

# Criminology

CRIJ 3313--23863

Spring 2020

Instructor: Dr. Caitlyn Muniz

Office Hours: Tuesdays 1:30 – 2:30pm and by appointment (EDU 111-P)

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## Communication

The most efficient means of communication with me is through email. I make every possible effort to respond to emails within 24 hours. Do not reply to announcements or assignment comments. I do not get notifications for them and will not reply.

## Course Description and Objectives:

Social context has given rise to various theoretical developments in the explanation of criminal behavior. Throughout this course, you will examine the evolution and empirical status of traditional to contemporary theories of criminal behavior. In addition, you will understand the impact of theory on prevailing crime control policies in different historical eras.

## Learning Outcomes

1. Discuss the components of a theory
2. Describe the qualities of a good theory
3. Explain the major elements in past and current criminological theories
4. Discuss the policy implications of major criminological theories

## Required Text:

All class materials are no-cost Open Education Resources. All required readings, lectures, and supplemental learning materials can be found on Blackboard.

## Course Requirements and Grading

This course has four general requirements – module quizzes, discussion boards, a theoretical infographic, and a final project. They are explained in more detail below.

1. Quizzes – 40%
2. Discussion Boards – 30%
3. Final Project – 20%
4. Infographic – 10%

### 1. Quizzes

A large portion of your grade is based on comprehension of the material through module quizzes. You will have a quiz to complete at the end of each module. The quiz questions will be a combination of multiple choice and true/false. Questions will be based on the reading(s), lectures, and videos (if applicable). Quizzes are to be done independently. Each quiz and exam will have a strict time limit based on the number and difficulty of the questions. **You must**

**complete the quiz by 11:59pm on the scheduled date before the module closes, no exceptions.** It is suspicious if a student completes a quiz extremely fast. Any student who completes a quiz in 3 minutes or less may be required to complete future quizzes in person. It is on you to complete the required quiz for each module. You can complete it week one or two of the module; it doesn't matter to me—just make sure to do everything in each module. **Note:** Correct answers for the quizzes will be available upon request, in person. You may schedule an in-person meeting with me to review any of your quizzes or assignments.

## 2. Discussion Boards

These prompts will be related to course material and will entail you drawing on what you've learned and formulating opinions. Although the majority of these are asking for your opinion, you will be expected to support your opinion with your readings and lecture notes. Along with facilitating class engagement, these are designed to be critical thinking activities, not regurgitation of class material or a forum for personal anecdotes. In order to receive full credit, you must post your own response. You will be required to post an original post before you are able to see any of your classmates' posts. Students should be courteous in their posts, although you are encouraged to express your personal opinions. Students are encouraged to post more than the minimum required posts; it will only help improve your grade.

If you miss a post, you **will not be allowed to make it up** and you will lose points (the full amount) unless it is due to a reasonable excuse as outlined in your university handbook. The only exception to this is Blackboard system failure; technical difficulties on your end will not account for a reposting. There is to be no collaboration of any sort on discussion boards – this is to be your own original work.

**Note:** The success of these conversations hinges on students having posts to respond to. Please be courteous to your fellow students and post early. Waiting until the last minute to post prevents students from responding as they are required to do.

## 3. Final Project

The final project will require students to use Microsoft Sway (included in the Microsoft package to which all UTEP students have access) to create an academic blog post. This project will require students to compare and contrast two theories from different schools of thought. This comparison will require students to critically think about the differences between the two theories for the following:

- 1) The assumption about human behavior
- 2) The main ideas of each theory
- 3) The policy implications of each theory
- 4) The student must then choose **one** of the two theories to explain a contemporary issue (e.g., cartel violence, mass shootings, school shootings, human trafficking, etc). The student should make a compelling argument as to why this theory is best-suited to explain the issue.

The academic blog post will require students to write thoughtfully using formal academic language, APA style citations, and academic sources beyond class readings. However, students will have to thoughtfully and creatively present this information. A grading rubric and instructions for using Sway will be provided on Blackboard.

#### 4. Infographic

At the beginning of the semester, students will be assigned to a group (A-E). Students assigned to each group will be required to create an infographic for a theory presented in the corresponding module. The infographic must contain the following information about the theory:

- 1) School of thought
- 2) Main ideas of the theory
- 3) Main theorists
- 4) Policy implications

**Extra Credit:** Extra credit opportunities will be provided so that students can improve their grades. Extra credit will be available for all discussion posts. To earn extra credit for discussion posts, you must submit your initial post *and* response to another student one week early. There will also be extra credit available for the final paper. The early turn-in date will be provided in the paper's instructions.

**All interested students have these opportunities—NO OTHER OPPORTUNITIES WILL BE PROVIDED. There will be no end-of-the-semester adjustments made to your grade.**

#### Student Expectations

To ensure learning outcomes are met, students are expected to:

**Participate.** Students are expected to contribute to all class discussions and are responsible for all material presented in each module, including course-related announcements.

**Check Email & Blackboard Regularly for Course Correspondence.** Valuable information regarding the course schedule, assignments, and grades will be posted to Blackboard.

