Special Topics in Psychology and Law: The Psychology of Criminal Behavior
PSYC 5342/6342
University of Texas at El Paso
Spring 2020

INSTRUCTOR
Jennifer Eno Louden, Ph.D.
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, 3:00-5:50pm, Old Main room 214

REQUIRED TEXTS
Additional readings will be posted to Blackboard.

COURSE DESCRIPTION
This course will provide students with an introduction to the field of correctional psychology and an overview of research on theories of human behavior with a particular emphasis on psychological theories. The application of theoretical understandings of crime to criminal justice practice and policy will be discussed.

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.
4. Describe the Risk Need Responsivity model of correctional supervision.
5. Describe policy implications of correctional psychology research.

ACADEMIC DISHONESTY
Academic dishonesty in any form will not be tolerated. Academic dishonesty includes: cheating on exams or assignments, forgery, and plagiarism. Students caught engaging in academic dishonesty may receive an “F” for the course. Please review UTEP’s policy statement on academic dishonesty: http://academics.utep.edu/Default.aspx?tabid=23785

DISABILITY ACCOMODATIONS
If you have a disability and require accommodation, please contact the Disabled Student Services Office at 915-747-5148 or via e-mail (dss@utep.edu) during the first week of the semester. They will help you with the required paperwork necessary to obtain accommodation.
COURSE REQUIREMENTS

Attendance and participation, 15 percent of final grade. Each student is expected to attend every class session and participate in the discussion on the readings for that week. You should actively engage in every class session—if you come to class but are not engaged in the discussion of the readings, you will not receive a passing grade on this component of the course. Unavoidable absences should be communicated to the instructor via email.

Reflection/discussion questions, 25 percent of final grade. Each week, each student should submit to Blackboard 1-2 paragraphs summarizing and reflecting on points from the readings followed by at least 2 questions for discussion by the class as a whole. The purpose of these questions is to encourage deeper thinking of the concepts presented in the readings, critical evaluation of research and theory, and presenting ideas for practical application or ramifications of issues presented in the readings. Discussion questions are due by 9:00am each Monday for that week’s readings.

Final project, 60 percent of final grade. Each student will produce a final project on a topic relevant to the course content. The content of your final project should not overlap substantially with course readings or class discussion; instead, you should take the readings as a jumping off point to explore a topic of interest to you. You should clear your topic with the instructor before beginning.

The final project consists of two parts: a presentation and a paper. Each presentation will be approximately 10 minutes in length and accompanied by PowerPoint slides or other relevant presentation aides. The presentation should serve as a forum for your instructor and classmates to give feedback on your ideas before you turn in the paper. The paper must conform with the standards in the 7th edition of the APA style guide. Papers are due on the date listed in the course schedule.

GRADING

Grades will be based on the quality of the course requirements above using the following scale:

- 90% and above = A
- 80 to 89% = B
- 70 to 79% = C
- 60 to 69% = D
- 59% and below = F
**COURSE SCHEDULE**
Adjustments to the course schedule are unlikely, but may occur. Adjustments will be announced in class and via email.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>WEEK</th>
<th>DATE</th>
<th>TOPIC/READINGS</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| 1    | 1/21 | Course introduction, Overview of the PCC  
       |      | B&A Chapter 1  
| 2    | 1/28 | Empirical basis of PCC; Correctional research  
       |      | B&A Chapter 2  
| 3    | 2/4  | Theories of criminal behavior  
       |      | B&A Chapter 3  
| 4    | 2/11 | Biological basis of criminal behavior  
       |      | B&A Chapter 4  
<p>| | | |</p>
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| 5 | 2/18 | Antisocial personality pattern; Psychopathy  
B&A Chapter 5  
| 6 | 2/25 | Procriminal associates and attitudes; The person in the social context  
B&A Chapter 6 & 7  
| 7 | 3/3 | Substance abuse *Class format TBA*  
B&A Chapter 8 |
| 8 | 3/10 | RNR  
B&A Chapter 9  
| 9 | 3/17 | NO CLASS, SPRING BREAK |
| 10 | 3/24 | Risk assessment  
B&A Chapter 10  
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Page</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Topic</th>
<th>Reference</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>---</td>
<td>---</td>
<td>---</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>4/28</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Mental illness</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Tentative: Student presentations (part of class)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>16</td>
<td>5/5</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5/11 @ 5:00pm</td>
<td>Final papers due</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>