CRIME, LAW and DEVIANCE

The concentration focuses on the sociology of crime, law and deviance. It covers issues such as the nature of violence (from domestic violence to the sociology of war and genocide), gangs and contemporary youth culture, crime and the media, the problems of pornography, drugs, and crime, the growth of mass imprisonment, torture, and punitiveness. It relates such issues to the changes in social structure, agency and culture which characterize late modernity.

It takes a theoretically informed perspective involving feminism, critical theory, cultural criminology and social constructionism. It encourages the student to be imaginative in their methodology and critical of those methods whether quantitative or ethnographic which are not theoretically grounded. It aims at intellectual work which is challenging and productive both in public life and debate; within its rubric, courses are tailored to the research interests of students and faculty. It encourages students to produce work of a publishable standard. The professorial team has many years of research and teaching experience; their published work is widely cited at the cutting edge of the subject.

The overall orientation is international and comparative, avoiding parochialism and has extensive links both in Europe and Latin America. It is part of the Common Study Programme in Critical Criminology involving eight European universities and, as an option, encourages students to attend any of the twice-yearly sessions held in rotation around the participating colleges. Diplomas are awarded for presentations of papers and dissertations. An annual Summer Institute is planned in Genova, Italy.

The concentration consists of a choice of four out of the available courses—that is 12 credits. It offers to students employment possibilities in the academy, in NGO's and civil rights organisations, and in research. Graduates of our courses have gone into tenured positions in sociology, criminology and criminal justice studies in the US and in Europe. Students who wish to supplement their education in sociology by taking one or two of these options are, of course, very welcome.
COURSES

THE VIOLENCE OF LIFE

Commencing Fall 2011.

Violence is a key topic within historical and contemporary debates in sociology and criminology, research and policy. In this course we explore what is meant by ‘violence’; the way the word is used to cover such a myriad of subject areas and behaviours. ‘The Violence of Life’ focuses on the different types of violence – from structural violence to interpersonal violence – and their relationship to major theoretical debates. It discusses the common excuses for violence and how “othering” facilitates violence and/or the acting towards others without a sense of their humanity. It considers why we both abhor and yet enjoy violence and its representation. It explores the social and spatial parameters of violence and how these parameters impact on research and cause us to question research findings and assumptions. The necessity of developing both short and long-term policy interventions in order to help both victims and offenders and address the wider structural causes of violence is also considered. The politics that influence the response to violence and the creation of effective policy. This course further encourages students to think about violence from a global as well as a national perspective.

Key topics explored: public violence/ private violence; the violence of poverty and inequality; domestic violence, rape, child abuse, homicide, serial killing, violence in war, genocide, terrorism, school shootings, state violence, torture, hate crime, theories of violence; offender/ victim profiles; subcultures of violence; representations and attitudes to violence; violence in film, video games, fiction.

CULTURAL CRIMINOLOGY AND THE SOCIOLOGICAL IMAGINATION

Commencing Spring 2012.

This course looks at The Sociological Imagination and assesses how C.Wright Mills’ warnings have worked out today using examples from criminology, the sociology of deviance and sociological studies of sex and drug use. It develops a critique of positivist method centering on the problems of abstracted empiricism, the flaws in much of survey data and the failure to realise that sociological methods involve social relationships. It faults positivism for its failure to acknowledge the creative nature of culture and the human ability to turn factors into narratives and motives. It develops a critique of quantitative methods which whilst not denying the use of numbers points to the limits of statistical testing and the inappropriate use of quantification in many areas of research. It argues for the development of a critical ethnography based on a sceptical examination of the work of Margaret Mead and modern urban ethnography.
The emergence of cultural criminology is charted with its roots back to the new deviancy theory of the sixties and seventies and its development in the context of the hyperpluralism and multimediated nature of late modernity.


**THE SYMPOSIUM**

**Commencing Spring 2012.**

This course will be constructed as a symposium focusing on current problems in the area of crime and deviancy and recent research; particularly on topical debates and controversies. It will consist of contributions from students working on their dissertations, faculty papers, authors of recent books and visiting academics. The usual structure will be a presentation, a prepared response and a discussion opened out to the group. Background literature will be provided. It will be open to all students, CUNY and consortium and interested faculty but students are encouraged to enroll on the course and if so expected to write a paper on one of the topics. It is intended that this symposium will be controversial and provide a focal point of discussion and debate for the concentration.

