Department of Criminal Justice

Immigration, Crime and CJ
CRIJ 5333-001
CRN 15811
Fall 2023
Wednesday In-Person, 6:00PM – 9:00PM
Education Building Room 114
3 Credit Hours

Professor: Chris Guerra
Office: Education Building #111-L
Office Telephone: 915-747-6345
Email: cguerra7@utep.edu [best way to contact me]
Class Modality: In-Person
Office Availability: Wednesday 3:00PM – 6:00PM or by appointment

Textbook(s)/Readings:

- While there is no assigned textbook, all readings will be listed on the schedule near the end of the syllabus. All readings will be posted on Blackboard or will be attainable through the UTEP Library website online. All materials in this course will be available for free or at no additional cost as UTEP students (i.e., zero-cost).

Course Description:

Immigration, Crime and CJ is designed for students to gain exposure and obtain content mastery over the broad range of immigration and crime research. Importantly, students will learn many of the key concepts related to the immigrant paradox of crime as well gain insights from seminal and contemporary studies in the area. In addition to provided textbook materials, this course leverages advanced thinking using peer-reviewed research and other types of pedagogical techniques (e.g., in class activities) to promote etiological connections.

Learning Objectives:

Students who successfully complete this course will be able:

1. Understand the historical context of immigration and crime in the U.S.
2. Engage with peer-reviewed content germane to the study of immigration and crime.
3. Appreciate the intricacies of the immigrant paradox of crime.
4. Consider the macro-, meso-, and individual-level organization and implications of work in the immigration space.

Course Grading and Required Assignment Information:
Your final grade will be determined based on your performance on writing assignments, exams, and class participation. There are a total of 1000 points that can be earned in this class.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Weekly Writing Syntheses + Discussion Questions</th>
<th>500 points = 10 assignments x 50 points each</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Two Exams</td>
<td>300 points = Two Exams x 150 points each</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Participation</td>
<td>200 points</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>1000 points</strong></td>
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</tbody>
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Grading Scale:

900-1000 = A  
800-899 = B  
700-799 = C  
600-699 = D  
599 or fewer points = F

**Weekly writing syntheses + Discussion Questions:** Students should expect to have 11 weekly writing assignments, one due every week indicated on the schedule. To receive full credit, papers should be submitted by the start of the scheduled class time (Wednesday at 6:00PM). These assignments should be submitted before physically attending class every Wednesday. Even though we will have 11 syntheses, only ten (10) will count towards your final grade. So that means one (1) gets dropped.

A well-crafted synthesis succinctly summarizes key sections of the reading and expands on them. So your weekly writing synthesis will have 3 total sections (w/ suggested lengths):

A) **Succinctly summarize all the readings (500 words)**  
B) **Discuss and address each of the three expansion points below (800 words)**  
C) **3-5 high-level discussion questions**

After you summarize the readings, write towards these three expansion points:

1) Reflect on how the readings advanced the understanding of immigration and crime  
2) Apply key concepts to everyday life or other readings from your education (e.g., this class or others)  
3) A specific idea from a theory or perspective that you find interesting. Expand on this.

Please refrain from simply stating that you “like” or “agree” with the assigned readings or the readings are “interesting” or “good.” Moreover, you should not regurgitate what the textbook or journal articles state. Furthermore, in the same document, students will provide 3-5 high-level discussion questions to help guide class discussion.
With respect to mechanics, papers should be typed and double-spaced, use Times New Roman, twelve-inch font with one-inch margins, be approximately three pages in length, and use APA 7 format.

**Exams:** This class will have two exams in the style of comprehensive exams.

**Participation:** Students will be graded based on their in-class participation. This grade will be assessed based on students’ participation across the whole semester. Moreover, part of this overall grade will be based on when they lead the class discussion.

**Technology Requirements:**
While this class takes place in-person, aspects of the course will rely on certain technology. Any and all posted content will be placed on this course’s section through the Blackboard learning management system. Ensure your UTEP e-mail 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.

You may need to have access to a computer/laptop, and possibly a webcam and a microphone. You will need to download or update the following software: Microsoft Office. 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.

**Course Communication:**

Since this class will take place in-person, much of the communication will also take in-person and be supplemented by Blackboard. Outside of the physical classroom, there are several ways we can keep the communication channels open:

- **Office Hours:** See availability above.
- **Email:** UTEP e-mail is the best way to contact me. I will make every attempt to respond to your e-mail within 24-48 hours of receipt. When e-mailing me, be sure to email from your UTEP student account and please put the course number in the subject line. In the body of your e-mail, clearly state your question. At the end of your e-mail, be sure to put your first and last name, and your university identification number.
- **Announcements:** Check the Blackboard announcements frequently for any updates, deadlines, or other important messages.
In-person Etiquette, Netiquette and Email Policy:
Both in-person and online etiquette will follow the same principle. As we know, sometimes communication can be challenging. It is possible to miscommunicate what we mean or to misunderstand what our classmates mean given the lack of body language and immediate feedback. Therefore, please keep these in-person and netiquette (network etiquette) guidelines in mind. Failure to observe them may result in disciplinary action:

