

Updated 1/4/2024. The instructor reserves the right to make changes to this syllabus and course schedule. If this occurs, the updated version will be posted to Blackboard.



**Seminar in Psychology: Psychology of Criminal Behavior (LAHP
Theory & Method)**
PSYC 4345 CRN 25841
The University of Texas at El Paso
Spring 2024

Instructor: Dr. Jennifer Eno Louden

E-mail: jenolouden@utep.edu

Office: Vowell Hall room 204

Office hours: Tuesdays & Thursdays 3:00-4:00pm (in person), or by appointment (in person or Zoom)

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.

COMMUNICATION POLICY

I will do my best to respond to your messages within 24 hours, but please allow more time on weekends and holiday breaks. Please include your full name 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. Please be mindful of professional email practices when sending emails (e.g., use a greeting, no "text speak" or emojis). You can send me a message in Blackboard, but emails will get a faster response.

COURSE TIME AND LOCATION

Tuesdays and Thursdays 1:30-2:50, Worrell Hall room 205

REQUIRED MATERIALS/ITEMS

- **Textbook:** Bonta, J. & Andrews, D. A. (2017). *The psychology of criminal conduct (6th Ed.)*. New York: Routledge.
 - Additional readings may be assigned and will be posted to Blackboard
- Access to your UTEP E-mail account, which you should check multiple times per week for course related announcements
- Access to Blackboard for assignment instructions and other course materials
- Access to a computer with [Microsoft Office](#) to complete assignments

ABOUT THIS COURSE

As part of the Liberal Arts Honors Program, this course is geared towards students who have intrinsic interest in learning and/or plan to attend graduate school. The course is structured similarly to a graduate level course, where the emphasis is on classroom discussion rather than lectures. As such, it is important that you come to class having read the assigned materials and are prepared to engage in classroom discussion and learning activities related to the course content. This course will provide an overview of research on the extent to which theories of human behavior adequately explain criminal behavior with a particular emphasis on psychological theories. The application of theoretical understandings of crime to criminal justice practice will also be discussed. Because students in the LAHP come from a variety of majors, it is expected that students will have varying levels of knowledge in psychology and research methods; as such, some time will 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 risk factors and interventions for criminal behavior.
2. Describe the major theories of crime.
3. Describe the elements of the Psychology of Criminal Conduct.
4. Critically evaluate approaches to punishment and rehabilitation.

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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. I encourage students with accommodations to meet with me early in the semester so I can ensure that I understand your needs.

The University is committed to providing reasonable accommodations and auxiliary services to students, staff, faculty, job applicants, applicants for admissions, and other beneficiaries of University programs, services and activities with documented disabilities in order to provide them with equal opportunities to participate in programs, services, and activities in compliance with sections 503 and 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, as amended, and the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) of 1990 and the Americans with Disabilities Act Amendments Act (ADAAA) of 2008. Students who become pregnant or have parenting responsibilities may also request reasonable accommodations. Reasonable accommodations will be made unless it is determined that doing so would cause undue hardship on the University. The UTEP Center for Accommodations and Support Services (CASS) will process requests for accommodations based on a disability, pregnancy, or parenting. Contact the Center for Accommodations and Support Services at 915-747-5148, email them at cass@utep.edu, or apply for accommodations online via the CASS portal.

ACADEMIC DISHONESTY

I have no tolerance for academic dishonesty in any form. Academic dishonesty includes:

- **Plagiarism** – Taking credit for work that is not your own (e.g., copying and pasting from the internet, failing to cite sources of information, failing to attribute direct quotes to their original author, submitting work you did not write yourself, or submitting your work from another course without prior permission) is not allowed. **The use of generative language models or AI (such as ChatGPT) to write or assist with assignments or exams is not allowed in this course.**
- **Cheating** – This includes copying another student's work during a quiz, exam, or assignment; using notes, books, or electronic devices during an exam or quiz without permission from the instructor; taking a quiz or exam for another student; and communicating with another student about a quiz, exam or assignment that is intended to be completed individually. Accessing or attempting to access exams or assignments from prior semesters is not allowed.
- **Collusion** – Any collaboration with another student without the permission of the instructor is not allowed.

If I suspect academic dishonesty has taken place, I will initiate an investigation with the Office of Student Conduct and Conflict Resolution. You will likely receive a zero 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 some basic principles of classroom courtesy and respect towards the instructor and their fellow classmates so that everyone can get the most out of class time:

- You should **aim to be present for the entire class period**. If you must arrive late, leave early, or take a break, please do so as quietly as possible. I will do my best to end classes on time—please avoid packing up to leave before class is over as this is very distracting.
- **Don't distract with electronic devices**. Silence any notifications on your devices and keep your cellphone put away unless you have a compelling reason to have it available (e.g., you need to be available to a childcare provider). If you use a device during class, this should only be for taking notes. Other activities such as texting, playing games, watching videos, etc. is distracting to those around you and should be avoided.

