

Criminal Justice 3313: Criminology
CRN: 33333/8 week ONLINE

Professor: Cheryl Ordaz

Email: clordaz@utep.edu (these are the best ways in which to reach me)

Office Hours: virtually, email when you need to meet (:

Course Description:

This course will give you a better understanding of criminology, crime and criminal behavior. We will be studying theories as well as typologies of crime.

The theorists that you will read will help you to understand why certain crimes are committed and most importantly, who commits these crimes and why they commit these crimes. Keep in mind that you do not need to agree with the theorists but you do need to understand their analogy.

I urge you to ask questions and most importantly formulate your own ideas as to why people commit crimes.

Required Text:

NONE: I will provide PowerPoints, videos and online articles when need be (:

Course Requirements:

There are certain requirements that will be necessary for the successful completion of this class. The requirements are:

Group discussions:	7 total (possible 203 points)
Exam 1:	100 points
Exam 2:	100 points
Final project:	100 points

Grade Distribution: 500 point scale

A = 500-450

B = 449-400

C = 399-350

D = 349-300

Below 300 points = F

Class Structure:

You are responsible for keeping up with the assigned readings for given week. Please read PowerPoints and view videos for better understanding of theory. You will need to participate weekly group discussions. You will need to follow the guidelines for discussion and this is explained in the syllabi. There is a word count needed and it is crucial to meet the word count.

LEARNING MODULES

This course is designed using a modular format—that is, each week is “packaged” as a single module so that all the materials, lecture notes, submission areas, discussion posts are in one area for a given week. The course is set up to two chapters per week.

Course Calendar

June 5th- June 11th = Week One – chapters 1/2
June 12th -June 18th = Week Two- chapters 3/4
June 19th-June 25th = Week Three- chapters 5/6
June 26th- July 2nd= Week Four- chapters 7/8 (Exam 1)
July 3rd-July 9th= Week Five-chapters 9/10
July 10th-July 16th= Week Six-chapters 11/12
July 17th-July 23rd =Week Seven- chapters 13/14/15 (Exam 2)
July 24th- July 30th= Week Eight – Final (Research Project Due)

Weekly Discussions

There will be 1 group discussion exercise per week (total 7 discussions for the semester) after careful reading and analysis of the assigned texts, you must individually write a response to the assigned question(s). **Discussions will open on Sundays at 5 a.m. and close on Saturdays at 11:00 p.m...**

In order to receive any credit for weekly discussions all of the following mentioned below must be met: NO EXCEPTIONS

Is the commentary to **initial question at minimum 400 words?**

Is the commentary to **classmate at minimum 400 word?**

Does the commentary show evidence of having read the material?

Does the commentary show evidence of thinking about the reading beyond just summarizing it? (This may include extension to new circumstances extension to new

circumstances/other readings, contradictory evidence, internal (in) consistency, and analyses of assumptions.)

Does the commentary include relevant evidence to support its own argument? **HINT YOU WILL NEED CITATIONS**

Refrain from simply stating, "I agree" Or "great post". If this is all you write, you will lose points for discussion **HINT: YOU WILL ONLY GET 5 POINTS**. If you agree with student clearly state, what it is you agree with or disagree with?

The standard practice ("netiquette") for participation in networked discussion requires that all participation is focused on the topic at hand, not become personalized, and be substantive in nature.

****if you use modules from class cite (Ordaz, 2022, week 3)**

Ex. Author's last name, year, and page number

Ordaz, 2017, pg.6

Discussion questions grades are based on response quality and WORD COUNT in-text citation is provided for each original response. Integrate various main ideas from the book, thoughtfully describe what the concept and/or issues mean to you, evaluate/analyze the reasonableness or quality of ideas, identify hidden assumptions, fallacies, or things take for granted.

EXAM STRUCTURE

There will be two exams.

Exams will be fun but will require you to apply a theory of your choice to a movie/docuseries/etc. For each exam, you will be doing the same thing. That is the easy part because you have PowerPoints to help you understand the theory and our discussion posts and you will link this to a movie/docuseries of your choice.

Grading Rubric: (100 points) Exam 1 and 2

1. Define the theory you selected – 50 points
2. Link to a movie/docuseries/etc. – you will need to select 5 facts from what you selected and link to the theory you selected – 50 points

The first exam WILL BE OPEN ALL WEEK 6/26-7/2 AND CLOSES ON 7/2 BY 11 P.M. This exam covers chapters 1-8.

