

Criminological Theory 3650
Fall 2017

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COURSE DESCRIPTION:

This course will cover classic criminological theories that have been historically developed to explain why and how individuals commit deviant or criminal acts. We will examine the nature, location, and impact of crime in the United States by exploring a broad range of issues related to criminology. We will discuss the historical foundation of crime, the theoretical underpinnings of criminality, and a critical analysis of how law shapes crime and delinquency as well as how crime influences law and public policy.

LEARNING OBJECTIVES:

Upon successful completion of this course students will:

1. Understand the major criminological explanations of crime.
2. Evaluate the emergence and purpose of law according to various theories
3. Recognize the relationship between crime and social control

REQUIRED READING:

Williams, Frank P. and Marilyn D. McShane,
2018. Criminological Theory

Hickey, Thomas J.
2017. Taking Sides: Clashing Views in Crime and Criminology

TEACHING METHOD:

This course is conducted online within the D2L environment. Organization, motivation, and strong time-management skills are critical for your success in this course. Although we do not meet face-to-face, you will meet in asynchronous (D2L Discussion Boards) spaces. As in any other "traditional" course, you are part of an active, vital learning community.

The course will combine on-line discussion and assignments will correspond to both discussions and course readings. On-line discussion will be focused on clarification and critique of key concepts and application to salient historical and current events.

Do not make the mistake of assuming that an online course will be easier and less time-consuming. Students who make this mistake usually end up falling behind in their coursework and fail to meet the course objectives. Online courses do allow a flexible schedule; however, you must meet

course objectives and assignment deadlines as you would for an on-campus course.

IMPORTANT INFORMATION:

Technology Requirements: This class requires that you have consistent access to a computer and a strong reliable internet connection. If you have issues with D2L or your password, please contact the Help Desk at, 581-4357.

Communication (use D2L email): To keep all communications organized, please use the email contained in this course if you need to email me.

EVLAUATION of ASSIGNMENTS:

Stay ahead and be consistent- This class is designed at the same rate as a face-to-face class but **YOU** are in charge of your own lectures by reading the textbook.

- **Discussions –** For each discussion thread, you will be expected to contribute one original posting (**minimum of 300-400 words**) and a minimum of two responses to classmates' posts (**minimum of 150-200 words each**) by **11:59 pm Sunday** of each week. Moreover, a one or two sentence reply will not be acceptable. To take this class seriously and receive a good grade, you will need to log-on and interact with the class throughout the week even if you have completed your posting requirements. **This is not a weekend course.** You will find that if you wait until the last minute to read the posts, it will be difficult to follow the discussion. Moreover, others will not have a chance to respond to your posts. **To this end, students who only post on the weekend will have points deducted.**

- **Original post (5 pts)**
- **Two replies minimum (First reply = 2 pts, Second reply = 3 pts). More are appreciated and encouraged.**
- **Post early and reply throughout the week. All are due by 11:59 pm Sunday**
- **Late posts will not be accepted. You will not earn full credit if you post only on the weekend.**

Keep up daily and you will not have a problem. You don't want to complete your required posts on Monday and never return to follow the discussion or participate further. This defeats the entire purpose of on-line learning.

EXAMINATIONS:

There are three exams based on the primary textbook and discussion questions. Each exam will be worth 100 points and consist of multiple choice questions that will require you to think critically.

CLASS POLICIES:

In this class we will be reading and discussing topical and often controversial social issues. Every student should feel free to contribute and share your ideas with your classmates. However, if and when you do disagree with others, then you must do so in a respectful and civil manner. While it is encouraged and certainly acceptable to disagree with others, it is not tolerable to flame or attack others. We should be able to passionately express our ideas and at the end of the day “agree to disagree.” Failure to comply with the policy above can result in your dismissal from this course.