**Be Respectful.** This includes directing full attention to discussions. When participating in discussion and in email exchanges with the instructor and other classmates, students are expected to use respectful language. Do not communicate with others via the Internet in a way you would not interact with them in person. Disrespectful language, and/or disrespectful classroom behavior will not be tolerated. In instances of serious or repeated infractions, students will be subject to University disciplinary action.

**Complete Quizzes and Assignments When Scheduled.** Students are informed in writing (this syllabus) of the due dates of exams and assignments for the entire semester on the first day of class. You will have ample time to complete all work. For this reason:

#### LATE WORK IS NOT ACCEPTED & MAKE UP EXAMS ARE NOT AN OPTION\*

\* Exception: Emergencies, Religious Observances, & University Excused Absences. Students are expected to notify their instructors at the beginning of each academic term if they intend to be absent for an announced examination. Students absent for religious reasons, as noticed to the instructor at the beginning of each academic term, will be given reasonable opportunities to make up any work missed.

### Email Etiquette

All students are expected to communicate with me in a professional and respectful manner. **Emails that are not written respectfully and professionally will be met with no response.** As adults preparing to enter the professional or academic world, you are expected to conduct yourself as an academic or professional. This skill is necessary for success in all realms of your life.

### Blackboard

Because this is an online class, access to the internet is required. Therefore, students need reliable access to the internet to complete this class successfully.

### Grading Scale

Grade	Percentage
A	90%-100%
B	80%-89.9%
C	70%-79.9%
D	60%-69.9%
F	below 60%

### Course Organization

The course is organized by modules. You will access each week's assignments and materials by accessing the current module. Each week has a brief description of the topic and assignments within the module.

### Instructor Communication

The instructor will be checking in on Blackboard every Monday, Wednesday and Friday mornings. Please allow 48 hours for response to discussion board postings and/or e-mail. If you send a message an hour before an exam, or before an assignment is due, do not expect to receive a response. Please give yourself plenty of time for this response time. Announcements, assignments, and all communications will be through Blackboard. Failure to frequently check Blackboard is done so at risk of missing current communication, materials and assignments.

### Attendance Policy

Attendance is required. Classes are run on the basis of class interaction. Because this is an online course, attendance is determined by class participation online. Students must be prepared, participate in online individual/group discussions, and complete the course modules in order to understand and incorporate the rhetorical strategies and processes used to complete the projects. Participation is counted in the points awarded for the final grade.

### Netiquette

When communicating electronically, many of the feelings or impressions that are transmitted via body language in face-to-face communications are lost. Consequently, interpreting emotions and innuendos is much more difficult. Only what is written, or drawn, carries the message. Often, excitement can be misinterpreted as anger or insult. It is important to keep this in mind as we communicate online. Words in print may seem harmless, but they could emotionally injure when working at a distance. Hence, it is vitally important that we are conscious of how we communicate while working at a distance.

For example, avoid the use of caps in your electronic messages, as wording in caps comes across as shouting. The standard practice ("Netiquette") for participation in networked discussion requires that all participation be focused on the topic at hand, not become personalized, and be substantive in nature. A person may certainly disagree with someone else's view, but you must do so respectfully; you may express strong beliefs but you must allow for differing opinions.

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Please observe the following:

- You are required to check the Blackboard course shell daily for messages, updates and assignments.
- Always consider audience. Remember that members of the class and the instructor will be reading any postings.
- Respect and courtesy must be provided to fellow classmates and the instructor at all times, in all contexts. No harassment or inappropriate postings will be tolerated.
- Be professional and careful in what you say about others.
- When reacting to someone else's message, address and focus on the ideas, not the person who posted them.
- Be careful when using sarcasm and humor. Without face-to-face communications your joke may be viewed as criticism.
- Blackboard is not a public internet venue; all postings to it should be considered private and confidential. Whatever is posted on in 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 students wish to do so, they have the ethical obligation to first request the permission of the writer(s).
- The obstruction or disruption of any group activity, discussion board or any other course activity is prohibited and will subject the student or group of students to disciplinary action.
- An instructor may deny a student access to participate in class activity for up to two individual classes (or course related activity periods) for behavior that is disruptive to the learning or teaching environment. Individuals so denied may be immediately referred to the Office of the Dean of Students for additional disciplinary intervention including withdrawal from the course.

#### [Policy for withdrawing or dropping the Course](#)

Students are responsible for seeing they are withdrawn from the course by the drop deadline. Please contact the [Registrar's Office](#) to initiate the drop process. Students that are withdrawn by the drop deadline will automatically receive a grade of "W". After the student drop deadline, students will be receive a grade of "F" except under extraordinary circumstances and only with the approval of the instructor and academic dean.

