

University of Texas at El Paso
Department of Criminal Justice
Spring 2020

COURSE

Title: CRIJ 3313 Criminology: CRN: 26312

Day/Time: MW 12:00-1:20

Room: Education 114

INSTRUCTOR

Name: Timothy Dickinson, Ph.D.

Office: Education Bldg, 111R

Phone: (915) 747-7628

Email: tedickinson@utep.edu

Office Hours: MW 11:30-12:00; 1:30-2:30 MST

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.

REQUIRED COURSE MATERIALS

Textbook:

Williams, Frank P. and Marilyn D. McShane. Criminological Theory. 7th edition.

ISBN-10: 0-13-455889-8

ISBN-13: 978-0-13-455889-9

Additional readings for the course are available on Blackboard.

COURSE LEARNING OBJECTIVES

Upon successful completion of this course, a student should be able to:

1. Discuss the components of a theory
2. Describe the qualities of a good theory
3. Explain the major elements in past and current criminological theories
4. Discuss the policy implications of major criminological theories

INSTRUCTOR'S CLASSROOM POLICIES

General:

This class will feature lectures, discussions, and a variety of activities to promote learning. To succeed in the class, it is essential that you keep up with readings, lectures, and assignments. The grade you earn in this course will be based on the amount of effort you exert. If you need a specific grade for this course, be proactive and contact me as early and often as possible. I will make every effort to assist you in achieving your goals.

Students with disabilities:

If you require modifications to the course or testing environment, **please** inform me as soon as practical via email or during office hours. Accommodations are coordinated through the Center for Accommodations and Support Services (CASS). If you feel an accommodation is necessary please contact CASS at 915-747-5148 (tel) cass@utep.edu (email) or visit them at Union Building East Room 106.

Attendance policy:

Attendance is required for this course. Attendance will be taken at the beginning of each regular class period (i.e., not during exams). You will earn 1 point for each day you attend class up to a maximum of 25 points. Because there are 26 non-exam days in the class you can miss up to 1 day of class (aside from exam days) and still earn the full 25 points. Attendance will be taken by a sign-in sheet passed out at the beginning of class. It is your responsibility to sign the sheet. Students who sign the sheet for someone else will forfeit all attendance points. Students who arrive unreasonably late (i.e., > 20 minutes) or who leave early will not receive attendance points. I make no distinction between excused and unexcused absences, thus it is unnecessary to provide me with documentation for your absence *unless* it is for an **extended** (i.e., more than 1-2 class periods) medical condition/emergency. In this case, the policy may be altered at my discretion.

EXCEPTIONS FOR REGULAR ABSENCES (NON-EXAM DAYS):

The only two exceptions where written notice is required are students serving in the military and students who will be absent for a UTEP-related event (such as student athletes).

Active military duty absences are permitted as long as students who are called to active military duty provide a copy of their military orders to the instructor in advance, work is completed prior to departure and/or within one week of returning, and absences do not exceed more than 25% of the total number of class meetings per UTEP policy.

Late assignment and missed exam policy:

Assignments are due at the beginning of the class period on the day they are due unless I specify otherwise. Late assignments will only be accepted in the case of a documented medical emergency and at my discretion. Assignments that are not submitted on Blackboard **and** in paper form on the due date will have points deducted per the assignment instructions.

Makeup exams will not be routinely allowed. You must have a **documented** excuse (e.g., death in the family, medical emergency, family emergency, etc.) to take a makeup exam. If possible, you must notify me via email **prior** to the set time of the exam.

Electronic device policy:

Modern communication technology can be extremely disruptive in a learning environment; therefore, dumb phones, smart phones, and mp3 players must be turned off and placed in your belongings. I understand that many of you may prefer to take notes on laptops or tablets; therefore, I will allow these in the classroom with one caveat: they must be used solely for note-taking. **Those who violate these policies may be asked to leave the room.** If you are a first responder or otherwise need limited access to a mobile device for emergency purposes, please notify me during the first week of class.

Recording policy:

Students may NOT record any portion of the course meetings without first obtaining my permission. This includes audio and video recordings. If permission is granted, these recordings cannot be shared with others outside of this course unless required by UTEP.

Dissemination policy:

All the materials in this course, aside from that in the assigned text, should be considered as my intellectual property and, as such, under copyright protection. This includes my lectures, exams, written assignments, and notes. These are intended for your use during this course and may not be disseminated to anyone outside of the course without my explicit written permission.

