

**The University of Texas at El Paso  
Department of Criminal Justice  
CRIJ 3313: Criminology (Section 014)  
Spring 2023**

**PROFESSOR INFORMATION**

**Professor:** Dr. Amanda Goodson

**Office:** Education Building, Room 111-P (2300 Randolph Drive.)

**Email:** [ajgoodson@utep.edu](mailto:ajgoodson@utep.edu)

**Telephone:** (915) 747-6831

**Office Hours:** Tuesdays and Thursdays: 9:00am – 10:00am and 3:00pm – 4:00pm or by appointment

**GRADUATE TEACHING ASSISTANT INFORMATION**

**Name:** Carolina Licerio

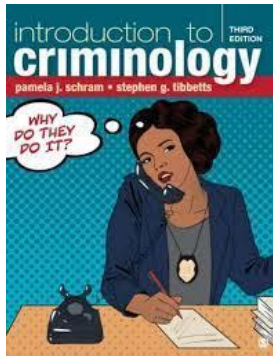
**Email:** [clicerio@miners.utep.edu](mailto:clicerio@miners.utep.edu)

**MEETING TIME AND PLACE**

**Class Time:** 1:30pm – 2:50pm on Tuesdays and Thursdays

**Classroom:** Education Building, Room 114

**REQUIRED TEXTBOOK**



Schram, P. J. & Tibbetts, S. G. (2020). *Introduction to criminology: Why do they do it?* (3<sup>rd</sup> Edition). SAGE Publications. ISBN: 9781544375731

*Note:* On sale at [UTEP Bookstore](https://bookstore.utep.edu) or other online platforms. eBook or hard copy textbook are both appropriate. I encourage you to select the price option that works best for you.

Textbook resources: <https://edge.sagepub.com/schram3e>

## **REQUIRED ARTICLES**

Any additional required readings will be sent via email or posted on Blackboard.

## **COURSE DESCRIPTION**

**Catalog Description:** This course surveys historical perspectives on crime, contemporary criminological theory, penological theory, current trends in crime, and critical thought on current justice practices and procedures. Particular emphasis is given to the development and application of theory in regard to different types of crimes, “crime waves,” and appropriate penal policy. Prerequisites: [CRIJ 1301](#) with a grade of “C” or better.

**Class Description:** This course is designed to provide students with an introduction to criminological theory. In this course, students are introduced to the study of criminal behavior and the measurement of crime and victimization. Students will learn the major individual (e.g., biological and psychological factors), situational (e.g., opportunity, peer influence, etc.), and structural (e.g., economic deprivation, family disruption, etc.) correlates of crime as well as theories of crime causation that attempt to explain crime rates and patterns.

## **COURSE OBJECTIVES OR EXPECTED LEARNING OBJECTIVES**

By the end of the semester, students will be able to demonstrate an understanding of:

1. Learn common terminology used in criminological theories
2. Describe basic concepts and historical background of major criminological theories
3. Examine theories and principles of criminology
4. Apply major criminological theories to practical, everyday examples
5. Learn how criminological theories inform criminal justice policies

## **COURSE FORMAT**

This course is administered as a face-to-face class and regular attendance is expected of all students. Class starts promptly at 1:30pm. If you are unable to attend class at 1:30pm during the semester because of work or other commitments, I recommend that you look for alternative course options.

Discussion will be a primary component of this course. The purpose of class discussion is to foster critical thinking and evaluation of important issues related to criminology. It is expected that each and every student will help facilitate healthy discussion by respecting other students and their opinions. Disrespect towards the professor and/or other students during class time will not be tolerated.

## **REQUIRED ASSIGNMENT INFORMATION**

- 1) **Syllabus Quiz: 10 points**

There will be one syllabus/plagiarism quiz in the semester. The quiz will be administered through Blackboard, and it will consist of 10 multiple choice and true/false questions pertaining to the information presented in the syllabus. Each question is worth 1 point and comprises 10 points of your final grade. The quiz is not timed, and you may take the quiz as many times as you want. The syllabus quiz is due by 11:59pm on Monday, January 23<sup>rd</sup>.

