

**ECNS 491: Economics of Crime and Risky Behavior (3 credits)
Spring 2018**

Class schedule: 4:30-5:45pm on Tuesday and Thursday (Linfield 109)

Professor: Dr. Mark Anderson

Email and course webpage: dwight.anderson@montana.edu; www.dmarkanderson.com

Office hours: Tuesday, 8:00-10:00am

Course prerequisites: ECNS 204 & STAT 217

Textbook: None required

Grades: Quizzes/article summaries: 20% (**We will generally have weekly quizzes/assignments**)

Midterm: 15% (In-class midterm on **March 6th**)

Final: 20% (12-1:50pm on **May 3rd**)

Group presentation of journal article: 10%

Course paper: 35% (5% for paper proposal; 10% for in-class presentation and attendance of classmates' presentations; 20% for final paper)

-Paper proposal due February 1st

-In-class individual presentations will be held during the last two weeks of the semester

-Paper due on last day of class

Course description: This course will apply economic principles to analyze criminal and risky human behavior.

Material we will cover (subject to change at my discretion):

Economic theory of criminal and risky behavior

Rational choice model of crime
Theory of deterrence
Theory of addiction
Theory of prostitution

Testing the economics of crime and risky behaviors using natural experiments

Education and crime
Alcohol laws and crime
Legalization of prostitution
Three-strike laws
Ban-the-box laws
Anti-drug campaigns
Parental involvement laws

Other topics to cover (time permitting)

-Marijuana legalization and crime
-Military service, deployments, and criminal behavior
-Judges and racial bias
-Gangs (street gangs, prison gangs, and organized crime)

Other Notes:

- Undergrad study rooms: There is an undergrad econ study room in Linfield Hall 404 and a computer room in Linfield Hall 409A. They are open Monday-Friday from 8am-5pm.