Your second exam will be on week 7 (7/17-7/23) and WILL BE OPEN ALL WEEK AND CLOSES ON 7/23 BY 11 P.M. This exam covers chapters 9-15.

Failing to complete exam because you forgot or you were not aware is not a valid excuse. I have outlined for you when exams are and it is crucial that you make note of week 4 and week 7 for this course.

FINAL PROJECT: 7/24-7/30 AND CLOSES 7/31 BY 11:00 P.M.

For this project, you will create a PowerPoint (5 slides). You are now the theorist. You will develop your own theory. YOU CAN NOT use any of the theories we covered. You must develop your own.

Example:

One slide (20 points): Title: Oreo cookie theory

Second slide (20 points): Analysis: A persons color (African American or Anglo) effects how they are sentenced in the criminal justice system...

Third and fourth slide (40 points): Methods: research cases in Ohio in which there is a racial disparity between blacks and whites. (You **would provide information to support analysis**) this can be a movie, docuseries, etc.

Fifth slide (20 points): Conclusion: Oreo cookie is a supportive rationale to prove that there are racial disparities between African Americans and Anglos.

**** Creativity and thinking outside the box is strongly encouraged ****

UTEP DROP POLICY

If unforeseen circumstances happen where a drop is necessary, students are responsible for initiating any course drop. It is the student's responsibility to determine how dropping courses may affect financial aid. **Students are limited to dropping no more than 6 courses over their entire academic career of all courses taken at any public college or University in Texas.**

- a) Students who drop a course within the first 2 weeks before the “official census date,” the course will not appear on the transcript, and doesn’t count toward the 6-course drop limit.
- b) Dropping a course after the official census date, but before the “course drop date” will generate a “W” in the course—although the drop shows on your transcript, a “W” does not lower your GPA. However, this type of drop counts against your 6 drop limit.
- c) If the course is dropped after the “course drop date” or if the student just stops coming/taking tests, etc., UTEP requires the instructor to issue an “F” in the course that permanently remains on the transcript. This type of drop counts against the 6 drop limit.
- d) UTEP also allows instructors to administratively drop any student because of excessive absences, lack of effort, or disciplinary reasons. In this case, the student will be notified of the course drop through their UTEP email account. A “W” will be issued if the drop occurs before the course drop date, and an “F” will be issued if a student is administratively dropped for disciplinary reasons or after the course drop date. This type of drop counts against the 6 drop limit.
- e) If circumstances occur where a student must miss an excessive number of classes and/or is unable to submit multiple assignments (e.g., student medical reasons, medical conditions of a family member, death of a family member, active military service), they should first discuss the possibility of withdrawal from all classes with their academic advisor. If a student withdraws completely from all classes, kindly notify Ms. Ordaz at: clordaz@utep.edu . Complete withdrawals from all classes in the same semester do not count against the 6 drop limit.

SCHOLASTIC INTEGRITY

Any student who commits an act of scholastic dishonesty is subject to discipline. **Scholastic dishonesty includes, but is not limited to, cheating, plagiarism, the submission for credit of any work or any materials that are attributable in whole or in part to another person, taking an examination for another person, and act designed to give unfair advantage to a student to the attempting to commit such acts.** Proven violations of the detailed regulations, as printed in the Handbook of Operating Procedures, may result in sanctions ranging from disciplinary probation, to a failing on the work in questions, to a failing grade in the course, to suspension or dismissal, among others. ** THIS ALSO INCLUDES submitting work from a previous class and using it for this class (that is cheating) refer to handbook for further clarification.

TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE

Please note: I am not technical support and any problems with Blackboard or your computer crashing, shutting down, freezing I cannot help you. Contact the following for any technical assistance you may need.

The University of Texas at El Paso offers complete technical information and help desk support at helpdesk@utep.edu. You may also contact them toll free: 1-877-382-0491. You may also reach them at 915.747.5257. They are open Monday – Thursday 7 a.m to 9 p.m. Friday from 7:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. Saturday from 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. Sunday from 12:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.

STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES

If you are registered at the University as a disabled student, let me know so I can accommodate your needs. Students with disabilities are responsible for making their needs known to the instructor, and seeking available assistance in a timely manner.

If you need assistance please contact CASS:

- Monday-Friday 8:00 am- 5:00 pm
- Phone: (915)747-5148
- Email: cass@utep.edu
- Location: Union East, Room 106

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