

CRIJ 3313 CRIMINOLOGY

Professor: Dr. Egbert Zavala

Email: egbertz@utep.edu

Lectures: Tuesdays & Thursdays from 12:00 pm to 1:20 pm

Location: Psychology Building Room 307

Office Hours: Tuesdays & Thursdays from 1:30 to 3:00pm (& By Appointment)

Office Location: Education Building Room 111

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

Akers, Ronald L., Christine S. Sellers, & Wesley G. Jennings. (2017). *Criminological Theories: Introduction, Evaluation, and Application*. (7th Edition). New York, NY: Oxford University Press.

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 12:00 pm. If you are unable to make it to class at 12:00 pm 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). Exams will cover material from lectures, textbook, & any other material discussed in class.

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 student with a disability, 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

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
1	Tuesday, January 16	Class Introduction	Syllabus
	Thursday, January 18	Introduction to Criminological Theory	Chapter 1
2	Tuesday, January 23	<i>Continue Chapter 1</i>	
	Thursday, January 25	Deterrence and Rational Choice	Chapter 2 Assignment 1
3	Tuesday, January 30	<i>Continue Chapter 2</i>	
	Thursday, February 1	Biological and Biosocial Theories	Chapter 3 Assignment 1 Due
4	Tuesday, February 6	<i>Continue Chapter 3</i>	
	Thursday, February 8	Exam 1	Chapters 1, 2, and 3
5	Tuesday, February 13	Psychological Theories	Chapter 4
	Thursday, February 15	<i>Continue Chapter 4</i>	
6	Tuesday, February 20	Social Learning Theory	Chapter 5 Assignment 2
	Thursday, February 22	<i>Continue Chapter 5</i>	
7	Tuesday, February 27	Social Bonding and Control Theories	Chapter 6 Assignment 2 Due
	Thursday, March 1	<i>Continue Chapter 6</i>	
8	Tuesday, March 6	Exam 2	Chapters 4, 5, and 6
	Thursday, March 8	Labeling and Shaming Theory	Chapter 7
XX	Tuesday, March 13	Spring Break	No Class
	Thursday, March 15	Spring Break	No Class
9	Tuesday, March 20	<i>Continue Chapter 7</i>	
	Thursday, March 22	Social Disorganization Theory	Chapter 8 Assignment 3
10	Tuesday, March 27	<i>Continue Chapter 8</i>	
	Thursday, March 29	Anomie and Strain Theory	Chapter 9 Assignment 3 Due
11	Tuesday, April 3	<i>Continue Chapter 9</i>	
	Thursday, April 5	Exam 3	Chapters 7,8, and 9
12	Tuesday, April 10	Conflict Theory	Chapter 10
	Thursday, April 12	<i>Continue Chapter 10</i>	
13	Tuesday, April 17	Marxist Theories	Chapter 11
	Thursday, April 19	<i>Continue Chapter 11</i>	
14	Tuesday, April 24	Feminist Theories	Chapter 13
	Thursday, April 26	<i>Continue Chapter 13</i>	
15	Tuesday, May 1	Developmental and Life-Course Theories	Chapter 14 Assignment 4
	Thursday, May 3	<i>Continue Chapter 14</i>	
16	Tuesday, May 8	Exam 4	Chapters 10,11, 13, 14 Assignment 4 Due