

# SAMPLE SYLLABUS



**Department of Media, Culture, and  
Communication**

**Crime, Violence, and Media MCC-UE 9012**

**Spring 2022 Mondays 12:30-3:30  
Auditorium**

**Instructor**

- TBA

**Overview**

Debates about the role of crime in the media have been among the most sustained and divisive in the field of communications, and they are dependent on a foundation of equally divisive debates about “media influence.” This course will broaden this discussion to consider the culture of crime in relation to conventions of news and entertainment in the mass media, and its larger social and political context. Topics will include crime reporting, the role of place in crime stories, the aesthetics of crime, moral panics and fears, crime and consumer culture, and the social construction of different kinds of crimes and criminals.

**Required Texts**

Weekly readings posted on Brightspace

**Assignments and Grading**

Assignment #1.....	10%
Assignment #2.....	20%
Assignment #3.....	10%
Research Presentation.....	20%
Final Paper.....	30%
Participation and regular contributions.....	10%

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## **Assignment #1 – Artifact Analysis from Prefecture (Due February 23)**

Choose one object from the Musée de la Prefecture de Police visit (February 9) and write a two page description and analysis using course materials. Include a photo of the artifact.

## **Assignment #2 – Film Analysis (Due March 23)**

Choose a crime film from any time period or genre and write a 3-4 page analysis that addresses the elements of style, structure, form, setting, plot, and character using concepts from the course.

## **Assignment #3 Research Paper Proposal (Due March 30)**

Submit a one-page proposal for the final paper including five sources.

## **Presentation**

Each student will present their final paper research in class in April.

## **Final Paper (Due May 11)**

Final papers will be 6 pages in length and will explore a specific aspect of the relationship between crime and the media.

## **Evaluation Standards and Policies**

All submitted work must be typewritten on white, A4 paper. The student's name, date, and essay title should appear on the cover page, and pages should be numbered. All electronic submissions should use the file form:

[last name] [assignment #] [CVM]

A formal style manual should be consulted for proper citation and quotation formatting. Grades will be partly based on the appropriate application of the norms and conventions of Standard English. Late submissions will result in a drop in grade. No Incompletes are given for this course. Plagiarism is not tolerated, and will result in failing the course. Consult University rules and guidelines regarding this serious breach of ethics.

A=Excellent. Demonstrates comprehensive and solid understanding of course material, and presents thoughtful interpretations, well-focused and original insights, and well-reasoned commentary and analysis. Includes skilful use of source materials, illuminating examples, fluent expression, and contains no grammatical or typographical errors.

B=Good. This work demonstrates a complete and accurate understanding of course material, presents a reasonable degree of insight and broad levels of analysis. Work reflects competence, but stays at a general or predictable level of understanding. Source materials, examples, illustrations, are used appropriately and writing is clear.

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C=Adequate/fair. This work demonstrates some understanding but remains superficial, incomplete, or expresses some significant errors or weaknesses. Source materials may be used inadequately or inappropriately, and arguments lack concrete, specific examples and illustrations. Writing or articulation may appear vague, hard to follow, or loaded with typos and other technical errors.

D=Unsatisfactory. This work demonstrates a serious lack or error in understanding, and fails to express the most rudimentary aspects of the course. Sources may be used entirely inappropriately or not at all, and writing is deficient.

F=Failed. Work not submitted or attempted, or sources have been plagiarized.

## **Class Policies**

More than one unexcused absence will automatically result in a lower grade. Chronic lateness will also be reflected in your evaluation of participation. Regardless of the reason for your absence you will be responsible for any missed work. Travel arrangements do not constitute a valid excuse for missed deadlines or absences. Slipping in late or leaving early, sleeping, text messaging, surfing the web, doing homework in class, eating, etc. are distracting and disrespectful to all participants in the course.

Academic integrity is the guiding principle for all that you do, from taking exams to making oral presentations to writing term papers. It requires that you recognize and acknowledge information derived from others and take credit only for ideas and work that are yours. You violate the principle of academic integrity when you

- cheat on an exam,
- submit the same work for two different courses without prior permission from your professors,
- receive help on a take-home examination that calls for independent work, or
- plagiarize.

Plagiarism, one of the gravest forms of academic dishonesty in university life, whether intended or not, is academic fraud. Plagiarism is failure to properly assign authorship to a paper, a document, an oral presentation, a musical score, and/or other materials that are not your original work. You plagiarize when, without proper attribution, you do any of the following:

- copy verbatim from a book, an article, or other media;
- download documents from the Internet;
- purchase documents;
- report from other's oral work;
- paraphrase or restate someone else's facts, analysis, and/or conclusions; or
- copy directly from a classmate or allow a classmate to copy from you.

The Steinhardt School of Culture, Education, and Human Development imposes heavy penalties for plagiarism in order to safeguard the degrees that the University grants. Cases of plagiarism are considered among the most serious of offenses.

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## Student Resources

- Students with physical or learning disabilities are required to register with the [Moses Center for Students with Disabilities](#), and are required to present a letter from the Center to the instructor at the start of the semester in order to be considered for appropriate accommodation.

## Schedule of Classes and Readings

Week 1 Jan 26	Introduction to Course and Overview
Week 2 Feb 2	Crime Aesthetics and Photography Read: Black, Murder as Fine Art Finn, Picturing the Criminal
Week 3 Feb 9	Visit to Le Musée de la Préfecture de Police
Week 4 Feb 16	Crime News (Assignment #1 Due) Read: Katz, What Makes Crime News Reiner, Media Made Criminality
Week 5 Feb 23	Gangsterism Read: Ruth, Criminal Businessmen and Dressed to Kill
Week 6 Mar 2	Film Noir Read: Krutnick, Film Noir and America
Week 7 March 9	Film Noir, continued Read: Christopher, Night and the City
Week 8 March 16	Spring Break
Week 9 March 23	Police Procedurals (Assignment #2 Due) Read: Hausladen, Place and Police Procedurals
Week 10 March 30	Moral Panics (Assignment #3 Due) Read: Hall, Social History of a Moral Panic Cohen, Deviance and Moral Panics

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Week 11 April 6	Constructing Criminals Read: Gilens, The News Media and the Racialization of Poverty
Week 12 April 13	Constructing Criminals Read: Reinerman and Duskin, Dominant Ideology and Drugs in the Media Doyle, 'COPS': Television Policing as Policing Reality
Week 13 April 20	Prison Aesthetics Read: Fleetwood, Marking Time
Week 14 April 27	Technologies of Detection Gever, The Spectacle of Crime, digitized: CSI Knight, CSI and the Art of Forensic Detection
Week 15 May 4	Review and remaining presentations
	Final Papers Due May 11