



Environmental Crime
CCJ 4933.001
Summer 2012
Department of Criminology
University of South Florida

Classroom:	CPR 127
Meeting Times:	Monday, Wednesday, & Friday: 3:30 pm – 5:50 pm
Instructor:	Kimberly L. Barrett, M.A.
E-Mail:	KLBarrett@mail.usf.edu
Office Hours:	Monday & Wednesday: 1 pm – 3 pm; & By Appointment
Office:	SOC 344

In the event of an emergency, it may be necessary for USF to suspend normal operations. During this time, USF may opt to continue delivery of instruction through methods that include but are not limited to: Blackboard, Elluminate, Skype, and email messaging and/or an alternate schedule. It's the responsibility of the student to monitor Blackboard site for each class for course specific communication, and the main USF, College, and department websites, emails, and MoBull messages for important general information.

Course Description & Objectives

In spite of the serious cost and frequency of environmental crime, studies of crimes against the environment remain underrepresented in criminology when compared to studies of interpersonal street crime. This course seeks to bring attention to this important area of criminology by introducing to students the scope and prevalence of environmental harms and crimes in the United States, environmental law and regulation, and issues in environmental justice. In doing so, course content will expose students to information on: rates of environmental harms, environmental databases, special topics like global warming, exposure to toxins and deviance, and distribution of environmental hazard sites relative to race, class, and ethnicity.

Student Learning Outcomes

At the end of this course, students will have a general understanding of environmental crime, victimization, and offending. They will learn how to define crimes against the environment, examine pollution rates in their area, identify and describe threats to human health and sustainability, and comprehend why the continued study of environmental crime is critical for the field of criminology.

Required Reading

1. Burns, R.G., Lynch, M.J., & Stretesky, P.B. (2008). Environmental Law, Crime, and Justice. New York, NY: LFB Scholarly. ISBN # : 978-1593322762

2. Lerner, S. (2005). Diamond: A struggle for environmental justice in Louisiana's chemical corridor. Cambridge, MA: MIT Press. ISBN # : 978-0262122733
3. Additional readings will be made available on this course's Blackboard site

Student Expectations

To ensure learning outcomes are met, students are expected to:

Attend Class & Participate. Students are expected to be prepared for class by completing required readings prior to the start of class. Students are expected to attend **all** classes and are responsible for **all** material presented during class sessions, including course related announcements. Power point slides and lecture notes will **not** be made available on Blackboard/via email.

*Note that if a student **must** miss class, it is the **student's responsibility** to obtain lecture notes from one of their **classmates**. It is **expected students will have the contact information of at least one classmate**.*

Check Email & Blackboard Regularly for Course Correspondence. Important information regarding the course schedule, assignments, and grades will be posted to Blackboard.

Advocate. Students in this class are expected to be proactive. If a student finds him/herself struggling with course material, concerned about his/her grade, or otherwise in need of assistance, s/he is expected to advocate for themselves by communicating with the instructor as soon as possible. Helping you earn the grade you want is a top priority to me, but my ability to help you is greatly diminished, if not eliminated entirely, if you choose to procrastinate.

Be Respectful. This includes directing full attention to class lectures and discussions. Students are not permitted to use cell phones or other electronic devices during class. Laptops are to be used for access to word processing for class notes only. Students who disregard this expectation may be asked to leave class, and will be responsible for any material missed.

When participating in class and in email exchanges with the instructor and other classmates, students are expected to use respectful language. Do not communicate with others via the internet in a way you would not interact with them in person. Disrespectful language, and/or disrespectful classroom behavior will not be tolerated. Disregard for this expectation will result in students being asked to leave class. In instances of serious or repeated infractions, students will be subject to University disciplinary action.

Submit Assignments on Time. Students are informed both verbally (in class), and in writing (this syllabus) of the due dates of ALL required readings, exams, and assignments **for the entire semester on the first day of class**. For this reason:

NO ASSIGNMENT WILL BE ACCEPTED AFTER THE DUE DATE and MAKE UP EXAMS ARE NOT AN OPTION*

HINT: to meet this expectation, make note of deadlines and organize/prepare accordingly, especially in the beginning of the semester. Save written work in multiple locations (email, flash drive).

*** Exception: Emergencies, Religious Observances, & University Excused Absences on Exam Days.**

Students are expected to notify their instructors at the beginning of each academic term if they intend to be absent for an announced examination. Students absent for religious reasons, as noticed to the instructor at the beginning of each academic term, will be given reasonable opportunities to make up any work missed. For further information, please refer to: <http://generalcounsel.usf.edu/policies-and-procedures/pdfs/policy-10-045.pdf>

Late Work & Make Up Exam Policy:

If a student feels an unforeseen event requires them to request an extension or a make-up test, he or she **must** complete the following:

(1) Determine the event constitutes a University Excused Absence or an emergency. Emergencies refer to **very serious** physical or mental health issues only. Because students are made aware of class due dates in advance, emergencies do **NOT** refer to events such as: social obligations (e.g., weddings, birthdays), computer/technology issues, or work requirements.

