

University of Texas – El Paso

Department of Criminal Justice

Spring 2023: Criminology (CRIJ 3313-011 CRN: 23226)

Instructor: Lindsey Krumpholz - Email: LMKrumpholz@utep.edu

Office Hours: via e-mail

Required Textbook:

- Tibbetts, Stephen G., Hemmens, Craig. *Criminological Theory*. 3rd Edition. Sage. 2018
ISBN: 9781506367828

Course Description:

This course will address why certain individuals and groups commit crimes and why others do not. We will also explore the conceptual history of this endeavor as well as current theories. Emphasis will be given to the development and application of theory regarding different types of crimes, “crime waves”, and why people commit crime.

Course Objectives:

At the end of this course, students will be able to:

1. Analyze reasons for why people commit crime and/or engage in deviance.
2. Understand the concepts, terms, and propositions of each criminological theory, including deterrence, rational choice, biosocial, psychological, social learning, social bonding/control, strain, labeling, conflict, Marxist, feminist, and radical/critical theory.
3. Become familiar with key criminologists who developed each major criminological theory and the historical context leading up to each theory’s development.
4. Appreciate the practical application of each criminological theory in daily life and in the professional field.

Course Goal:

The student should have a deeper understanding of crime as a form of deviant behavior; nature and extent of crime; past and present theories; evaluation of prevention, control, and treatment programs and the future trends of criminological theory and criminal justice systems.

Many of you will leave this course and assume roles in society that involve the enforcement, creation, or interpretation of crime policies that are driven by various criminological theories. In this effort, it is essential that you are not mere automatons in the performance of duty. Class lectures will be conducted according to a lecture-discussion format. Lectures and presentation materials will help clarify points made by the author(s). Discussions (a major emphasis in the class) will help other students think critically about criminology and what it means to society as a whole and the criminal justice field. It is crucial that students come to class prepared having read the required material for class and having completed any other tasks or assignments that are required. Films, other video presentations, and guest speakers will be utilized to try and critically evaluate criminology and its importance in society. Criminology and the criminal justice system do not exist apart from the people who make, enforce, and suffer from it.

Class Format:

This course is NOT self-paced. Instead, it is based on weekly modules that open each Monday morning at 12:01AM MST and close the following Sunday at 11:59PM MST. If a student fails to submit any required work before the module closes, they will receive a grade of a zero (0) for that assignment.

As outlined in the syllabus below, each weekly module will focus on one chapter from the textbook. For each chapter, I will include an outline that is intended to provide guidance and structure to students as they read the chapter. Students should read this outline before reading the chapter. Students may want to print out the outline as this information will become inaccessible once the module closes. This outline is not intended to take the place of the textbook. You must have a copy of the textbook to read.

All exams, written assignments, and quizzes are “open book” and “open notes.” That means you can have any class materials you wish when completing these assignments. However, you cannot “collaborate” in any way with any other person when completing the assignment. Doing so constitutes cheating and will be dealt with per the University’s policy on academic dishonesty specified later in the syllabus.

Requirements:

Exams (40% of final grade): Two (2) exams will be based on the course material (each worth 20%). Each exam will consist of multiple choice, true/false questions, and/or essay type questions. The exams are non-cumulative and will cover assigned readings, videos, assignments, and lecture material. Exams are designed to assess knowledge, comprehension, and critical thinking skills. Exams must be completed and submitted by the due dates listed on the syllabus, although early submissions are encouraged. While the exams are “open book” and students are permitted to use notes and the textbook, the exams are timed, and it will be impossible to locate the answers without having read the materials in advance. To do well on exams, students should view lectures and complete assigned reading before beginning each exam.

Written Homework Assignments (40% of final grade):

There will be a written assignment every other week (6 bi-weekly assignments). You will utilize proper APA format when responding to ONE of the discussions presented to you by the instructor. All assignments must be at least one page in length if not longer. Quality will be graded. Assignments are worth up to 25pts.