## **2) Integrating Theories – PowerPoint Presentations: 100 points**

Throughout the semester, you will be required to prepare two PowerPoint presentations (each worth 50 points) that combine, explain, and apply theories we have explored over the semester. The PowerPoint will need to be submitted via the SafeAssign link in Blackboard. **Assignments must be submitted as a PowerPoint – any assignments submitted as a comment submission text, .pages, or alternative format will not be accepted and will receive a zero.** More information will be available on Blackboard. Please refer to the course calendar for specific due dates and times.

## **3) Infographic – 50 points**

Students will be required to complete an infographic over the course of the semester. Infographics are visual representations of information, data, or knowledge that demonstrate the application of information learned in class. Detailed information and additional resources are available on Blackboard. Please refer to the course calendar for specific due dates and times.

## **4) Content Quizzes: 120 points**

**There will be 13 content quizzes throughout the semester, 12 of which will count toward your final grade.** The purpose of these content quizzes is to test your knowledge and understanding of important concepts in research methods. The content quizzes will correspond to the required readings, material discussed in class, any assigned videos, guest lectures, etc. Each content quiz consists of 10 multiple choice or true/false questions worth 1 point each, for a total of 10 points each. The content quizzes are timed – you will have 13 minutes to complete each quiz and they must be finished in one sitting. During assigned weeks, content quizzes will be posted on Blackboard at 12:01am on Tuesdays and are required to be completed by 11:59pm on the following Monday. The specific due dates and times are provided in the course schedule. At the end of the semester, I will drop your lowest content quiz score.

## **5) In-Class Activities and Participation: 100 points**

This course is administered in a face-to-face modality—students are expected to attend class and participate. Student participation involves a combination of attendance, class activities, and discussions. While participation is not scheduled in the course calendar, students must be physically in class to obtain these points. Students are responsible for arriving to class on time, staying until class is dismissed, and making sure work is submitted during class. **Participation points missed due to absence, tardiness, or leaving early cannot be made up unless there is a [university excused absence](#).** Please note that work, transportation trouble, etc. are not university excused absences. Participation points will begin on Tuesday, January 24<sup>th</sup>, points are

offered every class period, and accrue over the semester. Students can earn up to 100 participation points over the semester.

**6) Extra Credit**

There may be extra credit opportunities made available at my discretion throughout the semester. If offered, extra credit opportunities will be available to the entire class. Individual level basis opportunities will not be provided.

**COURSE GRADING**

Final course grades will be calculated based on **TOTAL POINTS** earned across all assignments and completed extra credit. Please note that CRIJ 3313: Criminology is a required course for the criminal justice major. **Per the course catalog, a “C” or better is required to pass the class successfully. Students who earn below a “C” will be required to retake the course. As such, you are responsible for obtaining the grade you want in this class.**

<b>Progress Checks: Points Weighted Equally</b>	<b>Points Each</b>	<b>Total Points</b>
1 Syllabus Quiz	10 points	10 points
2 PowerPoints – Integrating Theories	50 points	100 points
1 Infographic	50 points	50 points
12 Content Quizzes	10 points	120 points
In-Class Activities and Participation	Accrue over time	100 points
<b>Total Points</b>		<b>380 points</b>

342 – 380 Points	90 – 100%	A
304 – 341 Points	80 – 89%	B
266 – 303 Points	70 – 79%	C
228 – 265 Points	60 – 69%	D
227 & Below	59% or Less	F

**CLASSROOM POLICIES**

**Attendance Policy:** Your success in this course is contingent on attending class regularly and participating in a meaningful way. As discussed above, participation points accrue over the duration of the semester. Points missed due to absence, tardiness, or leaving early cannot be made up. Please notify me by email if you are unable to attend class. Students are responsible for all course material covered in their absence and to ensure that assignments are still submitted on time.

**Late Work Policy:** Each of you have two imaginary “tokens” that you can trade in for the opportunity to submit certain assignments late including the syllabus quiz, content quizzes, and integrating theories PowerPoints. Tokens cannot be used on missed participation points or the infographic. You must email me within 24 hours of the original due date to notify me that you want to “use” one of your tokens. Any requests to use a token outside of the 24 hours will be handled at my discretion.

