CRIM 762
Crime and Place
(Fall 2014)

Instructor: Professor David Weisburd
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First Class: Tuesday, Aug 26

Time: 10:30AM – 1:10PM Room: Enterprise Hall 77

Office Hours: Email dweisbur@gmu.edu to set up an appointment in person or via video conference.

Course Website: Available at http://blackboard.gmu.edu

Center for Evidence-Based Crime Policy: http://cebcp.org/

Center for Evidence-Based Crime Policy’s Place-Based Bibliography:
http://cebcp.org/wp-content/cpwg/Place-Based-Bibliography

Course Summary:

Recent studies have shown a tremendous concentration of crime at very small geographic units of analysis such as street segments (often termed hot spots), and research on hot spots policing suggests significant crime prevention benefits can be gained by focusing on such places. This course will first explore basic research showing the importance on focusing on micro places or crime hot spots (instead of just individuals and large areas). We will then turn to theoretical explanations that can guide our understanding of why crime concentrates in particular places. We will then turn to applied research and focus on the emergence of and empirical evidence regarding hot spots policing. This discussion will include a review of findings on displacement and diffusion effects as well as potential unintended negative consequences for police legitimacy of a hot spots approach. We will end with a discussion of future directions for crime and place research, particularly for moving police towards a place-based focus.

Evaluation:

Grades will be assigned as follows:

Class Participation (20%)
Scholarly Paper (80%)

More details on the scholarly paper will be provided in class.
Text: Articles and book chapters that will be distributed in class or available on the blackboard website (http://blackboard.gmu.edu). Each week has required readings and additional optional readings. Certain course readings are unpublished documents that will be emailed to you or provided via a secure link.

All students will be required to purchase the following texts for the course (available at GMU bookstore):


There will be no class on October 14, October 21, and November 18.

I. The Emergence of Interest in Crime and Place

*Required Readings:*


*Additional Readings:*

II. The “Law of Crime Concentrations” at Places and Its Implications for Research and Policy

Required Readings:


Additional Readings:


III. Does Studying Crime at Micro Places Add Something New?: The Geography of Crime and Place

**Required Readings:**


**Additional Readings**


IV. Theories of Crime and Place

**Required Readings**


Note: These chapters are both long; focus on the theory and the constructs, not on the geographic distribution of the variables

**Additional Readings**


**V. The Distribution of Opportunities and Social Disorganization at Places**

**Required Readings**


**VI. Explaining Crime at Place**

**Required Readings**


Additional Readings


VII. The Emergence of Hot Spots Policing

Required readings


Additional Readings


October 14: No class due to Columbus Day

October 21: No class

VIII. The Evidence Base for Hot Spots Policing

Required Readings


Additional Readings


IX. Crime Displacement and Diffusion of Crime Prevention Benefits

Required Readings


Additional Readings


X. Possible Unintended Negative Consequences of Hot Spots Policing

**Required Readings**


Additional Readings


November 18: No class/ ASC

XI. Hot Spots Policing as a Model for Evidence-Based Policy

Required Readings


XII. Future Directions in Crime and Place Research

Required Readings


**Additional Readings**


**December 16:** Final Paper Due to dweisbur@gmu.edu by 5:00pm.