

College Document # \_\_\_\_\_

UCC Document # \_\_\_\_\_

Date Received \_\_\_\_\_

CATALOG YEAR 2006-2008

(Please use separate form for each add/change)



COLLEGE/SCHOOL : Arts and Sciences  
Current Catalog Page(s) Affected       

**Course:**

(check all that apply)

Add: X      Delete: \_\_\_\_\_  
Change:      Number \_\_\_\_\_ Title \_\_\_\_\_ SCH \_\_\_\_\_  
Description \_\_\_\_\_ Prerequisite \_\_\_\_\_

If new, provide Course Prefix, Number, Title, SCH Value, Description, prerequisite, and lecture/lab hours if applicable. If in current catalog, copy and paste the text from the [on-line catalog](#) and indicate changes in red.

CRIJ 4324 – *Media and Crime*. Three semester hours. (SP)

Analyzes the images of crime, criminals, and the criminal justice system that are presented through major mass and entertainment media in the United States. Students will be able to examine how the media portrays violence, crime and criminals; influences crime policy; and, impacts public perceptions of crime and victimization.

Prerequisite for CRIJ majors: Successful completion of the lower-level CRIJ courses (or equivalent courses) required for the CRIJ major. Prerequisite for non-CRIJ majors: Junior or Senior Level Status.

**JUSTIFICATION:** Student interest in the course material and faculty expertise/interest. This class was taught in Spring and Summer 2006 with a total of 35 students. In addition, there are currently Criminal Justice faculty with the background, experience, and interest to teach the course.

This course is a criminal justice elective and is best-suited for those students with some background in criminal justice (majors/minors).

Learning Outcomes:

- 1) Discuss the role of the mass media in the constructions and understanding of crime.
- 2) Compare/contrast crime and justice content in the news and entertainment media with actual crime incidents;
- 3) Discuss the influence of the media on public attitudes and perceptions of crime, criminals, criminality, and the criminal justice system
- 4) Demonstrate professional writing in the field of criminal justice by composing a research paper

**Program:** Add: \_\_\_\_\_ Change: \_\_\_\_\_ Attach new/changed Program of Study description and 4-year plan. If in current catalog, copy and paste the text from the [on-line catalog](#) and indicate changes in red.

**Minor:** Add: \_\_\_\_\_ Delete: \_\_\_\_\_ Change: \_\_\_\_\_ Attach new/changed minor.  
If in current catalog, copy and paste the text from the [on-line catalog](#) and indicate changes in red.

**Faculty:** Add: \_\_\_\_\_ Delete: \_\_\_\_\_ Change: \_\_\_\_\_ Attach new/changed faculty entry.  
If in current catalog, copy and paste the text from the [on-line catalog](#) and indicate changes in red.

**College Introductory Pages:** Add information: \_\_\_\_\_ Change information: \_\_\_\_\_  
Attach new/changed information. If in current catalog, copy and paste the text from the [on-line catalog](#) and indicate changes in red.

Approvals:	Signature	Date
Chair Department Curriculum Committee	_____	_____
Chair Department	_____	_____
Chair College Curriculum Committee	_____	_____
Dean	_____	_____

# COURSE SYLLABUS

## CRIJ 4324 – MEDIA AND CRIME

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### **Course Description:**

This course analyzes the images of crime and the criminal justice system that are present through the major mass and entertainment media in the United States. Students will be able to examine how the media portrays violence and crime, influences crime policy, and impacts public perceptions of crime and victimization.

### **Course Learning Outcomes:**

- 1) Discuss the role of the mass media in the constructions and understanding of crime.
- 2) Compare/contrast crime and justice content in the news and entertainment media with actual crime incidents;
- 3) Discuss the influence of the media on public attitudes and perceptions of crime, criminals, criminality, and the criminal justice system
- 4) Demonstrate professional writing in the field of criminal justice by composing a research paper

### **Course Objectives:**

- 1) Examine crime and justice content in the news and entertainment media;
- 2) Evaluate the influence of the media on public attitudes and perceptions of crime, criminals, criminality, and the criminal justice system

### **Required Texts:**

Kappeler, V.E., & Potter, G.W. (2005). *The mythology of crime and criminal justice* (4<sup>th</sup> ed.). Long Grove, IL: Waveland Press. (MCCJ)

Rafter, N. (2000). *Shots in the mirror: Crime Films and Society*. Oxford: University Press. (SIM)

Additional readings will be assigned. A list of additional readings can be found on WebCT and clicking on the Readings link.

### **Course Requirements:**

Specific course requirements will include: 2 Exams, 1 Comprehensive Final, 3 Writing Assignments, 4 Discussion Questions, 1 Student Led Discussion

### **Exams:**

There will be two (2) exams throughout the semester. These exams will be worth 100 points each. Exams will consist of multiple choice, true/false, and short answer/essay questions.

## **FINAL EXAM:**

This exam will be comprehensive and take the same format as the regular semester exams.

## **Writing Assignments:**

There will be three short writing assignments required during the semester. One of the writing assignments will involve the news media and another will involve the entertainment media. The final writing assignment will involve the influence of news/entertainment media on crime policy and attitudes. These assignments will be no shorter than **4 full** pages and no longer than **6 full** pages in **APA 5<sup>th</sup> edition format**. You will be required to use outside resources in these writing assignments. Each of these assignments will be worth **30 points each**. More information on the writing assignments will be provided in class and available on WebCT.

