

# CRIJ 3313 CRIMINOLOGY

**Professor:** Dr. Egbert Zavala

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

**Lectures:** Tuesdays & Thursdays from 9:00 am to 10:20 am

**Location:** Liberal Arts Building 222

**Office Hours:** Tuesdays & Thursdays from 10:30am to 12:00pm (& By Appointment)

**Office Location:** Liberal Arts Building, Room 116

**Office Phone:** 915.747.6218

## Course Overview & Objectives

Welcome to *Criminology*! In this class, you will begin to develop a sociological perspective for understanding crime & criminal behavior. Sociology is the scientific study of society & this class is designed to expose you to the fundamental theories, tools, research methods, & emerging areas of inquiry in the discipline of criminology. This class will cover major crime concepts & typologies, theories of crime causation, & the criminal justice system, while paying particular attention to race, culture, sex, & socioeconomic factors. By the end of the semester you will be able to think like a criminologist when considering current issues in crime & public policy. Specifically, students will develop an understanding of the sociological study of crime & key concepts of criminology as a discipline, understand how criminological research is developed & conducted, demonstrate an understanding of the motives, causes, reasons & correlates of crime, be able to trace the historical, social, & political processes that have impacted views of crime & punishment in the United States, & to become a critical consumer of media & political discourse about crime & criminals in our society.

## Required Textbook

Siegel, Larry J. 2015. *Criminology: The Core*. 5<sup>th</sup> Edition. Stamford, CT: Cengage Learning.

## Course Requirements

There are certain requirements that will be necessary to pass this class. The requirements are explained fully in this syllabus. Students will be given four (4) written assignments and four (4) exams during the semester.

## Class Structure, Important Announcement, & Participation

You are responsible for keeping up with the assigned readings & being prepared for class discussions. The textbook readings are intended to provide background information to my lectures. Because I like to have class discussions when I am lecturing, it is of utmost importance that you read the assigned reading for that particular lecture in the textbook. If for some reason, due to the class discussion, I am unable to lecture on a particular topic in the textbook you are still responsible for knowing that particular section of the assigned reading. So please be aware that you will be tested on what the textbook covers as well as my lectures. The readings will be from the textbook listed above, as well as any other material that I may handout during the semester. I will not be posting my lecture slides online.

## **Simple Rules for Class Behavior**

PLEASE BE IN CLASS ON TIME! Class starts at 9:00 AM. If you are unable to make it to class at 9:00 AM during this semester because of work or other commitments, I recommend you drop this class. Repeated tardiness, cell phone ringing, sleeping, talking, reading material unrelated to class, i.e. distracting behavior, will not be tolerated & I will ask you to leave the classroom if you are conducting this type of behavior.

## **Use of Laptops & Other Technology in My Class**

Laptops are not necessary in my class. However, the use of laptops will be allowed in my class for note taking ONLY. I also ask that you put all electronic devices away. When entering my class, I ask that you put your electronic devices in your purse/backpack. Furthermore, text messaging via cell phone or any other device will not be allowed in my class. Cell phones & any other devices should be in silent mode while in my class. If, for some reason, you need your phone on because of a particular emergency that day, please speak to me before class, & then, & only then, are you allowed to have your phone on. However, please still have it in silent mode.

## **Attendance**

Attendance is not required in this class as an official portion of your overall grade. However, *it is mandatory*. Given the rather specialized subject matter of the course those who do attend class regularly will be more likely to understand the material & will therefore be in a better position to do well in the class. If you miss class, please obtain the lecture notes from one of your fellow classmates. I will not provide you with copies of my notes.

## **Exams**

Your grade in this class will be based on 4 exams and 4 written assignments. Exams are to be taken on the day stated in the syllabus. Make-up exams may only be acceptable under extreme circumstances, such as a medical or personal emergency. I must warn you, however, that I base these decisions on *a very narrow definition of extreme*. The student must provide me with proper documentation to qualify for a make-up (documentation does not, unfortunately, guarantee that a make-up will be given). Missed exams will be assigned a grade of zero (0). You are responsible for bringing a Scantron & a #2 pencil to each exam. All exams will be taken at the beginning of the class & will last the entire class time. Exams will cover material from lectures, textbook, & any other material discussed in class. On exam days, I ask that you arrive early so that we may start the exam at 9:00 AM. The exam & scantron must be returned to me at the end of class to receive credit.

## **Written Assignments**

Students will be given a written assignment. These written assignments consist of answering a specific question regarding one chapter covered in class. Answers are limited to no more than 500 words. There will be 4 written assignments and is worth 10 points each. More details will be provided when the assignment is distributed to students.

