

Dr. J. Adler  
jadler@ufl.edu  
Fall 2023

Office hours: Wed. 9:30-  
10:30; Fri. 11:35-12:30;  
and by appointment

## AMH 4319:

### CRIME & PUNISHMENT IN AMERICAN HISTORY

#### Required Texts:

Joseph F. Spillane & David B. Wolcott, *A History of Modern American Criminal Justice*  
Patricia Cline Cohen, *The Murder of Helen Jewett*  
David Oshinsky, *Worse Than Slavery*  
Ida B. Wells, *Southern Horrors*  
Adam Hochschild, *American Midnight*  
Rosa Brooks, *Tangled Up in Blue*

#### Course Requirements:

This course will examine the history of crime and the development of the American criminal justice system. A mid-semester twenty-four-hour take-home examination, a short research paper, and an end-of-semester, twenty-four-hour take-home examination will be required. The mid-semester examination will be distributed on October 12 (and due on October 13) and will be worth 25 percent of your grade, and the research paper, due on November 17 (at the start of class), will be four pages in length and worth 25 percent of your grade. In addition, 25 percent of your course grade will be based on attendance, which is required, class participation, and a weekly assignment, which will entail a brief essay on a topic posted on Canvas during Friday classes and due at the end of the hour, beginning on September 15. To receive credit for attendance, students must participate in the Zoom class meetings, must keep the video feed enabled during class, and must submit the weekly assignment. (If computer problems or other challenges arise or pose particular difficulties for you, please discuss the issue with me at the start of the semester.) The end-of-semester examination, distributed on December 5 (and due on December 6), will also be worth 25 percent of your grade. This course will employ UF's grading scale (A=4.0; A-=3.67; B+=3.33; B=3.0; B-=2.67; C+=2.33; C=2.0; C-=1.67; D+=1.33; D=1.0; D-=0.67; E=0.0). Students cannot pass AMH 4319 unless they submit both take-home examinations and the research paper, and there will be no make-up examinations or extensions, except in cases of medical emergencies. Anyone requiring special accommodations must register with the Dean of Students Office and discuss his or her particular needs with me during the first three weeks of the semester. Students must conform to the university's conduct policy regarding cheating and the use of copyrighted materials, which can be reviewed at [www.dso.ufl.edu/sccr/process/student-conduct-honor-code/](http://www.dso.ufl.edu/sccr/process/student-conduct-honor-code/). Finally, students are expected to provide professional feedback on the quality of instruction in this course by completing course evaluations online via GatorEvals. Guidance on giving this feedback is available at <https://gatorevals.aa.ufl.edu/students/>. Students will be notified when the evaluation period opens, and the course-evaluation results will be available at <https://gatorevals.aa.ufl.edu/public-results/>.

Zoom Links and Passcodes:

Mondays: 946 0315 5217 (class meeting); 495 868 (passcode)

Wednesdays: 925 0897 7889 (class meeting); 619 013 (passcode)

Fridays: 996 3847 5632 (class meeting); 202 120 (passcode)

Office hours on Wednesdays: 953 8237 2146; 508 713 (passcode)

Office hours on Fridays: 988 9088 2891; 170 859 (passcode)

Lecture/Zoom Schedule and Reading Assignments:

1. Aug. 23, 25                      Crime and Punishment in Historical Perspective  
Reading Assignment: Spillane & Wolcott, *A History of Modern American Criminal Justice*, chap. 1
2. Aug. 28, 30, Sept. 1        Criminal Justice in Colonial America  
No Reading Assignment
3. Sept. 6, 8                      Race and Law in Early America  
No Reading Assignment
4. Sept. 11, 13, 15              Crime, Punishment, and the Bill of Rights  
No Reading Assignment
5. Sept. 18, 20, 22              Violence in the Early Nineteenth Century  
Reading Assignment: Cline Cohen, *The Murder of Helen Jewett*
6. Sept. 25, 27, 29              The Invention of the Prison and the Birth of the Police  
No Reading Assignment
7. Oct. 2, 4                      Violent Death in Nineteenth-Century America  
No Reading Assignment
8. Oct. 9, 11                      Race and Criminal Justice in the Late Nineteenth-Century South  
Reading Assignment: Spillane & Wolcott, *A History of Modern American Criminal Justice*, chap. 5; Oshinsky, *Worse Than Slavery*
- Oct. 13                              Midterm Examination (no class meeting)
9. Oct. 16, 18, 20              Popular Justice and Scientific Racism  
Reading Assignment: Wells, *Southern Horrors*
10. Oct. 23, 25, 27              Immigrants in the Industrial City  
Reading Assignment: Spillane & Wolcott, *A History of Modern American Criminal Justice*, chaps. 2-3
11. Oct. 30, Nov. 1, 3            World War I and the First War on Crime  
Reading Assignment: Spillane & Wolcott, *A History of Modern American Criminal Justice*, chaps. 4, 6-7; Hochschild, *American*

*Midnight*

12. Nov. 6, 8                    Social Conflict and Street Crime in the Twentieth-Century City  
Reading Assignment: Spillane & Wolcott, *A History of Modern American Criminal Justice*, chap. 8
13. Nov. 13, 15, 17            A “Punishment Tsunami”  
Reading Assignment: Spillane & Wolcott, *A History of Modern American Criminal Justice*, chap. 9
14. Nov. 20                      Race, Implicit Bias, and Social Justice  
Reading Assignment: Spillane & Wolcott, *A History of Modern American Criminal Justice*, chap. 10
15. Nov. 27, 29, Dec. 1        Mass Incarceration  
Reading Assignment: Brooks, *Tangled Up in Blue*
16. Dec. 4                        Criminal Justice in Modern America
- Dec. 6                         End-of-Semester Examination (no class meeting)