Discussion Board Assignments (20% of final grade): Unlike traditional, instructor-lead course, this course does not require you to show up to class at a specific time every day to earn your class participation grade. Instead, you must make a constant effort to complete the online course lectures, complete ungraded assignments, participate in the class discussions and complete exams. Students will discuss points of interest from the course material each week. In an effort to facilitate meaningful discussions, students will be required to submit (1) “original post” and (1) “reply” to a peer’s original post.

1. *Original Post*: Students will respond to 6 bi-weekly assignment discussions. These are designed to promote critical thinking about several controversial victimization issues. Discussions will be based on lecture/text material and must also incorporate supplemental material (such as related news articles, video clips, etc). Each posting must be a meaningful contribution to the discussion (see below instructions). Original posts must be submitted each Wednesday by 11:59PM during the weeks that posts are due (see course schedule and Blackboard for details).

2. *Reply Post*: Given that discussions work best when students contribute to other posts, students are also required to respond to another student’s original post for each of the unit

assignment discussions. Replies must be meaningful (see below instructions). Replies must be submitted on the due date by 11:59PM (refer to course schedule for details).

Grade Breakdown –

HW Assignments 6 @ 25 pts each (150 points total possible)

Intro Discussion (1) & DB Assignments 6 @ 10 pts each (70 points total possible)

Exam #1 80 pts

Exam #2 80 pts

Total Course Points = 380

90+ = A

80 - 89 = B

70 - 79 = C

60 - 69 = D

< 59 = F

Instructor/University Policies:

Make-up Exam Policy:

There will be **NO** opportunities for make-up exams unless extenuating circumstances occur. **Extra credit may be given at the instructor's discretion.*

Academic Dishonesty Statement:

Academic dishonesty is prohibited and is considered a violation of the UTEP Handbook of Operating Procedures. It includes, but is not limited to, cheating, plagiarism, and collusion. Cheating may involve copying from or providing information to another student, possessing unauthorized materials during a test, or falsifying research data on laboratory reports. Plagiarism occurs when someone intentionally or knowingly represents the words or ideas of another person as their own. And collusion involves collaborating with another person to commit any academically dishonest act. Any act of academic dishonesty attempted by a UTEP student is unacceptable and will not be tolerated. Violations will be taken seriously and referred to the Dean of Students for disciplinary action. <https://www.utep.edu/student-affairs/osccr/>

ADA Statement

If you have or believe you have a disability, you may wish to contact the Center for Accommodations and Support Services (CASS) to show documentation of a disability or to register for testing and services. Students who have been designated as disabled must reactivate their standing with the CASS yearly. If you feel that you may have a disability requiring accommodations and/or modifications, contact CASS at 915-747-5148. You also can visit the CASS website at [Center For Accommodations and Support](#) the CASS office in Room 108 East Union Building.

Drop Policy

If you drop before the UTEP drop deadline, you will receive a "W." If you drop yourself or are dropped by the instructor after the deadline, you will receive an "F."

Copyright and Fair Use

The University requires all members of its community to follow copyright and fair use requirements. You are individually and solely responsible for violations of copyright and fair use laws. The University will neither protect nor defend you nor assume any responsibility for student violations of fair use laws.

Violations of copyright laws could subject you to federal and state civil penalties and criminal liability, as well as disciplinary action under University policies.

Student Online Behavior

- Always consider audience. Remember that members of the class and the instructor will be reading your postings.
- Respect and courtesy must be always provided to classmates and to instructor. No harassment or inappropriate postings will be tolerated.
- Do not use inappropriate language. When reacting to someone else's message, address the ideas, not the person. Post only what anyone would comfortably state in a face-to-face situation.
- The class learning management system is not a public internet venue; all postings to it should be considered private and confidential. Whatever is posted on in these online spaces is intended for classmates and professor only. Please do not copy documents and paste them to a publicly accessible website, blog, or other space. If students wish to do so, they have the ethical obligation to first request the permission of the writer(s).

