

**Fall 2020**  
**Criminology**  
**CRIJ 3313 CRN 18633**  
**College of Business Admin 304**  
**T/R 10:30-11:50am**

**Instructor:** Dr. Caitlyn Muniz

**Office Hours:** By appointment only (Blackboard Collaborate)

**Email:** cnmuniz@utep.edu

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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, with a focus on the historical context of each theory. In addition, you 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**

1. Quizzes – 30%
2. Discussion Boards – 20%
3. Infographic– 10%
4. Group/Essay Exam-10%
5. Final Paper – 20%
6. SONA Participation (3 hours)—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 after the close of the module.

## 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. Infographic

At the beginning of the semester, students will be assigned to a group. The first week of class, students will be assigned a theory and will be required to create an infographic for that theory. 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

#### 4. Group Exam

The first group meeting of the semester will require students to sign up for 1 theory (see infographic instructions above). At the end of the semester, students will compile their infographics into one theory cheat sheet booklet. For the last meeting of the semester, students will come in and take a “group exam.” You will only have access to the infographics made by the group during the exam. The exam will be short answer. Students will be allowed to discuss answers and work together. Students who are unable to come to the exam will be allowed to make up the exam.

#### 5. Final Paper

This project will require students to compare and contrast two theories from different schools of thought—do not just compare to schools of thought (e.g., positivist v. classical). 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) A brief review of tests of the theory
- 5) 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.

This paper will require students to write thoughtfully using formal academic language, APA style citations, and academic sources beyond class readings.

- Paper must be 5-7 pages in length.
- Have at least **8** academic articles (not news sites, websites, textbooks). These must be journal articles.
- Paper must use formal, academic, conventional writing style.

#### 6. SONA Participation

**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 compete 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 weekly modules. You will access each week's assignments and materials by accessing the current week module. Each week has a brief description of the topic and assignments within the module.

## **Instructor Communication**

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. Students are required to attend at least 3 online lecture/discussion sessions.

## **BLACKBOARD COLLABORATE SESSIONS**

This class requires that you participate in scheduled Blackboard Collaborate sessions. The purpose of these sessions is for you to view live demonstrations of the course material and/or to participate in small discussion groups with your classmates. These sessions will be held on Thursdays from 10:30-11:50.

Students are expected to, at least occasionally, participate in these sessions with a webcam and microphone. The sessions will be recorded and provided so that they can be reviewed by classmates at a later time. Students should not record the sessions and post them to any sites outside of Blackboard.

If you are unable to attend a Collaborate session, please let me know as soon as possible so that accommodations can be made when appropriate.

## **Technology Requirements**

Course content is delivered via the Internet 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 will need to have access to a computer/laptop, scanner, a webcam, and a microphone. 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!

## **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.

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 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 [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.

## COVID-19 Considerations

Students are not permitted on campus when they have a positive COVID-19 test, exposure or symptoms. If you are not permitted on campus, you should contact me as soon as possible so we can arrange necessary and appropriate accommodations.

**(classes with on-campus meetings)** 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.

This course will be taught as a hybrid class this semester. "Hybrid" courses are a blend of traditional face-to-face and online learning activities and/or lecture attendance via distance learning in a rotating format. The format that we will use in this class is low residency hybrid which is described as: "In this model, students would come to campus one to three times over the semester for intensive face-to-face experiences. The rest of the coursework would be completed online. This could be done in iterative waves to allow for greater density control. **10-15% on campus.**" The purpose of doing the hybrid course for the Fall 2020 is to reduce the number of students on campus so that the campus can remain open in a safe way. **It is required/recommended that students KEEP THEIR ORIGINAL COMMITMENT TO CLASS TIME OPEN (do NOT assume that you can schedule yourself at a job) just in case the hybrid method must change or the faculty member must alter the day of the week that individuals come to campus vs. attend off-campus.** This teaching methodology may be subject to change by the faculty member based on fluctuations in class enrollment, class participation, and/or compliance with UTEP's policies as the administration continuously monitors COVID-19 cases in El Paso and on campus. Notification of changes in hybrid teaching methodologies will be made in writing on Blackboard Announcements. In person meetings will require students to abide my university procedures (face masks, social distancing, etc.).

