn an A in the class, you will need to average at least an 8 (out of 10) points on the weekly writing assignments. To earn a B in the class, you will need to average 6 or 7 on the weekly writing assignments. An average score of 5 or below will result in a grade of a C.
- 3) You will not be allowed to turn in the weekly assignments late unless you contact me at least 24 hours in advance (exceptions will be made for extraordinary circumstances at my discretion).

4) My office phone number is (512) 245-6503. My e-mail address is [mitch.chamlin@txstate.edu](mailto:mitch.chamlin@txstate.edu). Please do not call me at home.

5) There will be no extra-credit assignments.

6) The last day to drop this class without special permission from the University Administration is March 26<sup>th</sup>.

7) Any student requesting special consideration with respect to testing procedures (e.g., extra time, electronic equipment, **or any other accommodation approved by the Office of Disability Services**) must register with the appropriate University authorities and confirm all arrangements with me within the first two weeks of the quarter (unless the problem emerges during the course of the semester).

8) Please treat the syllabus as a contract between me and you.

### III. Weekly Assignments

1. For each article: present a) the main theoretical points; b) unit of analysis and sample; c) major findings; and d) implications of the findings for the theory being tested.

2. Each assignment must be typed (pc or typewriter).

3. The **maximum** length of each article review is 1.5 pages (normal fonts, absolutely no exceptions).

Outline: This schedule is **subject to change**, depending on how quickly we move through the material.

**January 20<sup>th</sup>:** Introduction to macro-criminology

No Readings: (handout)

**January 27<sup>th</sup>:** Foundational Theory

1) Merton (1938). "Social Structure and Anomie." *American Sociological Review* 3:672-682.

2) Wirth (1938). "Urbanism as a Way of Life." *American Journal of Sociology* 44:1-24.

3) Mayhew and Levinger (1976). "Size and Density of Interaction in Human Aggregates." *American Journal of Sociology* 82:86-110.

4) Liska (1997). "Modeling the Relationships Between Macro Forms of Social Control." *Annual Review of Sociology* 23:39-61.

5) Chamlin and Cochran (2005). "Ascribed Economic Inequality and Homicide Among Modern Societies: Toward the Development of a Cross-National Theory." *Homicide Studies* 9:3-29.

**February 3<sup>rd</sup>:** Measuring Crime: Rates versus Count Measures?

1) Long (1980). "The Continuing Debate over the use of Ratio Variables: Fact and Fiction. Pp. 37-67 in *Sociological Methodology*, edited by Karl F. Schuessler. San Francisco: Jossey-Bass.

2) Gibbs and Erickson (1976). "Crime Rates of American Cities in an Ecological Context." *American Journal of Sociology* 82:605-620.

3) Chamlin and Cochran (1996) "Macro Social Measures of Crime: Toward the Selection of an Appropriate Deflator." *Journal of Crime & Justice* 19:121-144.

4) Chamlin and Cochran (2004). "An Excursus on the Population Size-Crime Relationship." *Western Criminological Review* 5:119-130.

5) Rotolo and Tittle (2006). "Population Size, Change, and Crime in U.S. Cities." *Journal of Quantitative Criminology* 22:341-367.

**February 10<sup>th</sup>:** Aggregation Issues in Macro-Level Research

1) Messner (1982). "Poverty, Inequality, and the Urban Homicide Rate." *Criminology* 20:103-114.

2) Bailey (1984). "Poverty, Inequality, and City Homicide Rates." *Criminology* 22:531-550.

3) Greenberg et al., (1981). "Aggregation Bias in Deterrence Research." *Journal of Research in Crime and Delinquency* 12:128-137.

4) Chamlin et al. (1992). "Time Aggregation and Time Lag in Macro-Level Deterrence Research." *Criminology* 30:377-395.

**February 17<sup>th</sup>:** Modeling Issues in Macro-Level Research

1) Gordon (1967). "Issues in the Ecological Study of Delinquency" *American Sociological Review* 32: 927-944.

2) Land et al. (1990). "Structural Covariates of Homicide Rates." *American Journal of Sociology* 95:922-63.

3) Chamlin and Cochran (1998). "Causality, Economic Conditions, and Burglary." *Criminology* 36:425-440.

4) Messner and Sampson (1991). "The Sex Ratio, Family Disruption, and Rates of Violent Crime." *Social Forces* 69:693-713.

5) Loftin and McDowall (1982). "The Police, Crime, and Economic Theory." *American Sociological Review* 47:393-401.

### **February 24<sup>th</sup>:** Institutional Anomie Theory

1) Chamlin and Cochran (1995). "Assessing Messner and Rosenfeld's Institutional Anomie Theory: A Partial Test." *Criminology* 33: 411-429.

2) Messner and Rosenfeld (1997). "Political Restraint of the Market and Levels of Criminal Homicide." *Social Forces* 75:1393-1416.

3) Jensen. (2002). "Institutional Anomie and Societal Variations in Crime." *International Journal of Sociology and Social Policy* 22:45-74.