Email policy (contacting the instructor):

There are two ways you can contact me in this course. 1) Through your institutional email address. 2) Through the “send email” function under the course tools tab in Blackboard. I expect you to identify yourself within the body of the email. I also expect you to compose emails using standard word and sentence structure (i.e., no acronyms, slang, etc.). In other words, do not email me as if you are texting your friends.

I will do my best to respond to your emails within 24 hours under most circumstances from Monday through Friday. I will also do my best to check my email at least once on Saturdays and Sundays; however, at times I may not be able to respond over the weekends. Please plan accordingly.

Scholastic dishonesty:

Scholastic 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 scholastic dishonesty seriously. Cases wherein students have allegedly engaged in any form of scholastic dishonesty 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. Information about scholastic dishonesty can be found here: <https://www.utep.edu/student-affairs/osccr/student-conduct/index.html>

Learn more here: [HOOP: Student Conduct and Discipline](#)

A note about sexual misconduct:

What you should know about sexual misconduct: UTEP does not tolerate acts of sexual misconduct, including sexual harassment and all forms of sexual violence. If you have experienced sexual misconduct, or know someone who has, the University can help. It is important to know that federal regulations and University policy require faculty to promptly report complaints of potential sexual misconduct known to them to their campus Title IX Coordinator(s) to ensure that appropriate measures are taken and resources are made available. The University will work with you to protect your privacy by sharing information with only those that need to know to ensure the University can respond and assist. Any student who believes that he or she may be experiencing sexual harassment or misconduct is encouraged to consult with or report such conduct immediately to the Title IX Coordinators. Contact information for UTEP's Title IX Coordinators can be found here:

<http://utep.edu/titleix/Title%20IX%20Coordinators%20.html>

UTEP Drop Policy:

If circumstances arise to where a student must drop this course, it is the student's responsibility to initiate the course drop. It is also the student's responsibility to determine how dropping courses may affect his or her 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) If a course is dropped within the first 2 weeks before the "official census date":
 - a. the course will not appear on the transcript and
 - b. the course will not count toward the 6-course drop limit.
- b) If a course is dropped after the official census data but before the "course drop date":
 - a. the student will receive a "W" in the course
 - b. the drop will show on transcripts but will not lower GPA
 - c. the drop will count toward the 6 class drop limit
- c) If the course is dropped after the "course drop date" or if the student just stops coming/taking tests, etc.:
 - a. UTEP requires the instructor to issue an "F" in the course that permanently remains on the transcript.
 - b. the drop will count against the 6 class 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 me at: tedickinson@utep.edu. Complete withdrawals from all classes in the same semester do not count against the 6 drop limit.

Student 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.

ASSESSMENT AND GRADING

Attendance: (25 points)

As stated above, attendance is required for this course. Each non-exam day you are present and not late is worth 1 point. Because there are 26 non-exam class periods, you can miss up to 1 day and not be penalized.

Homework assignment (25 points)

Students must locate a news report of an offense and explain it using Rational Choice Theory. Details about the assignment are available on Blackboard and will be discussed in class.

Plagiarism assignment (25 points)

Students are required to take the plagiarism tutorial provided by Indiana University-Bloomington. Instructions for the assignment will be discussed in class and can be found on Canvas. The tutorial is found here <https://www.indiana.edu/~istd/>

Exams: (100 points/300 points total)

There will be 3 in-class, closed-book/note examinations. Each will consist of multiple choice, true/false, fill-in-the-blank, and short answer. The 3rd exam is **not** comprehensive. The dates of the exams are listed below. **Each student must purchase three Scantron forms (#882E) from the bookstore and must bring one of these and two #2 pencils to class on each exam day.**

Peer review: (25 points)

There will be one class period devoted to peer reviewing your fellow students' term projects. Students are required to bring outlines, rough drafts, and any other materials related to their term papers for review to this session. Students who attend and review others' papers but do not have any materials will receive 7 points, those who have some materials will receive between 10 and 20 points at my discretion, and those who have a full rough draft will receive the full 25 points.

