

Updated 8/24/2023. 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.



**Psychology of Criminal Behavior**  
PSYC 4315 CRN 16518  
**The University of Texas at El Paso**  
**Fall 2023**

**Instructor:** Dr. Jennifer Eno Loudon

**E-mail:** [jenolouden@utep.edu](mailto: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 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). 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, Psychology building room 307

### **REQUIRED MATERIALS/ITEMS**

- **Textbook:** Bonta, J. & Andrews, D. A. (2017). *The psychology of criminal conduct (6<sup>th</sup> Ed.)*. New York: Routledge.
- Paper and pen to bring to class for in-class assignments
- 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 possible additional readings
- Access to a computer with [Microsoft Office](#) to complete the research paper assignment

### **ABOUT THIS COURSE**

This is an upper division course for psychology majors, so it is expected that you already have a range of knowledge in psychology and research methods. This course is meant to be challenging—to do well, you will need to keep up with the readings, participate in class activities, and work independently on a research paper. I have high expectations, but I am here to help you learn! In this class, we will cover research on the extent to which theories of human behavior adequately explain offending with a particular emphasis on psychological theories. We will also discuss the application of theoretical understandings of crime to criminal justice practice.

### **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 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.

### **DISABILITY ACCOMODATIONS**

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](mailto:cass@utep.edu)) during the first week of the semester.

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## 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 prior permission; 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 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 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 laptop or tablet during class, this should only be for taking notes. Other activities such as playing games, watching videos, etc. is distracting to those around you and should be avoided.
- **Do not take photos during class**. This is very distracting to me as the instructor and may violate the privacy of others. I will provide 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.

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## COURSE REQUIREMENTS

**In-Class Activities:** 100 points, total. There will be several activities throughout the semester to reinforce the concepts from the course. These may be individual or group activities and will be described in class. I will provide more than 100 points worth of activities in class so that if you miss one or two your grade will not be impacted. However, there are no make-ups for these activities and I will not announce them beforehand.

**Research Paper:** 75 points. You will write a paper related to the content covered in class. Detailed instructions will be posted to Blackboard. The final paper is due by the beginning of class on 12/5. Additional deadlines for the paper assignment are listed in the course schedule. Missed deadlines for the paper assignment 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.

**Exams:** 200 points, total. Four non-cumulative exams will be administered, each worth 50 points. The exams may cover any materials from assigned readings, lectures, or other material presented in class. The exams may include multiple-choice, fill in the blank, and short answer written questions with a focus on explaining and applying what you have learned. No notes or electronic devices will be allowed during the exams. It is your responsibility to ensure you can 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 close 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 375) using the following scale:

337.5 and above	= A
300 to 337.4	= B
262.5 to 299.9	= C
225 to 262.4	= D
224.9 and below	= F

If you have questions about your grade or believe there was an error in grading, you must let me know via email within ten days of the grade being posted to Blackboard. I aim to grade fairly and consistently across all students. I do not negotiate grades with students and will not provide adjustments to grades unless I determine there was an error in the grading. I also will not offer exceptions to course policies or additional points opportunities to individual students that are not available to the entire class. If you are concerned about your grade or are falling behind in the course, please reach out to me and be proactive. I am here to help you!

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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. Barring any alterations to the course schedule, you should complete the readings by the earliest date listed below. Any additional readings or other materials for class and their corresponding due dates will be announced on Blackboard.

Week	Date	Topic	Readings due
1	8/29	Course introduction	
	8/31	Overview of the PCC	Ch. 1
2	9/5	Research methods review/Empirical basis of PCC	Ch. 2
	9/7	Empirical basis of PCC, pt. 2	
3	9/12	Theories of criminal behavior	Ch. 3
	9/14	Theories of criminal behavior, pt. 2 <b><i>Paper topic due</i></b>	
4	9/19	Biological basis of criminal behavior	Ch. 4
	9/21	<b>Exam 1</b>	
5	9/26	Antisocial personality pattern	Ch. 5
	9/28	Antisocial personality pattern, pt. 2	
6	10/3	Procriminal associates and attitudes	Ch. 6
	10/5	Procriminal associates and attitudes, pt. 2	
7	10/10	The person in the social context	Ch. 7
	10/12	The person in the social context, pt. 2 <b><i>References for paper due</i></b>	
8	10/17	Substance abuse	Ch. 8
	10/19	<b>Exam 2</b>	
9	10/24	RNR	Ch. 9
	10/26	RNR, pt. 2	
10	10/31	Risk assessment	Ch. 10
	11/2	Risk assessment, pt. 2 <b><i>Paper outline due</i></b>	
11	11/7	Rehabilitation	Ch. 11
	11/9	Rehabilitation, pt. 2	
12	11/14	<b>Exam 3</b>	
	11/16	Adherence	Ch. 12
13	11/21	TBA	

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	11/23	<b>NO CLASS-THANKSGIVING</b>	
<b>14</b>	11/28	Punishment	Ch. 13
	11/30	Punishment, pt. 2	
<b>15</b>	12/5	Special populations <i>Final paper due</i>	Ch. 14
	12/7	Conclusions	
<b>16</b>	12/14	<b>Exam 4</b>	Ch. 15
	@ 1:00pm		

### 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 transportation resources may submit a ticket request assistance to [studentsuccess@utep.edu](mailto: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.