**Online learning is not a spectator sport. It is everyone's responsibility to participate fully so they can get the most from the experience. **

Here are some simple tips to follow to enhance your participation and engagement in the learning process:

- Ask questions: If you don't know the answer, someone else will. The discussion board is the area for asking questions related to content OR any challenges you are having. Make sure that you have clearly indicated the subject of your message.
- Reach out to others: Offer a fact, article, link or other item that can help others learn something related to the course content.
- Be appropriate: The online classroom is not the place for insulting or insensitive comments, attacks, or venting. Inappropriate behavior will usually subject to disciplinary action.
- Be diplomatic: When sending messages on emotionally charged topics, write the message and then walk away for at least an hour before re-reading the message and then sending it. Re-reading emotionally charged messages ensures that they are constructive instead of destructive. Think of the person at the other end.
- Stay focused: Stay on topic to increase the efficiency of your learning.

Tentative Course Schedule:

Module 1: (1/17 – 1/22)	Readings: Chapter 1 – An Overview of Issues in Criminological Theory Assignments: Introductions via Discussion Board	Due: 1/22
Module 2: (1/23 – 1/29)	Readings: Chapter 2 – Preclassical and Classical Theories of Crime Assignments: HW Assignment #1 (Chapter 2)	Due: 1/29

Module 3: (1/30 – 2/5)	Readings: Chapter 3 – Modern Applications of the Classical Perspective: Deterrence, Rational Choice, and Routine Activities or Lifestyle Theories of Crime Assignments: DB #1 (Chapter 3)	Due: 2/5
Module 4: (2/6 – 2/12)	Readings: Chapter 4 – Early Positive School Perspectives of Criminality Assignments: HW Assignment #2 (Chapter 4)	Due: 2/12
Module 5: (2/13 – 2/19)	Readings: Chapter 5 – Modern Biosocial Perspectives of Criminal Behavior Assignments: DB #2 (Chapter 5)	Due: 2/19
Module 6: (2/20 – 2/26)	Readings: Chapter 6 – Early Social Structure and Strain Theories of Crime Assignments: HW Assignment #3 (Chapter 6)	Due: 2/26
Module 7: (2/27 – 3/5)	Readings: Chapter 7 – The Chicago School and Cultural and Subcultural Theories of Crime Assignments: DB #3 (Chapter 7) & Review for Exam 1	Due: 3/5
Module 8: (3/6 – 3/12)	Readings: NONE Assignments: Exam 1 (over chapters 1 – 7)	Due: 3/12
Module 9: (3/13 – 3/19)	SPRING BREAK	
Module 10: (3/20 – 3/26)	Readings: Chapter 8 – Social Process and Learning Theories of Crime Assignments: HW Assignment #4 (Chapter 8)	Due: 3/26
Module 11: (3/27 – 4/2)	Readings: Chapter 9 – Social Reaction and Critical Models of Crime Assignments: DB #4 (Chapter 9)	Due: 4/2
Module 12: (4/3 – 4/9)	Readings: Chapter 10 – Feminist Models of Crime Assignments: HW Assignment #5 (Chapter 10)	Due: 4/9
Module 13: (4/10 – 4/16)	Readings: Chapter 11 – Life-Course Perspectives of Criminality Assignments: DB #5 (Chapter 11)	Due: 4/16
Module 14: (4/17 – 4/23)	Readings: Chapter 12 – Integrated Theoretical Models and New Perspectives of Crime Assignments: HW Assignment #6 (Chapter 12)	Due: 4/23
Module 15: (4/24 – 4/30)	Readings: TBD Assignments: DB #6	Due: 4/30
Module 16: (5/1 – 5/7)	Readings: TBD Assignments: Review for Exam 2 & Extra Credit Discussion	Due: 5/7
Module 17: (5/8 – 5/12)	Readings: None Assignments: Exam 2 (over chapters 8 – 12)	Due: 5/12

Technology Support:

I **will not** provide you with technical assistance. More accurately, I cannot provide you with technical support. You should familiarize yourself with the assistance available to you whenever you have problems you should also ensure that you have the appropriate hardware and software. If you need support you can always contact the UTEP tech support: <https://www.utep.edu/technologysupport/>

- *If you every have any questions regarding the course or the material, NEVER hesitate to send me an e-mail @ lmkrumpholz@utep.edu . I am here to help, and no question is silly/stupid.*