



Psychology of Criminal Behavior
PSYC 4315 CRN 28771
The University of Texas at El Paso
Spring 2020

Instructor: Dr. Jennifer Eno Louden

E-mail: jlenolouden@utep.edu

Office: Vowell Hall room 204

Office hours: Thursday 3:00-4:00pm, Friday 10:00-11:00, or by appointment

If you need to make an appointment, please email me with at least 3 specific times you can meet during the week and give at least 24 hours' notice so I can set a time for you.

Note: my office is located in a building that is not ADA accessible. If you need to meet in a different location, please let me know.

COURSE TIME AND LOCATION

Tuesdays and Thursdays 1:30-2:50, Liberal Arts building room 106

REQUIRED TEXTS

Bonta, J. & Andrews, D. A. (2017). *The psychology of criminal conduct (6th Ed.)*. New York: Routledge.

Additional readings, if assigned, 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 an upper division course intended for students, it is expected that students will have a range of knowledge in psychology and research methods.

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.
5. Critically evaluate approaches to punishment and rehabilitation.

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 in all messages you send me, and please put "PSYC 4315" in the subject line so I will know the message is from a student. Please be mindful of professional email practices when sending emails (e.g., use a greeting, no text speak or emojis).

BLACKBOARD

I will make announcements regarding the course via Blackboard periodically, so please check Blackboard daily. Blackboard is also where you will find 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 but is not limited to: 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: <https://www.utep.edu/student-affairs/osccr/student-conduct/academic-integrity.html>

CLASSROOM COURTESY

It is crucial that everyone follows basic guidelines of courtesy and respect towards the instructor and their fellow classmates. By following a few simple rules, everyone can get the most out of class time:

1. **Don’t come late.** If you will be more than 5 minutes late to class, do not come that day. It is distracting when people enter late.
2. **Don’t leave early.** Plan to stay seated quietly for the entire class period—packing up early prevents others from hearing lecture and announcements.
3. **No distracting electronics.** Cell phones should be turned off and put away during class. You are welcome to bring your laptop/tablet to take notes, but not for any other purpose. If you choose to use your laptop/tablet, you should sit in the first two rows of the classroom. No student may take photos in class. Audiorecording of lecture may only be done in limited circumstances and only with the permission of the instructor.
4. **No side conversations.** Although I highly encourage students to ask questions during class, please refrain from side conversations not related to the larger class discussion.
5. **Respectful discussion.** We will discuss sensitive topics in this course, and it is important that every student is able to contribute to the discussion in a respectful way. Criticize ideas, not people. Keep the discussion in the classroom. Under no circumstances should class discussions or group activities be audiorecorded.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

Class Participation: To do well in this course, you need to attend every class session, listen actively, and contribute to the class discussion of the material. Material presented during class will not be available at any other time. Although I will not take attendance in this course, you will not be able to do well on the exams if you miss class.

Research Paper: *50 points.* You will write a paper related to the content covered in class. Detailed instructions will be posted to Blackboard no later than the second week of class. Papers are due by the beginning of class on 4/30. Additional deadlines for the paper assignment will be announced via Blackboard.

Exams: *200 points, total.* Four non-cumulative essay exams will be administered, each worth 50 points. You may bring your readings and notes to the exams, but you cannot use a laptop computer or any other technology during the exams. It is your responsibility to ensure you are able to take the exams when they are scheduled. The only reasons I will make exceptions to the exam schedule are (a) observance of religious holidays, (b) participation in UTEP-sponsored activities (e.g., sports competitions), and (c) military duty. If you expect to miss an exam for any of these reasons, you must alert me before the end of the first week of the semester and submit relevant documentation. Make-ups are only possible in *extremely rare* situations (e.g., death of a family member, serious illness). If this applies to you, you must visit me during office hours and provide written documentation of the emergency. Whether a make-up exam or other opportunity to make up the points associated with the exam is offered is completely at my discretion.

GRADING

Grades will be based on the total number of points earned (out of a possible 250) using the following scale:

225 and above	= A
200 to 224.9	= B
175 to 199.9	= C
150 to 174.9	= D
149.9 and below	= F

Any questions or disputes regarding grades must be raised in writing within ten days of the grade being posted to Blackboard. Grades will only be changed in cases of 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 on Blackboard. Barring any alterations to the course schedule, you should complete the readings by the earliest date listed below.

Week	Date	Topic	Readings
1	1/21	Course introduction	
	1/23	Overview of the PCC	Ch. 1
2	1/28	Research methods review/Empirical basis of PCC	Ch. 2
	1/30		
3	2/4	Theories of criminal behavior	Ch. 3
	2/6		
4	2/11	Biological basis of criminal behavior	Ch. 4
	2/13	Exam 1	
5	2/18	Antisocial personality pattern	Ch. 5
	2/20		
6	2/25	Procriminal associates and attitudes	Ch. 6
	2/27		
7	3/3	The person in the social context	Ch. 7
	3/5	<i>Class format TBA</i>	
8	3/10	Substance abuse	Ch. 8
	3/12	Exam 2	
9	3/17	NO CLASS—SPRING BREAK	
	3/19		
10	3/24	RNR	Ch. 9
	3/26		
11	3/31	Risk assessment	Ch. 10
	4/2		
12	4/7	Rehabilitation	Ch. 11
	4/9		
13	4/14	Exam 3	
	4/16	Adherence	Ch. 12
14	4/21	Punishment	Ch. 13

	4/23		
15	4/28	Special populations	Ch. 14
	4/30	Paper due	
16	5/5	Conclusions	Ch. 15
	5/7	TBA	
	5/14	Exam 4	
	@1:00pm		