## **Scholastic Integrity**

In all matters of intellectual pursuit, UTEP faculty & students must strive to achieve excellence based on the quality of work produced by the individual. In the classroom & in all academic activities, students are expected to uphold the highest standards of academic integrity. Any form

of scholastic dishonesty is an affront to the pursuit of knowledge & 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. 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, an act designed to give unfair advantage to a student or the attempt to commit such acts. Proven violations of the detailed regulations, as printed in the Handbook of Operating Procedures, & available in the *Office of Student Conduct & Conflict Resolution*, may result in sanctions ranging from disciplinary probation, to a failing grade on the work in question, to a failing grade in the course, to suspension or dismissal, & other sanctions.

### **Note for Students with Disabilities**

If you are registered at the *Center for Accommodations & Support Services (CASS)* as a disabled student, please let me know so I can accommodate your needs. Students with disabilities are responsible for making their needs known to the instructor & seeking available assistance in a timely manner.

### **Final Grade Calculation**

Your grade in this class will be determined based on the exams and assignments given in class.

Exam 1	100 Points
Written Assignment #1	10 Points
Exam 2	100 Points
Written Assignment #2	10 Points
Exam 3	100 Points
Written Assignment #3	10 Points
Exam 4	100 Points
Written Assignment #4	10 Points

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Total Points: 440 Points

### **Final Grade Distribution**

440-396 Points=**A**  
395-352 Points=**B**  
351-308 Points=**C**  
307-264 Points=**D**  
263-0 Points=**F**

### **Please Note**

I have right to make **any** changes to the course or syllabus & any changes will be announced ahead of time in class &/or email.

Week	Date	Class Lecture	Reading & Notes
<b>Part One: Concepts of Crime, Law, and Criminology</b>			
<b>1</b>	Tuesday, August 25	Class Introduction	Syllabus
	Thursday, August 27	Crime & Criminology	Chapter 1 <b>Assignment 1</b>
<b>2</b>	Tuesday, Sept. 1	Continue Chapter 1	
	Thursday, Sept. 3	Nature & Extent of Crime	Chapter 2
<b>3</b>	Tuesday, Sept. 8	Continue Chapter 2	
	Thursday, Sept. 10	Victims and Victimization	Chapter 3
<b>4</b>	Tuesday, Sept. 15	Continue Chapter 3	
	Thursday, Sept. 17	<b>Exam 1</b>	Chapters 1, 2, 3
<b>Part Two: Theories of Crime Causation</b>			
<b>5</b>	Tuesday, Sept. 22	Rational Choice Theory	Chapter 4 <b>Assignment 2</b>
	Thursday, Sept. 24	Continue Chapter 4	
<b>6</b>	Tuesday, Sept. 29	Trait Theories	Chapter 5
	Thursday, Oct. 1	Continue Chapter 5	
<b>7</b>	Tuesday, Oct. 6	Social Structure Theories	Chapter 6
	Thursday, Oct. 8	Continue Chapter 6	
<b>8</b>	Tuesday, Oct. 13	<b>Exam 2</b>	Chapters 4, 5, 6
	Thursday, Oct. 15	Social Process Theory	Chapter 7 <b>Assignment 3</b>
<b>9</b>	Tuesday, Oct. 20	Continue Chapter 7	
	Thursday, Oct. 22	Social Conflict Theory	Chapter 8
<b>10</b>	Tuesday, Oct. 27	Continue Chapter 8	
	Thursday, Oct. 29	Developmental Theory	Chapter 9
<b>11</b>	Tuesday, Nov. 3	Continue Chapter 9	
	Thursday, Nov. 5	<b>Exam 3</b>	Chapters 7, 8, 9
<b>Part Three: Crime Typologies</b>			
<b>12</b>	Tuesday, Nov. 10	Violent Crime: Interpersonal Violence	Chapter 10 <b>Assignment 4</b>
	Thursday, Nov. 12	Continue Chapter 10	
<b>13</b>	Tuesday, Nov. 17	No Class	ASC Meeting
	Thursday, Nov. 19	No Class	ASC Meeting
<b>14</b>	Tuesday, Nov. 24	Property Crimes	Chapter 12
	Thursday, Nov. 26	No Class	Happy Thanksgiving!
<b>15</b>	Tuesday, Dec. 1	Public Order Crimes	Chapter 13
	Thursday, Dec. 3	Continue Chapter 13	
<b>16</b>	Tuesday, Dec. 8	<b>Exam 4</b>	10:00-12:45PM