GRADING SCALE FOR THIS CLASS IS:

A	440 - 396	90 – 100%
B	395 - 352	89 - 80
C	351 -308	79 - 70
D	307 - 264	69 - 60
F	263 and below	59 - 0

COURSE POLICIES:

Changes to Course Syllabus – During the course of the term, the instructor reserves the right right to make changes to the syllabus, schedule or other course details as needed. The changes will be communicated through D2L email or discussion.

Assignment Due Dates – No late assignments will be accepted in the course without prior approval. There are **NO EXCEPTIONS**.

Class Behavior – The “virtual” classroom is a “safe” environment for students. The focus will be on learning. Rude or threatening language, inflammatory assertions (often referred to as “flaming”), personal attacks, and other inappropriate communication will not be tolerated. For a detailed explanation, consult EIU’s Student Conduct Code.

Academic Integrity – Evidence of academic dishonesty, including cheating and plagiarism, may result in an F for the course. All written work submitted *must* be your own work and reflect your own thoughts. Appropriate recognition of sources of information is required through such means as quotation marks for direct quotations and citations *with page numbers*; or other indications of sources when paraphrasing is used. Copying and pasting from other sources is still plagiarism. Use of materials from the Internet should include complete URLs. If you have any questions or concerns regarding academic integrity, please contact the instructor, or refer to the section on academic dishonesty in the student catalogue.

At a minimum, those found guilty of academic dishonesty will receive a score of “0” for that particular assignment. Additional handling of cases of academic dishonesty will be at the discretion of the instructor.

Tentative Schedule and Assignments

Please note:

- The “week” is from 12:01am Monday to 11:59 pm Sunday
- All work must be received by 11:59 pm on Sunday for credit.

****I reserve the right to adjust the schedule and will communicate any changes via D2L email.**

Week	Dates	Topic	Assignment	Points
1	August 21-27	Welcome and Introduction Familiarize yourself with D2L Chapter 2 – The Classical School	Read: Chapter 1 Syllabus Discussion: Introductions Chapter 2	10
2	Aug. 28 – Sept. 3	Chapter 3 – The Positive School	Discussion: Chapter 3 Read: Chapter 4	10
4	Sept. 4 - 10	Chapter 4 – The Chicago School	Discussion: Chapter 4 Read: Chapter 5	10
5	Sept. 11 - 17	No Class		0
6	Sept 18 -24	Chapter 5 – Differential Association Theory	Discussion: Chapter 5 Read: Read chapter 6	10
7	Sept. 25 – Oct. 1	Exam 1: Chapters 2,3,4,5 Read chapter 6 and work on writing assignment	Exam 1	100
8	Oct 2 - 8	Chapter 6 – Anomie Theory	Discussion: Chapter 6 Read Chapter 7:	10
9	Oct 9 - 15	Chapter 7 – Subculture theories	Discussion: Chapter 7 Read Chapter 8	10
10	Oct 16 - 22	Chapter 8 – Labeling Theory	Discussion: Chapter 8 Read: Chapter 9	10
11	Oct 23 - 29	Chapter 9 – Conflict Theory	Discussion: Chapter 9 Read: Chapter 10	10
12	Oct 30 – Nov. 5	Exam 2: Read chapter 10 and work on writing assignment	Discussion: Chapter 9 Study for Exam	100

13	Nov. 6 - 12	Chapter 10 – Gender-based theories	Discussion Chapter 10 Read: Chapter 11	10
14	Nov. 13 - 19	Chapter 11 – Social Control theory	Discussion: Chapter 11 Read: Chapter 12 Paper assignment due	10 20
15	Nov 20 - 26	Thanksgiving break Enjoy!		
16	Nov 27 - Dec 4	Chapter 12 Social Learning Theory	Discussion: Chapter 12 Read Chapter 13	10
17	Dec 5 - 10	Chapter 13 Rational Theories	Discussion: Chapter 13	10
18	Dec. 11 - 15	Final Exam Chapters 10, 11 12 13	Class ends on Friday Dec. 15 th .	100