

# CRIJ 3313- Criminology Spring, 2017 (CRN# 24802)

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Department of Criminal Justice  
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**Office Hours:** Virtual Office Hours are by appointment.

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## CATALOG COURSE DESCRIPTION:

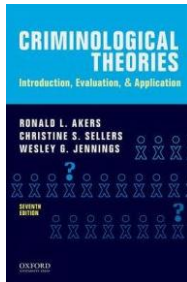
This course surveys historical perspectives on crime, contemporary criminological theory, current trends in crime, and critical thought on current justice practices and procedures. Particular emphasis is given to the development and application of theory in regard to different types of crimes, “crime waves,” and why people commit crime.

## LEARNING OBJECTIVES:

This course prepares students 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.

## REQUIRED TEXT:



Akers, Ronald L and Christine S. Sellers. (2017). *Criminological Theories: Introduction, Evaluation, and Application (7<sup>th</sup> edition)*. New York: Oxford University Press.

## SUMMARY OF COURSE REQUIREMENTS:

Weekly Discussions	240 Points
2 quizzes	100 Points
Midterm	100 points
Final	100 points
Written Assignments	100 Points
Final Paper	100 points

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**GRADING SCALE AT THE END: 740 points possible**

<u>Grade</u>	<u>Total Point Range</u>
A	665-740
B	591-664
C	517-590
D	444-516
F	0-443

**NOTE: Grades are assigned according to the total points earned. I do not grade on a curve or round grades.**

## DETAILS OF COURSE REQUIREMENTS

### **I. Final PAPER: APPLYING THEORIES**

Case Study of a Sex Offender: Application and understanding of Social Learning Theory and Rational Choice Theory. Students are expected to challenge these theories and provide alternative theories that attempt to explain the behavior of the case study.

Your paper should be 8-10 typewritten pages of just text (not including the references page). You should have a separate reference page. Be sure to use the Akers and Sellers book at least once per theory—for example, (Akers and Sellers, 2013, p. 46), and use at least one outside reference using APA style for the in-text citation and the references page. **Outside references must be either a book or journal article ONLY.** Internet websites will not be accepted as a valid resource. The APA style guide can be found on Blackboard for how to cite within the paper and how to list outside references. **Refer to Blackboard for more information regarding your Final Paper.**

### **LATE ASSIGNMENTS**

Due dates are posted. Plan accordingly. You can submit all assignments early. Late assignments will be deducted 10% for each day the assignment is late.

**II. EXAMS:** There is a midterm and a Final exam, worth 100 points each (**SEE schedule for exam dates**)

- A. **The exact format of the exams are to be determined.** However, the exams will likely be structured with some combination of Multiple choice, True/False, and/or Essay questions.
- B. **Exams must be submitted in Blackboard by the due date.**

### **MAKE-UP EXAM POLICY:**

- 1. Each student is expected to take the exams as scheduled.

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2. **In order to take a make-up exam, students MUST call Dr. Stevens prior to the exam to make arrangements to take the exam. Student must have a verifiable excuse and it is the instructor's discretion as to what is a valid excuse.**
3. Students are allowed only one make-up exam for the entire semester.

### III. Discussion Participation

Each week there will be two discussion questions that must be answered completely. Your response to the discussion question should be scholarly and thorough. In your response, you must demonstrate your understanding of Textbook readings and the application of the covered theory or theories.

You are required to respond to two students/peers that provokes thought. You must respond with more than "Good job," or "I agree." Your response to your peers discussion post should provide your understanding or an alternative to your peers opinion and the application of concepts.

**Netiquette:** You must maintain an academic attitude and uphold UTEP policies. Being disrespectful, using profanity or unprofessional behavior will not be tolerated. All of your online communications must be composed with fairness, honesty and tact.

### IV. Written Assessments

In week 3 and week 5, you will have a written assessment due. Students will use critical thinking to explain and critique, in written format, theoretical explanations for crime and causation. **Refer to Blackboard for more information regarding these assessments**

### ACADEMIC DISHONESTY:

Academic dishonesty includes cheating on an exam, turning in someone else's assignment from a previous class, or plagiarism: "(1) use by paraphrase or direct quotation of the published or unpublished work of another person without fully and properly crediting the author with citations or biographical reference; (2) unacknowledged use of work/materials prepared by another person or agency engaged in the selling of term papers or other academic materials; (3) unacknowledged use of original work/material that has been produced through collaboration with others without release in writing from collaborators."