**Email Policy:** The best way to contact me is through UTEP email. During the week (Monday – Friday) you can expect an answer from me within 24 hours. If you email me after 5:00pm, on the weekend, or a university holiday, expect a response the next business day. A few email guidelines:

- 1) Email me from your UTEP account;
- 2) Use my appropriate name (Dr. Goodson or Professor Goodson);
- 3) Identify yourself and your class (hint, this class is CRIJ 3313: Criminology);
- 4) Clearly state your question or explain why you are emailing;
- 5) Always check the syllabus to see if your question can be answered!

This article helps with email etiquette: <https://medium.com/@lportwoodstacer/how-to-email-your-professor-without-being-annoying-af-cf64ae0e4087>

Be proactive in communication – please let me know if you find that you are having trouble keeping up with the material as this will allow us time to find a solution. Finally, it is your responsibility to check your UTEP email every day for important announcements or class updates.

**Technology Requirements and Policies:** Laptops may be used only for the purpose of note-taking or other course-related activities. If students are caught using their laptops for anything non-school related, the student will lose their privilege to do so permanently. Cell phones and headphones are not permitted for use in the classroom. Should you be observed texting or wearing headphones during class, you will be asked to leave the classroom.

Much of the course content will be available through the Blackboard learning management system. Ensure your UTEP email account is working and that you have access to the Web and a stable Web browser. Google Chrome and Mozilla Firefox are the best browsers for Blackboard; other browsers may cause complications. When having technical difficulties, update your browser, clear your cache, or try switching to another browser.

At a minimum, you will need to have access to a computer/laptop. You will need to download or update the following software: Microsoft Office, Adobe Acrobat Reader, Windows Media Player, QuickTime, and Java. Check that your computer hardware and software are up-to-date and able to access all parts of the course.

If you do not have a word-processing software, you can download Word and other Microsoft Office programs (including Excel, PowerPoint, Outlook and more) for free via UTEP's Microsoft Office Portal. Click the following link for more information about [Microsoft Office 365](#) and follow the instructions.

**IMPORTANT:** If you encounter technical difficulties beyond your scope of troubleshooting, please contact the UTEP [Help Desk](#) as they are trained specifically in assisting with technological needs of students. Please do not contact me for this type of assistance. The Help Desk is much better equipped than I am to assist you!

**Prohibition of Course Work Acquired Outside of Student's Own Work:** Papers purchased, written by another individual, or written using or with the assistance of an artificial intelligence system or software (e.g., ChatGPT) are strictly prohibited in this course. Failure to follow this will be considered academic dishonesty. See the Scholastic Integrity section of this syllabus for more information about academic dishonesty and its consequences.

**Classroom Materials and Recording Policy:** To ensure free and open discussion of ideas, students are prohibited from recording class sessions without necessary, individual documentation from UTEP's CASS. Moreover, students are prohibited from taking pictures of or sharing classroom materials including, but not limited to class notes, PowerPoint slides, quizzes, exams, assignments, and any written, audio, and video materials developed by the professor. In individual cases where students have an accommodation for a recording device, use of recorded class content outside of the parameters of the course is prohibited. It will be for individual and educational purposes only and may be used solely for the student's own private use. Distribution or sale of any class material is prohibited without the written permission of the instructor and others who are recorded. Distribution without permission is a violation of educational privacy law.

**Inclusive Course:** This class will be taught in an inclusive and comfortable space that is intellectually challenging. As the professor, I will work to foster an environment that is supportive, accepting, respectful, and intellectually stimulating. However, these classroom goals are contingent on your active participation as well. I expect all students to contribute to the shaping of an inclusive, comfortable, and educational setting by honoring the diverse backgrounds, statuses, and experiences of your fellow classmates. With that said, let's be mindful of a few things: (1) do not talk while another is talking; (2) your opinion is not necessarily fact; and (3) effective communication requires active listening and evidence to support any claims (e.g., textbook readings, current events, articles, material from other classes, etc.). The field of criminal justice is characterized by a diverse continuum of perspectives, and the university educational experience requires that we examine issues from numerous angles. With this in mind, do not verbally attack another because their position is different than yours. Instead, practice refining your discussion/debate skills by becoming more informed about issues that interest you (even better, practice taking the alternative position and defending it). These are invaluable skills which are useful both professionally and interpersonally.