Term paper: (100 points)

There is one paper assigned for this course. For the paper, you must first select a film from the list provided in the assignment instructions. After watching the film, you must write a 5 – 7 page paper that 1) discusses the assumptions, propositions, and concepts that comprise one of the theories we have covered this semester and 2) applies that theory to the film. Put another way, your paper must fully describe a theory and then use that theory to explain why or how the characters in the film have started committing crime, continued committing crime, or stopped committing crime. Each paper must use **2 articles from academic journals or 2 academic books** as references. Please note that a rough draft of this paper is due in class for peer review on 4/27/20. The final draft of the paper is due on 5/11/20. **A printed copy must be dropped off at my office and an electronic copy must be submitted via Blackboard. Failure to make both submissions by the deadline will result in point deductions as detailed in the project instructions.**

Suggestions for paper:

- Avoid first-and-second-person (*I, me, my, we, our*).
- Avoid slang and clichés (*since the beginning of time, putting the cart before the horse, better said than done, etc.*).
- Do not use contractions in formal writing (can't, wouldn't, don't, etc.).
- Be consistent with verb tense. A common mistake is to alternate between present and past tense.
- Make sure that you do not use plural verbs with singular nouns or vice versa.
- Avoid over-generalizing statements such as "Most people think" & "Everybody knows."
- Answer the question that you are asked. Read exam and assignment questions carefully.

University Writing Center (UWC):

UTEP has a University Writing Center that is available to all students. Students can work one-on-one with experienced readers and writers to improve their writing and receive constructive comments on their assignments. AND IT IS FREE! Students can schedule an appointment in three ways:

1. Visit <http://uwc.utep.edu/>
2. Stop by their location: Library Building, 2nd Floor Room 227
3. Or call them at 915-747-5112

Grade Calculation:

Your grade will be calculated as follows:

Point distribution:

Attendance.....	25 points
Plagiarism assignment.....	25 points
Homework assignment.....	25 points
Peer review.....	25 points
Exams.....	300 points
<u>Term project.....</u>	<u>100points</u>
Total.....	500points

Grade scale:

A	90% - 100%	450 – 500 points
B	80% - 89%	400 – 449 points
C	70% - 79%	350 – 399 points
D	60% - 69%	300 – 349 points
F	< 59%	< 300 points

COURSE SCHEDULE*

* Students are responsible for reading all the required materials prior to coming to class on the dates listed below.

* I reserve the right to adjust the course syllabus as needed. Students are required to regularly check their UTEP email and Blackboard to look for communication of syllabus revisions.

Date	Topic	Reading	Assignment Due
Wed 1/22	Syllabus/Introduction to the course		
Mon 1/27	Theory and the study of crime	Chapter 1	
Wed 1/29	Theory and the study of crime		
Mon 2/3	Classical school and deterrence	Chapter 2	
Wed 2/5	Rational choice/ Census day	Chapter 13	
Mon 2/10	Routine activities		
Wed 2/12	Positive school	Chapter 3	

Mon 2/17	Review for Exam 1		Homework assgt due
Wed 2/19	Exam 1		
Mon 2/24	How to interpret a research article/Term paper review		
Wed 2/26	Social control	Chapter 11	
Mon 3/2	Self control	Chapter 14 section on Modern Social Control Theory (p. 175-178)	
Wed 3/4	Lifecourse theories	Chapter 14 section on Modern Developmental Theories (p. 178-181)	
Mon 3/9	Social disorganization	Chapter 4	
Wed 3/11	Social disorganization	Chapter 7	Plagiarism assgt due
Mon 3/16	No Class: Spring Break		

Wed 3/18	No Class: Spring Break		
Mon 3/23	Anomie	Chapter 6	
Wed 3/25	Anomie/Strain	Chapter 14 section on Modern Strain Theory (p. 174-175)	
Mon 3/30	Review for Exam 2		
Wed 4/1	Exam 2		
Fri 4/3	Drop/Withdrawal Deadline for guaranteed "W"		
Mon 4/6	Differential Association	Chapter 5	
Wed 4/8	Social Learning	Chapter 12	
Mon 4/13	Subculture theories	Chapter 7	

Wed 4/15	Subculture theories	Anderson reading on Blackboard	
Mon 4/20	Labeling theories	Chapter 8	
Wed 4/22	Labeling theories		
Mon 4/27	Peer review		Rough draft of paper due
Wed 4/29	Conflict theories	Chapter 9	
Mon 5/4	Review Exam 3		
Wed 5/6	Exam 3		
Mon 5/11	Term paper due by 3:00pm MST		Term paper due