

CRIJ 3313- Criminology Spring 2024 (CRN#24232)

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Class Dates: January 16, 2024 - March 4, 2024

Office Hours: I can be reached through your UTEP email. Please allow 24 hours to respond on weekdays and 48 hours over the weekend. If the issue cannot be addressed through messages, I can then schedule a virtual/in person meeting with students.

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. Emphasis is given to the development and application of theory regarding 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 (8th edition)*. New York: Oxford University Press.

SUMMARY OF COURSE REQUIREMENTS:

| | | |
|------------------------|-------------------|------------|
| 2 Exams | 100 points each = | 200points |
| Weekly Discussions (4) | 25 points each = | 100 points |
| 2 Written Assignments | 100 points each = | 200 points |

GRADING SCALE:

500 points possible

| Points | Percentage | Letter Grade |
|---------|------------|--------------|
| 450-500 | 90-100 | A |
| 400-449 | 80-89 | B |
| 370-399 | 70-79 | C |
| 300-369 | 60-69 | D |
| 0-299 | 0-59 | F |

NOTE: Grades are assigned according to the total points earned. I do not grade on a curve or round grades. If you end up with an 89%, you will receive a B. You are responsible for obtaining the grade you want in this class.

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DETAILS OF COURSE REQUIREMENTS

I. Discussion Participation: Discussions must be answered completely. Your response should be at least 200 words and your response should be scholarly and thorough. In your response, in addition to defining the theory, you must demonstrate your understanding of Textbook readings and the application of the covered materials. **Initial posts are due by Tuesday, responses to peers are due by Friday at midnight.** *Initial posts entered after Tuesday will not be accepted and a zero will be entered regardless of participation in the discussion.* See Late work policy. You need to check back to your post as well to make sure you have responded to anyone who may have asked you anything, more so if I have asked you something.

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 peer’s 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 your online communications must be composed with fairness, honesty, and tact.

II. PowerPoint presentations- Integrating Theories- In weeks 3 and 6 you will prepare a PowerPoint presentation, combining and explaining theories that we have examined. The PowerPoint will need to be submitted in Blackboard. Assignments must be submitted as a PowerPoint or a pdf. Assignments submitted as a comment, submission text or .pages, will not be accepted and will receive a zero. See Blackboard for more details.

III. EXAMS: You have 2 exams in this class. Each exam is worth 50 points each. The exact format of exams is to be determined. However, the exams will likely be structured with some combination of Multiple choice, True/False, and/or Essay questions. Missed Exams CANNOT be made up.

V. Instructor’s Policies

Late Work: **Late assignments/discussions/exams will not be accepted.** Due dates are posted. Plan accordingly. You can submit all assignments early. This is not a self paced course. Assessments are due weekly. If you miss any assignments, you will not earn credit

Disability: Students with a disability that affects their academic performance are expected to arrange a meeting with the instructor so that appropriate strategies can be considered to ensure that participation and achievement opportunities are not impaired. Students with disabilities are required to notify the Center for Accommodations and Support Services for accommodations, cass@utep.edu; 915-747-5148; Union East Rm 106.

ACADEMIC DISHONESTY: Students are not allowed to submit assignments that were used in another class. Regardless of whether they authored them or not, students are not allowed to repurpose their own assignments. In these cases, students will receive a zero on the assignment and will not get the opportunity to resubmit.

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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>

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.**

CONTRACT: By reading this syllabus and remaining enrolled in the class, you are agreeing to the terms of the contract. If you have any questions, please email Dr. Ordonez (saordonez@utep.edu).

RECORDING OF CLASS & COPYRIGHT STATEMENT: The materials used in this course are copyrighted. This includes, but is not limited to, syllabi, exams, in class activities, review sheets, homework, solutions, class notes, supplemental materials. You do not have the right to copy or distribute these items unless I specifically grant you permission.

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

| <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 Introduction Discussion Due 1/17 Week 1 Discussion due 1/17 |
| Week 2 | Biological and Biosocial Theories Psychological and Personality Theories The Criminal Mind | Read Ch. 3 Read Ch. 4 Week 2 Discussion Due 1/23 |
| Week 3 | Differential Association/ Social Learning Theory Early Control Theories Social Bonding and Low Self Control | Read Ch. 5 Read Ch. 6 |
| Integrating Theory Assessment due Sunday by 11:55pm 1/29/2023 | | |
| Week 4 | Labeling & Reintegrative Shaming Theory Social Disorganization and Chicago School Application of Social Disorganization | Read Ch. 7 Read Ch. 8 |
| Exam 1 due Sunday by 11:55pm on 2/11/2023 | | |
| Week 5 | Classic Anomie/Strain Conflict Theory | Read Ch. 9 Read Ch. 10 Week 5 Discussion Due 2/13 |
| Week 6 | Marxist Theories Radical and Critical Theories Feminist Theories | Read Ch. 11 Read Ch. 12 Read Ch. 13 |
| Integrating Theory Assessment due Sunday by 11:55pm on 2/25/2023 | | |
| Week 7 | Developmental and Life Course Theories Integrating Criminological Theories | Read Ch. 14 Read Ch. 15 Week 7 Discussion Due 2/27 |
| Exam 2 due by 11:55pm on Friday 3/1/2024 | | |