**STUDIES OF YOUTH, MARGINALIZATION AND SUBCULTURES OF RESISTANCE**

**Commencing Spring 2012.**

A plethora of youth resistance actions, movements and subcultures have developed in response to socio-economic dislocations on a global scale. From rebellious students in England to graffiti writers in Rio de Janeiro to politicized gangs in Ecuador an endless range of symbolic and substantive responses by youth to their felt conditions of marginality can be observed and studied. In this seminar we excavate this dynamic and fluid social field through sociological and criminological theories and empirical studies that help to explain the continuity and discontinuity of youth social and cultural resistance over time. Questions of race/ethnicity, class, gender and age will be addressed as we trace the meanings and representations of youth reactions to industrial
and post-industrial societies within and across their highly ambiguous political and cultural locations. Students will be expected to carry out small research projects that in some way reflect the transgressive practices and possibilities of youth in the late modern metropolis.

Therefore, this seminar has two major goals: (i) to explore the range of sociological theories that explain youth social and cultural resistance, and (ii) to critically appreciate the different forms that this resistance takes in the context of a transnationalist capitalist social order. We will focus in particular on the origins and duration of youth subcultures as they emerge and their construction within changing notions of criminal and non-criminal deviance.

**GENDER, CRIME, MEDIA AND CULTURE**

This course takes both a sociological and interdisciplinary approach to studying each of these areas (gender, crime, media and culture) both separately and together. In the first part of the semester, brief overviews are provided of literature in the areas of gender, crime, media and culture respectively. In the second segment, readings are analyzed that use a variety of methodologies to understand issues that involve several dimensions studied in the course; in particular, we look at studies of sex work, gender and media in the context of high-profile crime cases, gender and sports, and gender and immigration. The final third of the course is devoted to assisting students with the undertaking and development of in-depth research theoretical and/or empirical research projects of their own.

**ETHNOGRAPHY AND CRIMINOLOGY**

In this course we introduce students to the fundamental ideas and principles of ethnography, placing this research practice in relationship to the study of crime and the social construction of deviance. In doing so, we evaluate and discuss the historical emergence of the ethnographic and criminological imagination, coming to an understanding of how ethnographic research has been critical to the founding of criminology whose roots in the U.S. were always tied to the discipline of sociology. In the course of the semester we will see the degree to which the ethnographic/criminological field has changed over time and put into perspective the
atheoretical and anti-humanistic frameworks that govern most current criminological discourse.

The course will be divided into three parts. Part one will comprise an introduction to the difference in the theories between critical, naturalistic and/or interpretive methods of inquiry and those of positivism. In addition, there will be a brief foray into the practice and methodologies of ethnography to orient students in data collection as part of the course. In part two we survey the early works of ethnography as they relate to the founding principles of criminology and deviance. In part three we cover more contemporary works highlighting my own research along with other ethnographers to articulate a critical, reflexive and humanistic approach to seeing, explaining and representing crime, criminals, social control and social controllers.

THE SOCIOLOGY OF CRIME AND DEVIANCE

This course traces the evolution of critical thinking on the subject of crime and deviance from its origins in the 19th Century explorations of the city by Booth, Mayhew and Engels through to the emergence of the Chicago School in the early twentieth century, to the immensely creative period in American new deviancy theory of the late fifties and sixties with Becker, Goffman, Erikson, Cicourel and many others. It examines the radical work of early Merton with the strong influences of Durkheim and Marx and its metamorphosis into the subcultural theory of Albert Cohen and Dick Cloward and the phenomenological tradition of Berger and Luckman which formed the basis of the labelling school. From this it makes the transatlantic crossing to the English work around the new criminology and the Centre for Contemporary Cultural Studies to arrive at the recent flourishing of cultural criminology. Throughout it places theory in its political and social context and the theorists in the world they lived in and the dilemmas they faced.

It charts the development of a positivist orthodoxy following the predictions of C. Wright Mill in *The Sociological Imagination* and critically examines the attempts of positivism to develop a science of crime and deviancy and the repeated failures of explanation and understanding that this engenders.

Its aim is to integrate theory into the research concerns of students and to avoid an abstract discussion of theory by addressing current social problems and concerns (e.g. the debate over the legalization of drugs, the causes and impact of mass incarceration, the explanation of the rise of crime in the latter part of the twentieth century and the drop today).
Future courses to be included in the concentration: Transgression and Film; Drugs and Society; Methods in Criminology