- Always consider audience. This is a college-level course; therefore, all communication should reflect polite consideration of other’s ideas.
- Respect and courtesy must be provided to classmates and to the instructor at all times. No harassment or inappropriate communication will be tolerated.
- When reacting to someone else’s messaging, address the ideas, not the person.
- For online conversations, Blackboard is not a public internet venue; all postings to it should be considered private and confidential. Whatever is posted on these online spaces is intended for classmates and professor only. Please do not copy documents and paste them to a publicly accessible website, blog, or other space.

If you have questions regarding course material, assignments, exams, or administrative questions, please notify me via email or in-person during office hours. Before you do so, please review the syllabus to see if it answers your question(s). I will answer emails during business hours (8:00AM-5:00PM) Monday through Friday. Emails sent during the weekend will be replied to the following Monday. Please format your email in a professional manner. I highly recommend, “Hi Professor Guerra” followed by a comma as a way to begin the email message. Here is an example introduction:

“Hi Professor Guerra,

My name is (fill your name in here) and I am a student in your Immigration, Crime, and CJ class this semester. My question is…”

Course Policies:

Attendance and Participation
Attendance in the course is determined by participation in the activities of the course. Your participation in the course is important not only for your learning and success but also to create a community of learners. Participation is determined by completion of the following activities:

- Leading class discussions
- Reading all course materials to ensure understanding of assignment requirements
- Completion of any in-person class activities and discussion
- Exam completion

Excused Absences and/or Course Drop Policy
According to UTEP Curriculum and Classroom Policies, “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. See academic regulations in the UTEP Undergraduate Catalog for a list of excuse absences. Therefore, if I find that, due to non-performance in the course, you are at risk of failing, I will drop you from the course. I will provide 24 hours advance notice via email.

**OR**

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.

**Deadlines, Late Work, and Absence Policy**
The due date for every assignment and exam due is listed below in the course schedule section. Here is more information:

**Weekly Syntheses Assignments**
- All weekly syntheses assignments will be due at the beginning of the class on the day that we complete them. Considering that completing them demonstrates comprehension of the content and discussion questions guide the class—and one drop is provided—late work will not be accepted. After all, the reasons an assignment drop is built in is to account for everyday life problems (e.g., car will not start or tire popped, brief flu or cold). Please contact me if there are more serious reasons behind any missed class assignments.

**Exams**
- Exams will be due on the class day they are assigned to by 11:59 PM. Since students are given approximately one week to complete the exam, any non-completed examinations will result in a zero. Exams cannot be made up unless a serious issue arises or arose at the time of the examination. These situations will be handled on a case-by-case basis.

**Make-up Assignments**
Late assignments will not typically be accepted. If an exam submission is missed for an acceptable reason (as determined by myself or the university), students will be allowed to make up the exam no later than one week after the original due date or a due date specifically assigned by the professor.

**Alternative Means of Submitting Work in Case of Technical Issues**
I strongly suggest that you submit your work with plenty of time to spare in the event that you have a technical issue with the course website, network, and/or your computer. I also suggest you save all your work in a separate Word document as a back-up. This way, you will have evidence that you completed the work and will not lose credit. If you are experiencing difficulties submitting your work through the course website, please contact the UTEP Help Desk. You can email me your back-up document as a last resort.
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, or apply for accommodations online via the CASS portal.

COVID-19 Accommodations
If you are sick with COVID-19 or are showing symptoms, you should contact me as soon as possible so we can arrange necessary and appropriate accommodations.

Students who are considered high risk according to CDC guidelines and/or those who live with individuals who are considered high risk may contact Center for Accommodations and Support Services (CASS) to discuss temporary accommodations for on-campus courses and activities.

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, 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.

Prohibition of Course Work Acquired Outside of Student’s Own Work:
Written work that are purchased, written by another individual, or written using or with significant assistance of an artificial intelligence system or software (e.g., ChatGPT) are strictly prohibited in this course. Failure to adhere to this will be considered academic dishonesty. Students must cite any borrowed content sources to comply with all applicable citation guidelines, copyright law, and avoid plagiarism. Instances that violate these guidelines will be
referred to the Office of Student Conduct and Conflict Resolution. See the Scholastic Integrity section of above for more information about academic dishonesty and its consequences.

**Plagiarism Detecting Software**
Some of your course work and assessments may require submission to Turnitin and/or SafeAssign, which are plagiarism detecting software. These are used to review assignment submissions for originality and will help you learn how to properly attribute sources rather than paraphrase.