## Scholastic Integrity

UTEP prides itself on its standards of academic excellence. In all matters of intellectual pursuit, UTEP faculty and students must strive to achieve based on the quality of the work produced by the individual. Students are expected to uphold the highest standards of academic integrity. Any form of scholastic dishonesty is an affront to the pursuit of knowledge and jeopardizes the quality of the degree awarded to all graduates of UTEP. Any student who commits an act of scholastic dishonesty is subject to discipline. Academic dishonesty is prohibited and is considered a violation of the UTEP Handbook of Operating Procedures (HOOP). 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 reports. Plagiarism occurs when someone intentionally or knowingly represents the words or ideas of another as one's 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 [HOOP: Student Conduct and Discipline](#).

## SPECIAL NOTE TO SCHOLASTIC DISHONESTY POLICY

Study groups are popular at UTEP and are encouraged in this course. Additionally, "team" solutions will be required at times during the semester. When applicable, these team solutions are SPECIFICALLY AND EXPLICITLY allowed on given assignments and are part of an increasing focus on "teams" in the workplace. However, individual answers are required where EXPLICIT instructions are not received involving group work. Answers to questions/problems (1) copied directly from the book or (2) consisting of substantially the same wording as other papers in the class will receive zero or split credit, respectively. Relying on the understanding of another person will leave you unprepared to deal with exam material.

### Copyright Infringement and Plagiarism

Copying a textbook, or any other copyrighted material is a violation of U. S. copyright law. Violation of U. S. copyright law can result in civil damages up to \$100,000 for each work copied. Copying of textbooks or any other copyrighted material is not "fair use" under the Copyright Act. The "fair use doctrine" only permits non-commercial copying of part (in general, not more than 10%) of a copyrighted work. Do not take credit for work that is not your own by copying and pasting from the internet, failing to cite sources of information, failing to attribute direct quotes to their original author, or submitting your work from another course without prior permission.

### Calendar and Modules Subject to Modification

The calendar provided for the course is a "best estimate" schedule for the class. Unexpected scheduling problems and developing course materials may result in a modification of the schedule. Current events may also cause the elimination or substitution of other material that may become more relevant. You may rely on this course schedule as a BASIC outline for the course. The schedule is not a contractual agreement and is subject to change. Students will

receive guidance concerning alterations to the schedule through announcements. Regardless of the ordering of material covered, stay up with the scheduled reading assignments. Because of the nature of the material and texts, course requirements are designed to aid in developing an integrated understanding of the material with the full semester in mind. Discussion boards, quizzes and assignments are designed with the assumption that you have read relative materials prior to participation.

### [Accommodations Policy](#)

Students requesting an accommodation based on a disability must register with the [UTEP Center for Accommodations and Support Services](#). If you have or believe you have a disability that may impact your ability to succeed in a class, whether it be online or face-to-face, you may wish to contact the Center for Accommodations and Support Services (CASS) to show documentation of a disability or to register for testing and services. Students who have been designated as disabled must reactivate their standing with the CASS yearly. If you feel that you may have a disability requiring accommodations and/or modifications, contact CASS at (915) 747-5148.

You also can visit the CASS website at <http://sa.utep.edu/cass/> or the CASS office in Room 108 East Union Building.

This course is ADA compliant by providing PDF's and closed-captioning for multimedia when needed.

### [Student Resources](#)

UTEP provides a variety of student services and support:

- [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.
- [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.
- [University Writing Center \(UWC\)](#): Submit papers here for assistance with writing style and formatting, ask a tutor for help and explore other writing resources.
- Military Student Success Center: UTEP welcomes military-affiliated students to its degree programs, and the Military Student Success Center and its dedicated staff (many of whom are veterans and students themselves) are here to help personnel in any branch of service to reach their educational goals.
- [Connect Access](#): McGrawHill course content including textbook, quizzes, study problems and course resources.

## [Mandatory Reporting](#)

As mandatory reporters, faculty can no longer have confidential conversations with students or other reporting persons about their experiences with sexual misconduct, sexual harassment, or sexual assault. If a topic in class leads to a discussion of experiences of sexual harassment, sexual misconduct, or sexual assault I must share the information with the University so that the student can receive care, support and resources and learn about the options for having the

situation addressed and resolved within the University. Even though I am obligated to share the information with University officials specially trained to respond, students' privacy will be respected; identities and details will be shared only with those who need to know to support the reporting person and to address the situation through the University's processes.

## Course Schedule

### **Module 1: What is a theory?--March 29th**

Syllabus Quiz \*\*March 25th

Quiz 1

Discussion Post 1

March 29th

### **Module 2: Classical Criminology--April 5th**

Classical Criminology

Quiz 2

Group A Infographic

### **Module 3: Positivist Criminology--April 5th**

Positivist Criminology

Quiz 3

Discussion Post 2

Group B Infographic

### **Module 4: Life Course Theories--April 12th**

Quiz 4

Discussion Post 3

Group C Infographic

### **Module 5: Macro-Sociological Theories--April 26th**

Quiz 5

Quiz 6

Group D Infographic

### **Module 6: Micro-Sociological Theories--May 8th**

Quiz 7

Quiz 8

Discussion Post 4

Group E Infographic

### **Module 7: Final Project--May 10th**

