



Seminar in Psychology: Psychology of Criminal Behavior (LAHP Theory & Method)
PSYC 4345 CRN 28679
The University of Texas at El Paso
Spring 2016

INSTRUCTOR

Dr. Jennifer Eno Loudon

E-mail: jenolouden@utep.edu

Office hours: MW noon-1:00 and by appointment

Location: Vowell Hall 204

Note: my office is not ADA accessible. Please let me know if you need to meet in a different location.

COURSE TIME AND LOCATION

MW 10:30 – 11:50am, LART 101

REQUIRED TEXTS

Andrews, D. A., & Bonta, J. (2010). *The psychology of criminal conduct (5th Ed.)*. Providence, NJ: LexisNexis.

Additional readings may be assigned and will be posted to Blackboard.

COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course will provide students with an overview of research on the extent to which theories of human behavior adequately explain offending with a particular emphasis on psychological theories. The application of theoretical understandings of crime to criminal justice practice will be discussed. As a course for the Liberal Arts Honors Program, it is expected that students will have a range of knowledge in psychology and research methods; as such, some time may be spent reviewing basic research methodology and psychological theories.

LEARNING OUTCOMES

At the end of this course, you should be able to:

1. Critically evaluate research on criminal risk factors and interventions.
2. Describe the major theories of crime.
3. Describe the General Personality and Cognitive Social Learning Approach to criminal behavior.
4. Describe the Risk Need Responsivity model of correctional supervision.

COMMUNICATION

Email is the best way to communicate with me. I will do my best to respond to your messages within 24 hours, but it may take longer for me to respond on weekends and holiday breaks.

Please include your full name and 800# in all messages you send me, and please put "PSYC 4345" in the subject line so I will know the message is from a student.

BLACKBOARD

I will make announcements regarding the course via Blackboard periodically, so please check Blackboard daily. Blackboard is also where you will find supplementary materials relevant to the course.

DISABILITY ACCOMMODATIONS

If you have a disability and require accommodation, please contact the Center for Accommodations and Support Services at 915-747-5148 or via e-mail (cass@utep.edu) during the first week of the semester. They will help you with the required paperwork necessary to obtain accommodation.

ACADEMIC DISHONESTY

Academic dishonesty in any form will not be tolerated. Academic dishonesty includes: cheating on exams or assignments, forgery, and plagiarism. If you are caught engaging in academic dishonesty, you will likely receive an "F" for the relevant assignment, and you may receive a final grade of "F" for the course. Please review UTEP's policy statement on academic dishonesty: <http://academics.utep.edu/Default.aspx?tabid=23785>

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

Attendance and participation, 20% of grade. Each student is expected to come to every class session having read the assigned material for that week and engage meaningfully in the class discussion. Participation should take the form of asking clarifying questions about the readings and offering interpretations of the material being discussed. Students should engage with each other in discussing the material. Students will also be asked to provide peer review for each other on portions of the final project, including the presentation.

Written assignments, 30% of grade. Each reading will have a short writing assignment associated with it. Some readings will have specific guiding questions for students to write about. If no guiding questions are indicated for a particular reading, students should provide a one-paragraph summary of the most important points of the reading followed by two high quality discussion questions for class. Reactions are due on Blackboard by 2:00pm on Friday the week before the class discussion on that reading.

Final project, 50% of grade. Each student will produce a final project related to the course topics and present this in two ways. The first will be a presentation to the class during the last weeks of the semester. Each student should plan to speak for approximately 10 minutes with accompanying PowerPoint slides to illustrate their ideas and provide at least two questions to guide class discussion and elicit feedback from the rest of the class. The second way the project will be presented will be via a written research paper. Students should plan to incorporate feedback from their presentation into their final paper.

We will be spending some portion of class time talking about this project and there will be deadlines related to the project throughout the semester such as bringing drafts of the paper to class for feedback. Detailed instructions for the project and associated deadlines will be posted to Blackboard.

GRADING

Grades will be based on a traditional grading scale where 90% and up is an A, 80% to 89% is a B, 70% to 79% is a C, 60% to 69% is a D and below 60% is an F. If you have any questions or disputes regarding grades, you must raise these in writing within ten days of the grade being released. Grades will only be changed in cases of administrative error.

COURSE SCHEDULE

The following is a tentative list of dates when specific topics will be discussed, although adjustments to this schedule may occur. Adjustments will be announced in class and via Blackboard.

Barring any alterations to the course schedule, you should complete the readings by the earliest date listed below:

Date	Topics	Readings/Assignments
1/20	Course introduction	
1/25- 1/27	Overview of the PCC Research methods review	Chapter 1
2/1- 2/3	Research methods review Empirical basis of PCC and RNR	Chapter 2
2/8- 2/10	Empirical basis of PCC and RNR, cont'd Psychopathological and psychodynamic theories of crime	Chapter 3 pp. 79-110
2/15- 2/17	Social psychological and sociological theories of crime No Class: UTEP closed	Chapter 3 pp. 111-130
2/22- 2/24	The General Personality and Cognitive Social Learning Approach	Chapter 4
2/29- 3/2	Origins of the major risk factors How to evaluate research on causes	Chapter 5
3/7-3/9	No Class: Spring break	
3/14- 3/16	Antisocial personality & offending Antisocial associates and attitudes	Chapter 6 Chapter 7
3/21- 3/23	Social context of offending Substance abuse and offending	Chapter 8 Chapter 9
3/28- 3/30	Risk assessment and offender rehabilitation	Chapter 10
4/4- 4/6	Prevention and rehabilitation	Chapter 11
4/11- 4/13	Punishment and alternatives to punishment	Chapter 13

4/18- 4/20	<i>Student presentations</i>
4/25- 4/27	<i>Student presentations</i>
5/2- 5/4	<i>Student presentations</i>
5/5	<i>Final papers due</i>