CRIJ 5310 Advanced Criminological Theory

Professor: Dr. Egbert Zavala
Email: egbertz@utep.edu
Lectures: Tuesdays from 6:00PM to 9:00PM
Location: Education Building Room 112
Office Hours: Tuesdays and Thursdays from 1:30pm to 3:00pm (and By Appointment)
Office Location: Education Building Room 111
Office Phone: 915.747.6218

Course Overview and Objectives:
In this seminar, the theories of crime will be explored and, most importantly, critiqued in order to obtain an understanding of their assumptions about society and human nature. In addition, this seminar will examine the logical and empirical adequacy of their explanations of crime. At the end of this seminar, students will be able to (1) identify the basic concepts of criminological theories, (2) evaluate criminological theory, and (3) understand how criminological theories can be used to inform policies on crime prevention.

Required Books:


Required Readings:
Additional readings will be listed on the syllabus.

Course Requirements:
There are certain requirements that will be necessary to pass this class. Students will be given 4 written exams, 12 weekly chapter quizzes, 12 opportunities for class participation points (class presentations), and 12 weekly written assignments during the semester.

Written Exams:
There will be 3 to 5 essay questions to which you will have to respond with a maximum of a ten page answer. You are expected to use all resources you have at your disposal. Because this is an open-book exam, I am expecting more than just a regurgitation of material. As such, you should critically analyze the material and not just simply provide a review of it. Late exams will not be accepted and will be given the grade of zero.

Weekly Chapter Quizzes
There will be 12 chapter quizzes this semester. Each quiz will be comprised of 10 multiple choice and true-false questions based on assigned readings. Late quizzes will not be accepted and will be given the grade of zero.

Weekly Written Assignments and Class Presentations (Class Participation)
Students will be required to write a 2 to 3 page response paper on the criminological question that will be discussed in class. The paper should include a general discussion of the tenants of
the theory. In addition, students will review 1 scholarly journal article that empirically test the theory of interest via PowerPoint and presented it in class. These weekly PowerPoints should summarize the article and discuss whether the theory is supported or refuted by the research. Late assignments will not be accepted and will be given the grade of zero.

**Simple Rules for Class Behavior**

PLEASE BE IN CLASS ON TIME! Class starts at 6:00 PM. If you are unable to make it to class at 6:00 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, and any other distracting behavior, will not be tolerated and I will ask you to leave the classroom if you are conducting this type of behavior.

**Use of Laptops and 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 and any other devices should be in silent mode while in my class. If, for some reason, you need your phone on your desk because of a particular emergency that day, please speak to me before class, and then, and only then, are you allowed to have your phone on your desk. However, please still have it in silent mode.

**Attendance and Class Participation**

Attendance and class participation are required in this class and 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 and will therefore be in a better position to do well in the class.

**Scholastic Integrity**

In all matters of intellectual pursuit, UTEP faculty and students must strive to achieve excellence based on the quality of work produced by the individual. In the classroom and 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 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. 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, and available in the Office of the Dean of Students, may result in sanctions ranging from disciplinary probation, to a failing grade on the work in question, to a failing grade in the course, suspension or dismissal, among other sanctions.
Note for Students with Disabilities
If you are registered with the Center for Accommodations and Support Services (CASS) as a student with a learning disability, 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.

**Final Grade Calculation:**
Your grade in this class will be determined based on the exams and assignments given in class.

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Component</th>
<th>Points</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Exam 1</td>
<td>100</td>
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<td>Exam 2</td>
<td>100</td>
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<td>Exam 3</td>
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<td>Exam 4</td>
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<tr>
<td>12 Weekly Chapter Quizzes</td>
<td>120</td>
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<tr>
<td>12 Written Assignments</td>
<td>120</td>
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<tr>
<td>12 Class Presentations/Participation</td>
<td>120</td>
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Total Points: 760 Points

**Final Grade Distribution**
- 760-684 Points = A
- 683-608 Points = B
- 607-532 Points = C
- 531-456 Points = D
- 455-0 Points = F

Please note: I have right to make any changes to the course or syllabus and any changes will be announced ahead of time in class and/or email.
Course Schedule

**Week 1: Tuesday, January 19**
Chapter 1: Introduction to Criminological Theory (Pages 1-13)

Required Additional Readings:

None (Personal Introductions)

**Due:** Chapter 1 Quiz and Written Assignment 1

**Week 2: Tuesday, January 26**
Chapter 2: Deterrence and Rational Choice Theories (Pages 14-43)

Required Additional Readings:


**Due:** Chapter 2 Quiz and Written Assignment 2

**Week 3: Tuesday, February 2**
Chapter 3: Biological and Biosocial Theories (Pages 44-67)

Required Additional Readings:


**Due:** Chapter 3 Quiz and Written Assignment 3

**Week 4: Tuesday, February 9**

**Due:** Exam 1
Week 5: Tuesday, February 16th
Chapter 5: Social Learning Theory (Pages 83-117)

Required Additional Readings:


Due: Chapter 5 Quiz and Written Assignment 4

Week 6: Tuesday, February 23rd
Chapter 6: Social Bonding and Control Theories (Pages 118-142)

Required Additional Readings:


Due: Chapter 6 Quiz and Written Assignment 5

Week 7: Tuesday, March 2nd
Chapter 7: Labeling and Reintegrative Shaming Theory (Pages 143-165)

Required Additional Readings:


Due: Chapter 7 Quiz and Written Assignment 6

Week 8: Tuesday, March 9th
Due: Exam 2

Week XX: March 16th
No Class—Spring Break!
**Week 9: Tuesday, March 23**
Chapter 8: Social Disorganization Theory (Pages 166-181)

Required Additional Readings:


**Due:** Chapter 8 Quiz and Written Assignment 7

**Week 10: Tuesday, March 30**
Chapter 9: Anomie and Strain Theories (Pages 182-207)

Required Additional Readings:


**Due:** Chapter 9 Quiz and Written Assignment 8

**Week 11: Tuesday, April 6**
Chapter 10: Conflict Theory (Pages 208-231)

Required Additional Readings:


**Due:** Chapter 10 Quiz and Written Assignment 9

**Week 12: Tuesday, April 13**

**Due:** Exam 3
**Week 13: Tuesday, April 20th**

Chapter 13: Feminist Theories (Pages 262-287)

Required Additional Readings:


**Due:** Chapter 13 Quiz and Written Assignment 10

**Week 14: Tuesday, April 27th**

**Chapter 14:** Development and Life-Course Theories (Pages 288-304)

Required Additional Readings:


**Due:** Chapter 14 Quiz and Written Assignment 11

**Week 15: Tuesday, May 4th**

Chapter 15: Integrating Criminological Theories (Pages 305-323)

Required Additional Readings:


**Due:** Chapter 15 Quiz and Written Assignment 12

**Week 16: Tuesday, May 11th**

**Due:** Exam 4