

# CRIJ 5310 Advanced Criminological Theory

**Professor:** Dr. Egbert Zavala

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

Akers, Ronald L., Christine S. Sellers, and Wesley Jennings. 2017. *Criminological Theories: Introduction, Evaluation and Application*. 7<sup>th</sup> Edition. New York, NY: Oxford University Press.

Gottfredson, Michael and Travis Hirschi. 1990. *A General Theory of Crime*. Stanford, CA: Stanford University Press.

Hirschi, Travis. 1969. *Causes of Delinquency*. Berkeley, CA: University of California Press.

## 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 disabled student, 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.

Exam 1		100 Points
Exam 2		100 Points
Exam 3		100 Points
Exam 4		100 Points
12 Weekly Chapter Quizzes	(10 Points each)	120 Points
12 Written Assignments	(10 Points each)	120 Points
12 Class Presentations/Participation	(10 Points each)	120 Points
<hr/>		
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 21<sup>st</sup>

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 28<sup>th</sup>

Chapter 2: Deterrence and Rational Choice Theories (Pages 14-43)

Required Additional Readings:

Cohen, L.E. & Felson, M. (1979). Social change and crime rate trends: A routine activities approach. *American Sociological Review*, 44, 588-608.

Finkelhor, D. & Asdigian, N.L. (1996). Beyond a lifestyle/routine activities theory approach. *Violence and Victims*, 11, 3-19.

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

**Week 3:** Tuesday, February 4<sup>th</sup>

Chapter 3: Biological and Biosocial Theories (Pages 44-67)

Required Additional Readings:

Beaver, K.M. (2011). Environmental moderators of genetic influences on adolescent delinquent involvement and victimization. *Journal of Adolescent Research*, 26, 84-114.

Boutwell, B. & Beaver, K.M. (2010). The intergenerational transmission of low self-control. *Journal of Research in Crime and Delinquency*, 47, 174-209.

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

**Week 4:** Tuesday, February 11<sup>th</sup>

**Due: Exam 1**

**Week 5:** Tuesday, February 18<sup>th</sup>

Chapter 5: Social Learning Theory (Pages 83-117)

Required Additional Readings:

Pratt, T.C., Cullen, F.T., Sellers, C.S., Winfree, L.T., Madensen, T.D., Daigle, L.E., Fearn, N.E., & Gau, J.M. (2010). The Empirical Status of Social Learning Theory: A meta-analysis. *Justice Quarterly*, 27, 765-802.

Osgood, D. W. and A. L. Anderson. (2004). Unstructured socializing and rates of delinquency. *Criminology*, 42, 519-547.

**Due:** Chapter 5 Quiz and Written Assignment 4**Week 6:** Tuesday, February 25<sup>th</sup>

Chapter 6: Social Bonding and Control Theories (Pages 118-142)

Required Additional Readings:

Gottfredson, M.R., & Hirschi, T. (1990). *A general theory of crime*. Palo Alto, CA: Stanford University Press.

Pratt, T.C. & Cullen, F.T. (2000). The empirical status of Gottfredson and Hirschi's general theory of crime: A meta-analysis. *Criminology*, 38, 931-964.

Hirschi, T. (1969). *Causes of Delinquency*. Berkeley, CA: University of California Press.

**Due:** Chapter 6 Quiz and Written Assignment 5**Week 7:** Tuesday, March 3<sup>rd</sup>

Chapter 7: Labeling and Reintegrative Shaming Theory (Pages 143-165)

Required Additional Readings:

Paternoster, R. and L. Iovanni 1989. "The labeling perspective and delinquency: An elaboration of the theory and assessment of the evidence." *Justice Quarterly*, 6, 359-394.

Schaible, L.M. and L.A. Hughes. 2011. Crime, shame, reintegration, and cross-national homicide: A partial test of reintegrative shaming theory. *The Sociological Quarterly*, 52, 104-131.

**Due:** Chapter 7 Quiz and Written Assignment 6**Week 8:** Tuesday, March 10<sup>th</sup>**Due: Exam 2****Week XX:** March 17<sup>th</sup>**No Class—Spring Break!**

**Week 9:** Tuesday, March 24<sup>th</sup>

Chapter 8: Social Disorganization Theory (Pages 166-181)

Required Additional Readings:

Hipp, J.R. and D.K. Yates . 2011. Ghettos, thresholds, and crime: Does concentrated poverty really have an accelerating increasing effect on crime? *Criminology*, 49, 955-990.

Gau, J. and T.C. Pratt. 2008. Broken windows or window dressing? Citizens' (in)ability to tell the difference between disorder and crime. *Criminology and Public Policy*, 7, 163-194.

**Due:** Chapter 8 Quiz and Written Assignment 7**Week 10:** Tuesday, March 31<sup>th</sup>

Chapter 9: Anomie and Strain Theories (Pages 182-207)

Required Additional Readings:

Merton, R.K. (1938). Social Structure and Anomie. *American Sociological Review*, 3, 672-682.

Agnew, R. (1992). Foundation for a general strain theory of crime and delinquency. *Criminology*, 30, 47-87.

**Due:** Chapter 9 Quiz and Written Assignment 8**Week 11:** Tuesday, April 7<sup>th</sup>

Chapter 10: Conflict Theory (Pages 208-231)

Required Additional Readings:

Pratt, T.C. and C.T. Lowenkamp. 2002. Conflict theory, economic conditions, and homicide. *Homicide Studies*, 6, 61-83.

Chamlin, M.B. 1989. Conflict theory and police killings. *Deviant Behavior*, 10, 353-68.

**Due:** Chapter 10 Quiz and Written Assignment 9**Week 12:** Tuesday, April 14<sup>th</sup>**Due: Exam 3**

**Week 13:** Tuesday, April 21<sup>st</sup>

Chapter 13: Feminist Theories (Pages 262-287)

Required Additional Readings:

Steffensmeier, D & Allen, E. (1996). Gender and crime: Toward a gendered theory of female offending. *Annual Review of Sociology*, 22, 459-487.

Daly, K. & Chesney-Lind, M. (1988). Feminism and criminology. *Justice Quarterly*, 5, 497-535.

**Due:** Chapter 13 Quiz and Written Assignment 10**Week 14:** Tuesday, April 28<sup>th</sup>**Chapter 14:** Development and Life-Course Theories (Pages 288-304)

Required Additional Readings:

Sampson, R.J., & Laub, J.H. (1992). Crime and deviance in the life course. *Annual Review of Sociology*, 18, 63-84.

Simons, R., Wu, C., Conger, R., & Lorenz, F. (1994). Two routes to delinquency: Difference between early and late starts in the impact of parenting and deviant peers. *Criminology*, 32, 247-276.

**Due:** Chapter 14 Quiz and Written Assignment 11**Week 15:** Tuesday, May 5<sup>th</sup>

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

Required Additional Readings:

Colvin, M., Cullen, F.T., & Vander Ven, T. (2002). Coercion, social support, and crime: An emerging theoretical consensus. *Criminology*, 40, 19-42.

**Due:** Chapter 15 Quiz and Written Assignment 12**Week 16:** Tuesday, May 12<sup>th</sup>**Due: Exam 4**