

Northeastern University
College of Criminal Justice
CJU520
Communities and Crime
Summer 2006

I. INSTRUCTOR

Steven G. Catalano
Harvard University Police Department
617-495-9225
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II. OFFICE HOURS

Thursdays 10:30 AM – 11:30 AM or by appointment
Churchill room 401A

III. REQUIRED TEXT

Reading packet available at NU Reprographics

IV. COURSE DESCRIPTION

The course provides students with an overview of issues related to communities and crime. Examines sociological aspects of community context, behavior, and functioning, and how communities are implicated in both crime-generating and crime-preventing processes. Familiarizes students with historical and contemporary literature surrounding the communities and crime relationship, as well as how the study of human behavior generally, and crime particularly, should examine the interaction of persons and places.

V. COURSE OBJECTIVES

Students who successfully complete the course will have a working knowledge; both academic and practitioner-based, of community-based crime prevention and control strategies and programs based on readings, class discussions and in-class presenters.

VI. COURSE REQUIREMENTS

Students are expected to arrive to class on time and to attend all classes. **Attendance is mandatory.** Exams and quizzes will be based upon readings from the text, additional readings as assigned, and class discussions. In fairness to all, grades for late papers and missed exams will be lowered by one grade (i.e. a grade of A will be lowered to B, a B will be lowered to C, etc.) **for each class that it is late. Missed quizzes cannot be made up.** Permission to take a missed exam must be obtained from the instructor prior to the exam.

Additional information regarding the topics for the writing assignment will be provided in class, however students will be required to write several short and concise memorandums (two pages) from various perspectives (e.g. police administrator, government official, community member, etc.) based on current crime and disorder issues in the news. Additionally the whole class will be working on a group project that identifies crime and disorder issues facing the Northeastern community and creates a public education campaign to address those issues. More information on the project will be provided in class at a later date.

Students are expected to participate in class discussions. As we proceed through the course material, students will be encouraged to share their professional observations and experiences relevant to the

appropriate lecture. During the course, the instructor may use excerpts from various books, periodicals, and articles. The syllabus may be amended during the semester.

VII. GRADING

Attendance	10%	Class project	15%
Quizzes	15%	Midterm	20%
Writing assignment	20%	Final	20%

VIII. PLAGIARISM AND CHEATING POLICY

Plagiarism and cheating are prohibited. While taking exams and quizzes, students are not to look at other student quizzes or exams, consult their books, notebooks or any other material except the quiz or exam in front of them. The paper that the student writes should be his/her original work. Students are required to submit an original work done for this course, not a work prepared for another course. Any words included from another source should be properly quoted and cited. Students can speak to each other about the papers but students are not to write collaboratively with other students. Anyone caught cheating or plagiarizing will receive an automatic **F** on that paper, exam or quiz and will be referred to the University for formal proceedings. Please refer any questions on this policy to the professor.

IX. COURSE OUTLINE

<u>Date</u>	<u>Assignment</u>
Week of July 3	Crime in the United States, 2004 Criminal Victimization, 2004 Understanding Why Crime Fell in the 1990s: Four Factors that Explain the Decline and Six that Do Not
Week of July 10	Why are Communities Important in Understanding Crime? What Can Police Do to Reduce Crime, Disorder, and Fear? Fear of Crime and Neighborhood Change Disorder, "Broken Windows," and Serious Crime
Week of July 17	Preventing crime, reducing fear and building community Community Policing: What is the Community and What Can it Do? Practical lessons for involving the community in crime and disorder problem-solving
Week of July 24	Bringing Victims into Community Policing Partnering With Businesses to Address Public Safety Problems
Week of July 31	Shifting and Sharing Responsibility for Public Safety Problems Crime Analysis for Problem Solvers In 60 Small Steps

Week of August 7 Opportunity Makes the Thief: Practical theory for crime prevention
Hot Products: understanding anticipating and reducing demand for stolen goods

Week of August
14 The Weed and Seed Strategy
This Works: Preventing and Reducing Crime
Creating and Effective Foundation to Prevent Youth Violence: Lessons Learned from Boston in
1990s

Week of August
21 **Final Exam 8/21 at 3:30 PM**