FACULTY

Core Faculty: David C. Brotherton, Lynn Chancer, Jayne Mooney and Jock Young

David C. Brotherton

David Brotherton is Professor and co-Chair of sociology at the John Jay College of Criminal Justice and Professor at the Graduate Center, the City University of New York. He teaches courses in the sociology of deviance, immigration/deportation, cultural criminology, ethnography and subcultural theory. Dr. Brotherton co-founded the Street Organization Project in 1997 to critically document the youth street subcultures of New York City and to counter the moral panics around gangs in the United States. In 2004 Dr. Brotherton formed La Red, an international consortium of critical gang researchers based in Europe, the Caribbean and Latin America. In recent years he has co-organized nine national and international conferences on sociological and cultural criminological perspectives regarding youth marginalization, the most recent of which was co-sponsored by UNICEF in Quito, Ecuador. His working concept of gangs as transformative political agents has been adopted by the city councils of Barcelona and Genova as well as the Ecuadorian government of President Correa and the public commission on AIDS in the Dominican Republic. Dr. Brotherton is a U.S. representative to the European Common Study Program in Critical Criminology. His overall research focuses on social exclusion, resistance and identity, particularly within transnational social domains. His books include: Banished to the Homeland: Dominican Deportees and Their Stories of Exile (Columbia); The Almighty Latin King and Queen Nation: Street Politics and the Transformation of a New York City Gang (Columbia); and is a coeditor of How They Got Away With It: Lessons From the Financial Meltdown; Globalizing the Streets: Cross-Cultural Perspectives on Youth, Social Control, and Empowerment; Gangs and Society: Alternative Perspectives; Keeping Out the Other: A Critical Introduction to Immigration Enforcement Today and the Encyclopedia of Gangs.

Dr. Brotherton has been the recipient of many federal and foundational grants and is a legal consultant and expert witness in numerous deportation and gang-related cases including the most advanced class-action law suit against Homeland Security and ICE.
**Lynn Chancer**

Lynn Chancer is Professor of Sociology at Hunter College and the Graduate Center of the City University of New York. She is the author of *Sadomasochism in Everyday Life: Dynamics of Power and Powerlessness* (Rutgers University Press, 1992); *Reconcilable Differences: Confronting Beauty, Pornography and the Future of Feminism* (University of California Press, 1998); *High-Profile Crimes: When Legal Cases Become Social Causes* (University of Chicago Press, 2005); and *Gender, Race and Class: An Overview* (Blackwell, New York and London, 2006). Dr Chancer has written many articles on gender, crime, culture and social theory and was the co-editor of the international journal *Theoretical Criminology* for six years. She was co-editor with Eugene McLaughlin of a Special Issue of *Theoretical Criminology* on ‘Public Criminologies’ (2007) and was Program Co-Chair, Eastern Sociological Society meetings in 2009. In 2007 Dr Chancer was awarded the “Distinguished Scholar” career award of the Women and Crime Division of the American Society of Criminology.

**Jayne Mooney**

Jayne Mooney is Associate Professor of Sociology and co-Chair of the Sociology Department, John Jay College of Criminal Justice, City University of New York. Her focus of scholarship is in the areas of the sociology of violence, gender and crime and social deviance. She is the author of *Gender, Violence and the Social Order* (2000), Macmillan/ Palgrave, a co-author of *Fifty Key Thinkers in Criminology* (2010), Routledge (with K. Hayward and S. Maruna) and author of the forthcoming *Bringing Criminology to Life: Theory in Place, Time and Context* for Longmans/ Pearson UK which aims to present theory as a cultural product and theorists as producers of culture located in particular social, political and historical contexts. Dr Mooney has published over twenty papers in books and journals and numerous research monographs and reports. Her funded research has included local victimization surveys, studies of the Irish community, video games, violence against women, the policing of rape and street crime. She developed one of the first large scale surveys of domestic violence in the UK (The North London Domestic Violence Survey), the findings of which have informed national and local government policy on domestic violence. Dr Mooney is currently preparing a study on men who kill their children. This is an extension of her work on domestic violence and explores the themes of power and control, hatred and dehumanization.

Dr Mooney is a long-standing member of the European Common Study Programme in Critical Criminology. She has worked as a consultant for a number organizations in the UK including Women Against Rape, the Zero Tolerance campaign against male violence, Islington Council and Hackney Council’s domestic violence initiatives, the Irish in Britain All-Parliamentary Group and the Scottish Office. She has taken part in several radio debates on domestic violence, including BBC Radio 4’s Woman’s Hour.
Jock Young

Jock Young is Distinguished Professor of Criminal Justice at the Graduate Center and a Fellow of the Royal Society of Arts. He was previously Professor of Sociology at the University of Middlesex where he was Head of the Centre for Criminology and at the University of Kent where he remains a Visiting Professor of Sociology. He was educated at the London School of Economics; his PhD was an ethnography of drug use in Notting Hill, West London out of which developed the concept of moral panic. The research was published as *The Drugtakers* in 1971. He was a founding member of a group of critical criminologists in which milieu he wrote *The Manufacture of News* (with Stan Cohen, 1973 /1981) and *The New Criminology* (with Ian Taylor and Paul Walton, 1973).