You must STAY AT HOME and REPORT if you (1) have been diagnosed with COVID-19, (2) are experiencing COVID-19 symptoms, or (3) have had recent contact with a person who has received a positive coronavirus test. Reports should be made at [screening.utep.edu](https://screening.utep.edu). If you know of anyone who should report any of these three criteria, you should encourage them to report. If the individual cannot report, you can report on their behalf by sending an email to [COVIDaction@utep.edu](mailto:COVIDaction@utep.edu).

For each day that you attend campus—for any reason—you must complete the questions on the UTEP screening website ([screening.utep.edu](https://screening.utep.edu)) prior to arriving on campus. The website will verify if you are permitted to come to campus. Under no circumstances should anyone come to class when feeling ill or exhibiting any of the known COVID-19 symptoms. If you are feeling unwell, please let me know as soon as possible, and alternative instruction will be provided. Students are advised to minimize the number of encounters with others to avoid infection.

Wear face coverings when in common areas of campus or when others are present. You must wear a face covering over your nose and mouth at all times in this class. If you choose not to wear a face covering, you may not enter the classroom. If you remove your face covering, you will be asked to put it on or leave the classroom. Students who refuse to wear a face covering and follow preventive COVID-19 guidelines will be dismissed from the class and will be subject to disciplinary action according to Section 1.2.3 *Health and Safety* and Section 1.2.2.5 *Disruptions* in the UTEP Handbook of Operating Procedures.

Please note that if COVID-19 conditions deteriorate in the City of El Paso, all course and lab activities may be transitioned to remote delivery.

## Hybrid Course Schedule\*

	Required Material	Assignment	Due Date
<b>Important Info</b>	Read syllabus and how-to-succeed documents	Syllabus Quiz Intro Discussion Board Infographic Assignment	8/30
<b>Module 1</b>	What is a Theory	Quiz 1 Discussion Post 2	9/6
<b>Module 2</b>	Classical Criminology	Quiz 2	9/13
<b>Module 3</b>	Positivist Criminology	Quiz 3 Discussion Post 3	9/20
	Group Project Meeting A	Meet in Person	9/22
	Group Project Meeting B	Meet in Person	9/24
<b>Module 4</b>	Psychological Theories	Quiz 4	9/27
	Group Project Meeting C	Meet in Person	9/29
	Group Project Meeting D	Meet in Person	10/1
<b>Module 5</b>	Life Course Theories	Quiz 5 Discussion Post 4	10/4
<b>Module 6</b>	Macro-Sociological Theories Pt.1	Quiz 6	10/11
<b>Module 7</b>	Macro-Sociological Theories Pt.2	Quiz 7 Discussion Post 5	10/25
<b>Module 8</b>	Micro-Sociological Theories Pt. 1	Quiz 8	11/1
<b>Module 9</b>	Micro-Sociological Theories Pt. 2	Quiz 9 Discussion Post 6	11/8
	Group Project Meeting A	Group Final Exam	11/10
	Group Project Meeting B	Group Final Exam	11/12
	Group Project Meeting C	Group Final Exam	11/17
	Group Project Meeting D	Group Final Exam	11/19
<b>Module 10</b>	Final Quiz	Quiz 10	11/29
<b>Final Paper</b>			12/6

\*Schedule subject to change based on changes in COVID-19 situation as it relates to in-person meetings and changes to policies for local school districts.

## Online Course Schedule

	<b>Required Material</b>	<b>Assignment</b>	<b>Due Date</b>
<b>Important Info</b>	Read syllabus and how-to-succeed documents	Syllabus Quiz Intro Discussion Board Infographic Assignment	8/30
<b>Module 1</b>	What is a Theory	Quiz 1 Discussion Post 2	9/6
<b>Module 2</b>	Classical Criminology	Quiz 2	9/13
<b>Module 3</b>	Positivist Criminology	Quiz 3 Discussion Post 3	9/20
<b>Module 4</b>	Psychological Theories	Quiz 4	9/27
<b>Module 5</b>	Life Course Theories	Quiz 5 Discussion Post 4	10/4
<b>Module 6</b>	Macro-Sociological Theories Pt.1	Quiz 6	10/11
<b>Module 7</b>	Macro-Sociological Theories Pt.2	Quiz 7 Discussion Post 5	10/25
<b>Module 8</b>	Micro-Sociological Theories Pt. 1	Quiz 8	11/1
<b>Module 9</b>	Micro-Sociological Theories Pt. 2	Quiz 9 Discussion Post 6	11/8
<b>Written Final Exam</b>			11/19
<b>Module 10</b>	Final Quiz	Quiz 10	11/29
<b>Final Paper</b>			12/6