4) Chamlin and Cochran (2007). "An Evaluation of the Assumptions that Underlie Institutional Anomie Theory." *Theoretical Criminology* 11:39-61.

5) Levchak (2014) "Extending the Anomie Tradition." *Homicide Studies* (forthcoming).

### **March 3<sup>rd</sup>:** Reading Day (ACJS national meetings)

#### **March 10<sup>th</sup>:** Conflict Theory I

1) Liska (1994). "Modeling the Conflict Perspective of Social Control", Inequality, Crime and Social Control eds. Bridges and Myers, pp.53-71.

2) Spitzer (1975). "Toward A Marxian Theory of Deviance." *Social Problems* 22:638-651.

3) Lynch et al. (1994). "The Rate of Surplus Labor and Crime." *Crime, Law and Social Change* 21: 15-48.

4) Chamlin (2009). "Threat to Whom?" *Deviant Behavior* 30:539-559.

#### **March 17<sup>th</sup>:** Spring Break - No class

### **March 24<sup>th</sup>** Conflict Theory II

- 1) Liska and Chamlin (1984). "Social Structure and Crime Control Among Macrosocial Units." *American Journal of Sociology* 90:383-395.
- 2) Jackson and Carroll (1981). "Race and the War on Crime." *American Sociological Review* 46:290-305.
- 3) Inverarity and Grattet (1989). "Institutional Response to Unemployment." *Contemporary Crises* 13:351-370.
- 4) Eitle et al. (2002). "Racial Threat and Social Control." *Social Forces* 81:557-576.
- 5) Parker et al. (2005). "Racial Threat, Concentrated Disadvantage and Social Control." *Criminology* 43:1111-1134.

### **March 31<sup>st</sup>**: Informal Social Control

- 1) Cohen and Felson (1979) "Social Change and Crime Rate Trends: A Routine Activity Approach." *American Sociological Review* 44:588-608.
- 2) Sampson and Groves (1989). "Community Structure and Crime: Testing Social-Disorganization Theory." *American Journal of Sociology* 94:774-802.
- 3) Bursik (1988). "Social Disorganization and Theories of Crime and Delinquency." *Criminology* 26:519-551.
- 4) Sampson (2003). "The Neighborhood Context of Well-Being." *Perspectives in Biology and Medicine* 43(3-Supplement):S53-S64.

### **April 7<sup>th</sup>**: Welfare as Social Control?

- 1) Isaac, and Kelly (1981). Racial Insurgency, the State, and Welfare Expansion." *American Journal of Sociology* 86:1348-1386.
- 2) Jennings (1983). "Racial Insurgency, the State, and Welfare Expansion." *American Journal of Sociology* 88:1220-1236.
- 3) DeFronzo (1983). "Economic Assistance to Impoverished Americans. *Criminology* 21:119-136.

4) Chamlin et al. (2007). "Welfare Policy as Social Control." *Criminal Justice Policy Review* 18:132-152.

**April 14<sup>th</sup>:** The Poverty Inequality Debate

1) Blau and Blau (1982). "The Cost of Inequality." *American Sociological Review* 47:114-129.

2) Williams (1984). "Economic Sources of Homicide." *American Sociological Review* 49:283-289

3) Pridemore (2008). "A Methodological Addition to the Cross-National Empirical Literature on Social Structure and Homicide." *Criminology* 46: 133-153.

4) Messner et al. (2010). "Poverty, Infant Mortality, and Homicide Rates in Cross-National Perspective." *Criminology* 48:509-537.

5) Rogers and Pridemore (2013). "The Effect of Poverty and Social Protection on National Homicide Rates." *Social Science Research* 42:584-595.

**April 21<sup>st</sup>:** Blalock, Lynching, and Testing Macro-Social Theory

1) Tolnay, et al. (1989). "Black Lynchings." *Social Forces* 67:605-623.

2) Reed (1989). "Comment on Tolnay, Beck, and Massey." *Social Forces* 67:624-625.

3) Creech et al. (1989). "Theory Testing and Lynching." *Social Forces* 67:626-630

4) Blalock (1989). "Percent Black and Lynchings Revisited." *Social Forces* 67:631-633

5) Tolnay et al. (1989). "The Power Threat Hypothesis and Black Lynchings." *Social Forces* 67:634-640.

**April 28<sup>th</sup>:** Durkheimian Theory and Crime

1) Krohn (1978). "A Durkheimian Analysis of International of International Crime Rates." *Social Forces* 17:303-313.

2) Messner (1982). "Societal Development, Social Equality, and Homicide: A Cross-National Test of a Durkheimian Model." *Social Forces* 61:225-240.

3) Pridemore et al. (2007). "An Interrupted Time Series-Analysis of Durkheim's Social Deregulation Theory." *Justice Quarterly* 24:271-290.

4) Zhao and Cao (2010). "Social Change and Anomie: A Cross-National Study." *Social Forces* 1209-1230.

5) Chamlin and Cochran (2005). "Ascribed Economic Inequality and Homicide Among Modern Nations: Toward the Development of a Cross-National Theory." *Homicide Studies* 9:3-29.