## **UNIVERSITY POLICIES**

**Class Attendance:** According to UTEP Curriculum and Classroom Policies, "Students are expected to attend all classes and laboratory sessions. It is the responsibility of the student to inform each instructor of extended absences. When, in the judgment of the instructor, a student has been absent to such a degree as to impair his or her status relative to credit for the course, the instructor may drop the student from the class with a grade of "W" before the course drop deadline and with a grade of "F" after the course drop deadline." I will not drop you from the course. However, if you feel that you are unable to complete the course

successfully, please let me know and then contact the [Registrar's Office](#) to initiate the drop process. If you do not, you are at risk of receiving an "F" for the course.

Per the [university policy](#), excused absences include university-recognized activities (e.g., sports, band, professional conference, etc.), religious holy day, and military leave. Students must follow the required process and guidelines for notifying the instructor of these absences. Missing class due to work, transportation issues, etc. are not excused absences.

**Incomplete Grade Policy:** Incomplete grades may be requested only in exceptional circumstances after you have completed at least half of the course requirements. Talk to me immediately if you believe an incomplete is warranted. If granted, we will establish a contract of work to be completed with deadlines.

**Accommodations Policy:** The University is committed to providing reasonable accommodations and auxiliary services to students, staff, faculty, job applicants, applicants for admissions, and other beneficiaries of University programs, services and activities with documented disabilities in order to provide them with equal opportunities to participate in programs, services, and activities in compliance with sections 503 and 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, as amended, and the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) of 1990 and the Americans with Disabilities Act Amendments Act (ADAAA) of 2008. Reasonable accommodations will be made unless it is determined that doing so would cause undue hardship on the University. Students requesting an accommodation based on a disability must register with the [UTEP Center for Accommodations and Support Services](#) (CASS). Contact the Center for Accommodations and Support Services at 915-747-5148, or email them at [cass@utep.edu](mailto:cass@utep.edu), or apply for accommodations online via the [CASS portal](#).

**Scholastic Integrity:** Academic dishonesty is prohibited and is considered a violation of the UTEP Handbook of Operating Procedures. It includes, but is not limited to, using previously submitted academic work, cheating, plagiarism, and collusion. Cheating may involve copying from or providing information to another student, possessing unauthorized materials during a test, or falsifying research data on laboratory reports. Plagiarism occurs when someone intentionally or knowingly represents the words or ideas of another as ones' own. Collusion involves collaborating with another person to commit any academically dishonest act. Any act of academic dishonesty attempted by a UTEP student is unacceptable and will not be tolerated. All suspected violations of academic integrity at The University of Texas at El Paso must be reported to the [Office of Student Conduct and Conflict Resolution \(OSCCR\)](#) for possible disciplinary action. To learn more, please visit [HOOP: Student Conduct and Discipline](#).

**Copyright Statement for Course Material:** All materials used in this course are protected by copyright law. The course materials are only for the use of students currently enrolled in this course and only for the purpose of this course. They may not be further disseminated.

**Mandatory Reporting:** Under Title IX of the 1972 Education Amendments to the United States Code, I am required to report sexual assault, domestic violence, and stalking to campus administrators. Confidential help is available should you need it through the [UTEP Counseling](#)

[and Psychological Services](#) or the National Domestic Violence Hotline (1-800-799- SAFE). An additional resource includes the [Center Against Sexual and Family Violence](#). Under Texas law, I am required to report child and elder abuse and the maltreatment of persons with disabilities. Texas law says anyone who thinks a child, or person 65 years or older, or an adult with disabilities is being abused, neglected, or exploited must report it to DFPS. A person who reports abuse in good faith is immune from civil or criminal liability. The Texas Department of Family and Protective Services (DFPS) keeps the name of the person making the report confidential. Anyone who does not report suspected abuse can be held liable for a misdemeanor or felony. Time frames for investigating reports are based on the severity of the allegations. Reporting suspected abuse makes it possible for a family to get help. Here is a link to allow for such reporting and for further information:

[http://www.dfps.state.tx.us/Contact\\_Us/report\\_abuse.asp](http://www.dfps.state.tx.us/Contact_Us/report_abuse.asp)