(2) Communicate (email/office hours) your issue as soon as possible: preferably before class. Delayed requests may not be considered.

(3) Provide acceptable documentation of the emergency (documents from a person or organization other than the student [e.g. medical professional]).

If the instructor determines all 3 criteria are satisfied, a new deadline/make up test will be given at a date and time of the instructor's choosing.

Exams (25 Points Each)

There will be 3 in-class exams, worth 25 points each in multiple choice formats. Exam material will draw heavily from information from the Burns, Lynch, & Stretesky text, selected readings on Blackboard, and lecture material. Students have the duration of class time to complete each exam- extra time will not be allotted, including to students who arrive late to class.

EXAM # 1: FRIDAY MAY 25

EXAM # 2: FRIDAY JUNE 8

EXAM # 3: FRIDAY JUNE 22

Book Review (25 Points)

Note: A handout with more information on this assignment will be provided

Students are required to read Lerner's Diamond: A struggle for environmental justice in Louisiana's chemical corridor. Upon completion of the book, students will write a 4-5 page paper in which they summarize the book, discuss how this book relates to ideas and themes discussed in class, and argue why or why not criminologists should be concerned with the issues Lerner discusses. Students will also provide their opinion on the book overall.

BOOK REVIEW DUE: FRIDAY JUNE 15

Extra Credit

There will be no opportunities for extra credit in this course.

Incompletes

As late work is not accepted, no grade of Incomplete ("I") will be given in this class.

Academic Dishonesty

Any form of cheating on examinations or plagiarism on assigned papers constitutes unacceptable deceit and dishonesty. Disruption of the classroom or teaching environment is also unacceptable. The University of South Florida has very specific policies and procedures regarding academic dishonesty or disruption of academic process. If you have any questions, please refer to the University's Undergraduate Academic Dishonesty policy at:

- Procedures for Alleged Academic Dishonesty or Disruption:
<http://www.ugs.usf.edu/catalogs/0809/adadap.htm>
- Student Academic Grievance Procedures --
<http://www.ugs.usf.edu/catalogs/0809/arcsagp.htm>

The University of South Florida has an account with an automated plagiarism detection service which allows instructors to submit student assignments to be checked for plagiarism. I reserve the right to submit assignments to this detection system. Assignments are compared automatically with a huge database of journal articles, web articles, and previously submitted papers. The instructor receives a report showing exactly how a student's paper was plagiarized.

Students with Disabilities

Students with disabilities are responsible for registering with Students with Disabilities Services in order to receive academic accommodations. SDS encourages students to notify instructors of accommodation requests at least five business days prior to needing the accommodation. A letter from SDS must accompany this request.

- ❖ See Student Responsibilities – <http://www.sds.usf.edu/students.asp>
- ❖ See Faculty Responsibilities— <http://www.sds.usf.edu/faculty.asp>

Point Distribution

Exam #1	25 pts
Exam #2	25 pts
Book Review	25 pts
Exam #3	<u>25 pts</u>
	100 pts

Grade Scale

A	93-100	C	73-76
A-	90-92	C-	70-72
B+	87-89	D+	67-69
B	83-86	D	63-66
B-	80-82	D-	60-62
C+	77-79	F	≤59

Subject to Change

While it is the intent to proceed with this course as presented here, the following course outline is subject to change at the discretion of the instructor. Changes will be discussed in class and posted to Blackboard.

Course Outline

Week & Topic:

Reading Due* :

May 14

INTRODUCTION TO ENVIRONMENTAL CRIME

M: *Course Introduction*

W: *Defining & Identifying Environmental Crime*

F: *Studying Environmental Crime*

Preface & Ch 1

May 21

EXPLAINING AND ADDRESSING ENVIRONMENTAL CRIME

M: *Environmental Theories: Green Offenders, Green Victims*

W: *History of Environmental Movements in the U.S. & THE EPA*

F: **EXAM # 1**

Chapter 2

Chapter 3 & 4

May 28

ENVIRONMENTAL LAW & REGULATION

M: **NO CLASS: MEMORIAL DAY**

W: *Protecting the Air*

F: *Protecting the Water*

Chapter 5

Chapter 6

June 4

ENVIRONMENTAL LAW & REGULATION, CON'T

M: *Monitoring and Controlling Hazardous Waste*

W: *Radioactive Waste & Environmental Cost of the Nuclear State*

F: **EXAM # 2**

Chapter 7

June 11

DISTRIBUTION OF POLLUTION & HUMAN BEHAVIOR

M: *Environmental Databases*

W: *Environmental Toxicology*

F: *Environmental Justice*

BOOK REVIEW DUE

Chapter 8

Chapter 9

June 18

ENERGY, SUSTAINABILITY, & CRIME

M: *Oil, Coal, & Mountaintop Removal*

W: *Global Warming*

F: **EXAM # 3**

Chapter 10

- ❖ **NOTE:** in ADDITION to readings assigned from Burns, Lynch, & Stretesky text, students are expected to complete readings posted to Blackboard found in the "Readings" tab organized by topic