**Copyright Statement for Course Materials and Recordings**
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. The use of recordings will enable you to have access to class lectures. Our use of such technology is governed by the Federal Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) and UTEP’s acceptable-use policy. A recording of class sessions will be kept and stored by UTEP, in accordance with FERPA and UTEP policies. Your instructor will not share the recordings of your class activities outside of course participants, which include your fellow students, teaching assistants, or graduate assistants, and any guest faculty or community-based learning partners with whom we may engage during a class session. You may not share recordings outside of this course. Doing so may result in disciplinary action.

**Mandatory Reporting for Title IX:**
As a professor at UTEP, I am under federal obligation to relay information regarding victimization disclosure to our University’s Title IX Coordinator for the purpose of ensuring appropriate services and accommodations are provided to anyone who has disclosed victimization. It is important that you know, should you disclose ongoing or past victimization in writing assignments, during class, or to me personally, I am legally obliged to relay this information to a Title IX Coordinator.

**Course Resources**
UTEP provides a variety of student services and support:

**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.
- **Math Tutoring Center (MaRCS)**: Ask a tutor for help and explore other available math resources.
History Tutoring Center (HTC): Receive assistance with writing history papers, get help from a tutor and explore other history 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.

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.

Classroom Materials and Recording Policy:
To ensure the free and open discussion of ideas, students may not record the class session without necessary, individual documentation from UTEP’s CASS. 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 class recordings is prohibited without the written permission of the instructor and others who are recorded. Distribution without permission is a violation of educational privacy law. 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 or provided to the students may not be sold or distributed to other persons.

Changes to Syllabus:
The professor reserves the right to make changes to this syllabus at any time. If changes are made, students will be notified via email and/or blackboard and changes will be made through online medium.
COURSE SCHEDULE

8/30
Topic: Class Introduction
Readings:

1) Syllabus

Assignment Due:

2) Nothing due

9/6
Topic: Historical Context of Immigration
Readings:

   a. Copy and paste name of book into MinerQuest Search on UTEP library website. Read online.

Assignment Due:

3) Weekly synthesis + three discussion questions

9/13
Topic: Early Work on Immigration and Crime
Readings:


Assignment Due:

4) Weekly synthesis + three discussion questions
9/20

Topic: Individual-Level Theories in the Study of Immigration and Crime

Readings:

   a. All three chapters → Copy and paste name of book into MinerQuest Search on UTEP library website. Read online or download entire Handbook.

Assignment Due:

4) Weekly synthesis + three discussion questions

Supplemental Readings:


9/27

Topic: Seminal Early Studies related to Immigration and Crime

Readings:

Assignment Due:

4) Weekly synthesis + three discussion questions

10/04

Topic: Individual-Level Studies related to Immigration and Crime

Readings:


Assignment Due:

5) Weekly synthesis + three discussion questions

10/11

***First 40 minutes of class → Dr. Guerra and students meet with Dr. Curry’s Proseminar class (both classes meet at the same time in same building).***

Topic: Individual-Level Studies related to Immigration and Crime

Readings:


**Assignment Due:**

5) Weekly synthesis + three discussion questions

**Other Important Information:**

6) Exam 1 open after class today at 9:00PM!

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**10/18**

**Exam 1 Due Today**

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**10/25**

*Topic: Seminal Meso- or Macro-Level Theories related to Immigration and Crime*

*Readings:*

   a. Copy and paste name of book into MinerQuest Search on UTEP library website. Read online or download entire Handbook.

**Assignment Due:**

A) Weekly synthesis + three discussion questions

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**11/1**

*Topic: Meso- or Macro-Level Studies related to Immigration and Crime*

*Readings:*

issue. *Annual Review of Criminology, 1*, 63-84.
   a. Copy and paste name of book into MinerQuest Search on UTEP library website. Read online or download entire Handbook.

**Assignment Due:**

4) Weekly synthesis + three discussion questions

**Supplemental Readings:**


**11/8**

Topic: Seminal Meso- or Macro-Level Studies related to Undocumented Immigration and Crime

**Readings:**

   a. Copy and paste name of book into MinerQuest Search on UTEP library website. Read online or download entire Handbook.

**Assignment Due:**

4) Weekly synthesis + three discussion questions

**11/15 – ASC Conference, NO CLASS**

**11/22**
Topic: Other Immigrant Paradoxes – Victimization

Readings:


Assignment Due:

4) Weekly synthesis + three discussion questions

Supplemental Readings:


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11/29

Topic: Other Immigrant Paradoxes – Alcohol and Antisocial Behavior

Readings:

3) YOU PICK THE ARTICLE
   a. Go to Google Scholar and type in the following: “immigrant paradox meta analysis”
      i. Find an article from there and use that as your third article.

Assignment Due:

4) Weekly synthesis + three discussion questions

Other Important Information:

1) Exam 2 open after class today at 9:00PM!
Exam 2 Due Today

*This class schedule is tentative. Students will be notified of any schedule changes made to the syllabus.