I take cases of alleged academic dishonesty seriously. For students who are found to have allegedly engaged in any form of academic dishonesty, the case will be referred to the Office of Student Conduct and Conflict Resolution (OSCCR). While the case is being investigated by OSCCR, an "I" (Incomplete) will be assigned until the case is resolved. If the student is found by OSCCR to have engaged in misconduct, sanctions may include a failing grade on the assignment or exam in question, a failing grade in the course, suspension, or dismissal from the University. See <http://www.utep.edu/dos>

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## UTEP Drop Policy

If unforeseen circumstances happen where a drop is necessary, *students* are responsible for initiating any course drop. It is the student's responsibility to determine how dropping courses may affect financial aid. **Students are limited to dropping no more than 6 courses over their entire academic career of all courses taken at any public college or University in Texas.**

- a) Students who drop a course within the first 2 weeks before the "official census date," the course will not appear on the transcript, and doesn't count toward the 6-course drop limit.
- b) Dropping a course after the official census date, but before the "course drop date" will generate a "W" in the course—although the drop shows on your transcript, a "W" does not lower your GPA. However, this type of drop counts against your 6 drop limit.
- c) If the course is dropped after the "course drop date" or if the student just stops coming/taking tests, etc., UTEP requires the instructor to issue an "F" in the course that permanently remains on the transcript. This type of drop counts against the 6 drop limit.
- d) UTEP also allows instructors to administratively drop any student because of excessive absences, lack of effort, or disciplinary reasons. In this case, the student will be notified of the course drop through their UTEP email account. A "W" will be issued if the drop occurs before the course drop date, and an "F" will be issued if a student is administratively dropped for disciplinary reasons or after the course drop date. This type of drop counts against the 6 drop limit.
- e) If circumstances occur where a student must miss an excessive number of classes and/or is unable to submit multiple assignments (e.g., student medical reasons, medical conditions of a family member, death of a family member, active military service), they should first discuss the possibility of withdrawal from all classes with their academic advisor. If a student withdraws completely from all classes, kindly notify Dr. Ordonez at [saordonez@utep.edu](mailto:saordonez@utep.edu). Complete withdrawals from all classes in the same semester do not count against the 6 drop limit.

## FIGURING YOUR GRADE AT THE SEMESTER'S END:

Remember that the letter grade for the class is determined by the number of points you accumulate during the semester, so every point counts. You simply ADD up the number of points *you earn* for every test, assignment, and attendance and then refer to the grading scale.

There are no percentages, no rounding, or dividing of numbers—simply record points as you go.

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<u>DATE:</u>	<u>TOPIC COVERAGE*</u>	<u>ASSIGNMENT</u>
Week 1	What is Criminology, Crime, and Deviance? What is Theory? Classical Criminology and Deterrence Rational Choice Theory	Read Ch 1  Read Ch. 2
Week 2	Biological and Biosocial Theories Psychological and Personality Theories The Criminal Mind	Read Ch. 3 Read Ch. 4
<b>Quiz #1</b>		
Week 3	Differential Association/ Social Learning Theory Early Control Theories Social Bonding and Low Self Control	Read Ch. 5 Read Ch. 6
<b>Written Assessment Due at the end of Week 3</b>		
Week 4	Labeling & Reintegrative Shaming Theory Social Disorganization and Chicago School Application of Social Disorganization	Read Ch. 7 Read Ch. 8
<b>Midterm due at the end of Week 4 in Blackboard</b>		
Week 5	Classic Anomie/Strain Conflict Theory	Read Ch. 9 Read Ch. 10
<b>Written Assessment Due at the end of Week 5</b>		
Week 6	Marxist Theories Radical and Critical Theories	Read Ch. 11 Read Ch. 12
<b>Quiz #2</b>		
Week 7	Feminist Theories Developmental and Life Course Theories	Read Ch. 13 Read Ch. 14
<b>Final Paper Due</b>		
Week 8	Integrating Criminological Theories	Read Ch. 15
<b>Final Exam due by 5pm on Friday</b>		

**\*I reserve the right to add assignments if necessary and amend the schedule to suit the needs of the class.**