**Course Resource:** UTEP provides a variety of student services and support. Please see below.

- Technology Resources
  - [Help Desk](#): Students experiencing technological challenges (email, Blackboard, software, etc.) can submit a ticket to the UTEP Helpdesk for assistance. Contact the Helpdesk via phone, email, chat, website, or in person if on campus.
- Academic Resources
  - [UTEP Library](#): Access a wide range of resources including online, full-text access to thousands of journals and eBooks plus reference service and librarian assistance for enrolled students.
  - [University Writing Center \(UWC\)](#): Submit papers here for assistance with writing style and formatting, ask a tutor for help and explore other writing resources.
  - [RefWorks](#): A bibliographic citation tool; check out the RefWorks tutorial and Fact Sheet and Quick-Start Guide.
- Individual Resources
  - [Military Student Success Center](#): Assists personnel in any branch of service to reach their educational goals.
  - [Center for Accommodations and Support Services](#): Assists students with ADA-related accommodations for coursework, housing, and internships.
  - [Counseling and Psychological Services](#): Provides a variety of counseling services including individual, couples, and group sessions as well as career and disability assessments.



## WEEKLY COURSE SCHEDULE

The following is a tentative course schedule. I reserve the right to make changes to the syllabus at any time for any justifiable reason. Any changes made to the syllabus will be announced in class, through announcements, and an updated syllabus will be provided on Blackboard.

Week and Days	Topic	Readings	<b>Assignments Due</b> *Assignments submitted via Blackboard are due by 11:59pm unless otherwise noted*
W1 1/17 – 1/19	Syllabus and course introduction  Guest Speaker – CARE Office	Review the syllabus	<u>1/23</u> • Syllabus Quiz
W2 1/24 – 1/26	Introduction to criminology  ***Participation points start accruing on 1/24***	Chapter 1	<u>1/30</u> • Quiz #1
W3 1/31 – 2/2  *Feb 1 <sup>st</sup> : Last day to register for classes	Measuring crime	Chapter 2	<u>2/6</u> • Quiz #2
W4 2/7 – 2/9	The classical school of criminology	Chapter 3	<u>2/13</u> • Quiz #3
W5 2/14 – 2/16	Contemporary classical and deterrence research	Chapter 4	<u>2/20</u> • Quiz #4
W6 2/21 – 2/23	Early positivism: Biological theories of crime	Chapter 5	<u>2/27</u> • Quiz #5
W7 2/28 – 3/2	Modern biosocial perspectives of criminal behavior	Chapter 6	<u>3/6</u> • Quiz #6

W8 3/7 – 3/9	Psychological and trait theories of crime	Chapter 7	<u>3/20</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Quiz #7</li> <li>Integrating Theories PowerPoint #1</li> </ul>
W9 3/14 – 3/16	<b>Spring Break – No Class</b>		
W10 3/21 – 3/23	Early developmental and strain models of crime	Chapter 8	<u>3/27</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Quiz #8</li> </ul>
W11 3/28 – 3/30 <b>March 30th: Drop/Withdrawal Deadline</b>	Social disorganization and subcultures of crime	Chapter 9	<u>4/3</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Quiz #9</li> </ul>
W12 4/4 – 4/6	Social process and control theories of crime	Chapter 10	<u>4/10</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Quiz #10</li> </ul>
W13 4/11 – 4/13	Labeling theory and conflict/Marxist/radical theories of crime	Chapter 11	<u>4/17</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Quiz #11</li> </ul>
W14 4/18 – 4/20	Feminist theories	Chapter 12	<u>4/24</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Quiz #12</li> </ul>
W15 4/25 – 4/27	Developmental/Life-course perspectives on criminality	Chapter 13	<u>5/1</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Quiz #13</li> <li>Integrating Theories PowerPoint #2</li> </ul>
W16 5/2 – 5/4	Interpersonal and violent crimes  ***Last day to earn participation points is 5/4***	Reading provided on Blackboard	<u>5/7</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Infographic (assignment opens W2)</li> </ul>
W17 5/8 – 5/12	Final Exams Week	No new material – good luck on any final exams!	***No final exam in this course***