At Middlesex he devised the first postgraduate course in crime and deviancy in the UK which is still flourishing today. With his colleagues he developed realist criminology in a series of books including the Penguin Special: *What’s to be Done about Law and Order?* (with John Lea, 1984/1993). In 1998 he was awarded the Sellin-Glueck Award for Distinguished International Scholar of the American Society of Criminology followed in 2003 by the Lifetime Achievement Award of the Critical Criminology Division. He has written for *The Guardian, The New Statesman, The Independent, Time Out* and *The Times Higher Education Supplement*; he has been interviewed frequently by BBC Radio and Television and acted as a consultant on many programmes.

In recent years his theoretical interests has been oriented towards the burgeoning field of cultural criminology publishing with Jeff Ferrell and Keith Hayward, (2008), *Cultural Criminology: An Invitation* which was awarded the Distinguished Book Award of the International Division of the American Society of Criminology in 2009. His trilogy of books about social life and sociological research in late modernity: *The Exclusive Society* (1999), *The Vertigo of Late Modernity* (2007) and *The Criminological Imagination* (2011) has just been completed. His recent research is directed towards the problems of social exclusion in Latin America where he is a consultant on a UN Development project in Argentina. In the last five years Jock Young has published eleven articles in refereed journals on topics ranging from the US/UK crime drop to moral panic theory, terrorism and immigration. Twenty-four of his articles were published as book chapters; whilst essays from his early work in the 1970’s to today are regularly reproduced in readers and in translation. His work has been translated into ten languages. He has given over this period thirty lectures at international conferences and universities including the LSE, the University of Buenos Aries, Oxford, Rouen and Hamburg. This year he gave the introductory plenary at both The British Criminology Conference and the York Deviancy Conference.

At CUNY he helped organize the International Critical Criminology Conference (2005), the conference on ‘Transgression and the Dangerous Other’ (2007) and ‘Between Dream and Nightmare: Immigration and the Bulimic Society’ (2009). He negotiated entry of CUNY into the European Common Study Programme on Critical Criminology and has
taken parties of PhD students to the common study sessions in Rotterdam, Barcelona, London and Canterbury. Jock Young was recently elected as executive officer of the Critical Criminology Division of the ASC and is on the editorial board of the British Journal of Criminology, Theoretical Criminology and Crime Media and Culture. In 2010 he was named as one of twenty-five of the most influential living criminologists (Routledge, Key Thinkers series). He has recently written a series of articles on moral panic theory, a piece on Bernie Madoff, crime and the financial crisis and is writing a book entitled Merton’s Dreams and Mills’ Imagination.

HONORARY FACULTY:  Michael P. Jacobson, Director of the Vera Institute, the major New York research agency in the area of crime and justice. Dr Jacobson was previously Professor at John Jay College of Criminal Justice and the Graduate Center. He was the New York City Correction Commissioner from 1995 to 1998 and the City's Probation Commissioner from 1992 to 1996. He is the author of Downsizing Prisons: How to Reduce Crime and End Mass Incarceration (New York University Press 2005) and serves as chair of the New York City Criminal Justice Agency.

With contributions from Michelle Fine, Distinguished Professor of Psychology and Urban Education, Graduate Center. Barry Spunt, Associate Professor of Sociology and past Chair of Sociology, John Jay College of Criminal Justice, whose most recent research involved a five-year ethnographic study of the heroin scene in New York City and is author of the forthcoming, When I Am In Your Arms: heroin and music in New York City. Susan Opotow, Professor, Sociology Department, John Jay College of Criminal Justice and the Doctoral Program in Social-Personality, the Graduate Center, editor of Peace and Conflict: Journal of Peace Psychology. Dr Opotow’s work focuses on those important themes of conflict and justice and how these give rise to moral exclusion. Andrew Karmen, Professor of Sociology, John Jay College of Criminal Justice. Dr Karmen is well-known for his work on victimology (Victims: An Introduction to Victimology, is now in its 6th edition) and for New York Murder Mystery: the true story behind the crime crash of the 1990s; noted for the controversy which it generated, this book is one of if not the most important accounts of the reasons behind the sharp drop in New York City's crime rates. Michael Flynn, Associate Professor, York College, and a director of the Center on Terrorism, City University of New York. Dr Flynn is the author (with Charles Strozier) of Genocide, War and Human Survival and is currently completing a book on the representation of torture in film. Lou Kontos, Sociology Department, John Jay College of Criminal Justice, who is the author (with D. Brotherton and L. Barrios) of Gangs and Society: Alternative Perspectives and is currently completing The Politics of Deviance and Social Control in Modern Western Societies.

For further information please contact: Jock Young (wyoung@gc.cuny.edu)