## **Discussion Questions:**

There will be 4 sets of discussion questions graded throughout the semester. These discussion questions will be based on assigned readings for that section of the course. If these questions fail to generate classroom discussions or if there is evidence little effort/thought is being provided, other methods will be employed to compensate. These discussion questions will be worth **40 points**.

## **Student Led Discussions:**

Students will be asked to briefly present an article they have located based on police, courts, or corrections in television media. This article should address some of the issues involved with the types of images and presentations that make it to television. Students will lead discussions during this portion of the course and should make every attempt to engage other students in the discussion. This will be a group assignment. More information on the presentations will be provided in class and available on WebCT.

## **Grading:**

Final grading will be based on the following:

- 2 Exams @ 100 points = 200 points (45%)
- 1 Comprehensive Final @ 100 points = 100 points (22%)
- 3 Writing Assignments @ 30 points each = 90 points (20%)
- 4 Discussion Questions @ 10 points each = 40 points (9%)
- 1 Student Led Discussion @ 20 points = 20 points (4%)

**TOTAL: 450 points**

The following point distribution will be used to calculate your final grade:

- A 405 – 450 (90 – 100%)
- B 360 – 404 (80 – 89%)
- C 315 – 359 (70 – 79%)
- D 270 – 314 (60 – 69%)
- F Below 270 (Below 60%)

## **COURSE POLICIES:**

### **Electronic Devices:**

Be aware that ANY electronic device (cell phone, pager, two-way, etc) is not to be used in the classroom during class time. Please place these devices on vibrate and if it is absolutely necessary to take a call during class, step out of the room BEFORE you begin the conversation.

### **WebCT:**

It is extremely important that you check WebCT for this course on a **weekly basis**. Updates on test dates, assignment due dates, information on required assignments, e-mails regarding important course information all will be provided via WebCT. In addition, all information regarding points awarded for each test and assignment will be available to you on WebCT. You need to make sure that these points match the points on the assignments as they are returned to you.

### **Writing Assignments:**

All required out of class writing assignments should be typed and double-spaced. You should include your name, the course **AND** course section on the first page of the assignment. These assignments should be in 12 point font and in black ink. Failure to follow these guidelines will result in your assignment failing to be graded.

### **Attendance:**

Students are required to attend class regularly. Attendance in class is believed to improve student understanding and success in the course. Should you miss class, you should contact a fellow student to determine what was covered.

### **Test Dates:**

Although test dates have been scheduled, there may be times when the syllabus has to be rearranged. In such a case, the new test dates (as with all test dates) will be announced in class and placed on the calendar in WebCT. It will be up to the student who missed class to obtain the new information from a classmate.

### **Late Assignments and Other Issues:**

Assignments are given a due date because this is when they should be turned in for grading purposes. This means that late assignments will not be accepted – for any amount of points/credit. If you have experienced an emergency, contact me as soon as possible so that we may discuss options. Assignments are due at the regularly scheduled class time in the regularly scheduled classroom (unless otherwise specified).

## **WEEKLY OUTLINE**

The following is the **tentative** weekly outline for the course. Dates and subject matter to be covered could change depending on how the class progresses. The exact dates for exams will be given in class and posted in WebCT.

The syllabus provides a list of readings that should be completed for discussion that week. This means these readings should be completed PRIOR to the start of class to facilitate an interesting and insightful discussion.

Week 1 January 16 – January 20	Course Introduction Review Syllabus	<b>Monday, No Class</b>
Week 2 January 23 – January 27	The Social Construction of Crime Myths	<i>MCCJ</i> , Chapter 1 Surette, “ <i>Media and the Construction of Crime...</i> ”
Week 3 January 30 – February 3	Crime and Reality	<i>MCCJ</i> , Chapter 2
Week 4 February 6 – February 10	Crime Myths and News Coverage	Chermak, “ <i>Crime in the News Media</i> ”
Week 5 February 13 – February 17	Crime Stories and News Coverage	Missing Children and Adults, Murder, Corporate Crime <i>MCCJ</i> , Chpts. 3, 4, 7
Week 6 February 20 – February 24	Review for Exam #1	<b>Exam #1</b>
Week 7 February 27 – March 3	Police, Courts, and Corrections in Entertainment Media	<b>Student Led Discussions</b>  ACJS Conference
Week 8 March 6 – March 10	Criminology in Crime Films	<i>SIM</i> , pp 47-69
Week 9 March 13 – March 17	<b>NO CLASSES SPRING BREAK</b>	
Week 10 March 20 – March 24	Police in Television & Film	<i>SIM</i> , pp 71-90 <i>MCCJ</i> , Chapter 10
Week 11 March 27 – March 31	Courtroom Films	<i>SIM</i> , pp 93-113 <i>MCCJ</i> , Chapter 11
Week 12 April 3 – April 7	Prison and Execution Films	<i>SIM</i> , pp 117-140 <i>MCCJ</i> , Chapter 12
Week 13 April 10 – April 14	Review for Exam #2	<b>Exam #2</b>
Week 14 April 17 – April 21	Future of Crime Film	<i>SIM</i> , pp 165-179
Week 15 April 24 – April 28	The Influence of Media on Crime and Justice Attitudes	Surette, “ <i>The Media and the Social Construction of Crime-and-Justice Attitudes and Policies</i> ”
Week 16 May 1 – May 5	Course Conclusion Review for Final	<b>Last Class May 3 (Wednesday)</b>
<b>FINAL EXAM</b>	<b>MONDAY, MAY 8 @ 11 am</b>	REGULAR CLASSROOM