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- **Do not take photos during class.** This is very distracting to me as the instructor and may violate the privacy of other students. I will provide outlines of all of my slides and other necessary materials on Blackboard, so there should be no reason to take photos in class. Audiorecording of lectures may only be done in limited circumstances and only with the permission of the instructor.
- Please **refrain from side conversations** not related to the larger class discussion.
- **Be respectful to others during class discussions.** 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. Under no circumstances should class discussions or group activities be audiorecorded.

COPYRIGHT NOTICE

My lectures and course materials, including PowerPoint presentations, exams, assignment instructions, and similar materials, are copyrighted. You may not reproduce, distribute, or display (post or upload) these materials, including recordings or photographs, in any way.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

Class engagement and participation, 20% of grade. Each student is expected to come to each class session having read the assigned material for that week and engage meaningfully in the class discussion and any related learning activities. 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. I will grade participation in 12 randomly selected class sessions, and the top 10 of these will constitute your score for the semester.

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. Missed deadlines for the project will incur a 10% penalty per day late. Please check your submissions carefully in Blackboard—blank or corrupted files will not be counted as on-time submissions.

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.

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COURSE SCHEDULE

The following is a list of dates when specific topics will be discussed, although adjustments to this schedule may occur. Adjustments will be announced on Blackboard. Any additional readings or other materials for class and their corresponding due dates will be announced on Blackboard.

Week	Date	Topic	Readings due
1	1/16	Course introduction	
	1/18	Overview of the PCC/Discussion of research methods	Ch. 1
2	1/23	Research methods review	Ch. 2
	1/25	Research methods review/Empirical basis of PCC	
3	1/30	Empirical basis of PCC, pt. 2	Ch. 3
	2/1	Theories of criminal behavior	
4	2/6	Theories of criminal behavior, pt. 2	Ch. 4
	2/8	Biological basis of criminal behavior <i>Final project topic due</i>	
5	2/13	Antisocial personality pattern	Ch. 5
	2/15	Antisocial personality pattern, pt. 2	
6	2/20	Procriminal associates and attitudes	Ch. 6
	2/22	Procriminal associates and attitudes, pt. 2	
7	2/27	The person in the social context	Ch. 7
	2/29	The person in the social context, pt. 2 <i>Final project references due</i>	
8	3/5	Substance abuse	Ch. 8
	3/7	Substance abuse, pt. 2	
9	3/12-3/14	NO CLASS—SPRING BREAK	
10	3/19	RNR	Ch. 9
	3/21	<i>TBA</i>	
11	3/26	RNR, pt. 2	Ch. 10
	3/28	Risk assessment	
12	4/2	Risk assessment, pt. 2 <i>Final project outline due</i>	Ch. 11
	4/4	Rehabilitation	
13	4/9	Rehabilitation, pt. 2	Ch. 13
	4/11	Punishment	
14	4/16	Special populations	Ch. 14 & 15

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	4/18	Special populations, pt. 2/Conclusions	
15	4/23	Student presentations	
	4/25	Student presentations	
16	4/30	Student presentations	
	5/2	Student presentations	
	5/9 @ 1:00pm	Student presentations Final paper due	

Need help?

These are just a few of the support services and resources available for students at UTEP:

UTEP provides a variety of student services and support:

Technology Resources

- [Help Desk](#): Students experiencing technological challenges (email, Blackboard, software, etc.) can submit a ticket to the UTEP Helpdesk for assistance. Contact the Helpdesk via phone, email, chat, website, or in person if on campus.

Academic Resources

- [UTEP Library](#): Access a wide range of resources including online, full-text access to thousands of journals and eBooks plus reference service and librarian assistance for enrolled students.
- [University Writing Center \(UWC\)](#): Submit papers here for assistance with writing style and formatting, ask a tutor for help and explore other writing resources.
- [Math Tutoring Center \(MaRCS\)](#): Ask a tutor for help and explore other available math resources.
- [History Tutoring Center \(HTC\)](#): Receive assistance with writing history papers, get help from a tutor and explore other history resources.
- [RefWorks](#): A bibliographic citation tool; check out the RefWorks tutorial and Fact Sheet and Quick-Start Guide.
- [The Miner Learning Center](#): Join peer-led study sessions in person or online to review content and discover study strategies in core curriculum courses.
- [UTEP Edge](#): UTEP's cross-campus framework for student success and empowerment – develops students' assets through high-impact experiences made possible by the expertise and dedication of faculty, staff, alumni, and community partners.

Individual Resources

- [Student Success Help Desk \(SSHD\)](#): Students experiencing challenges or obstacles to academic success including registration, financial, food, housing, and transposition resources may submit a ticket request assistance to studentsuccess@utep.edu
- [Military Student Success Center](#): Assists personnel in any branch of service to reach their educational goals.
- [Center for Accommodations and Support Services](#): Assists students with ADA-related accommodations for coursework, housing, and internships.
- [Counseling and Psychological Services](#): Provides a variety of counseling services including individual, couples, and group sessions as well as career and disability assessments.

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- [UTEP Food Pantry](#): Non-perishable food items are available to students who are currently enrolled in classes. Bring a Miner Gold Card to Memorial Gym, Room 105, Monday through Friday, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.