Criminology Syllabus
CRIJ/SOCI 4335-001: Spring 2012

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Class Hours: TR 11-12:15
Classroom: TBD
Office Hours: T/R 3:30-5; W 2-4 p.m., or by appointment

REQUIRED TEXTBOOKS


*Additional readings may be assigned or distributed in class.

SUGGESTED READING


COURSE DESCRIPTION

An examination of the major sociological explanations for crime, criminal behavior, and the social responses to crime. (Credit may not be given for both this course and SOCI 4335.)

LEARNING OBJECTIVES & OUTCOMES

The course objectives are:

1. To provide students with a broad overview of each of the major criminological perspectives of the 18th through the 21st centuries including classical, biological, psychological, and sociological theories of crime and criminality.

2. To introduce the students to research, theory, and policies in criminology and sociology that are relevant to the problems of a demanding criminal justice environment.

3. To discuss the nature and extent of crime, known crime correlates, and various factors leading to criminal behavior.
**Learning Outcomes** - By the end of this course the student should be able to:

1. Discuss and assess the extent, nature, origins, and risk factors of crime;
2. Identify and describe the major paradigms from which theories of crime and criminality have emerged;
3. Summarize each major criminological theory;
4. Describe and critique each criminological perspective;
5. Compare and contrast the relative goodness of each theory;
6. Explain crime correlates and the various causes of crime; and
7. Engage in discussions of the theoretical explanations of crime, in relation to the forms of criminality within society.

**ATTENDANCE POLICY**

Attendance is highly important because discussion groups, and in class assignments will be assessed throughout the session. The student is expected to attend all classes and actively participate in class discussions. Because of this, students must complete the assigned readings PRIOR to the scheduled class meeting to contribute to meaningful class discussions.

**Class attendance is mandatory and attendance requirements will be followed in accordance with University Policy.** Attendance will be recorded pursuant to University policy. Penalties for absences will be governed by rules promulgated by the University. A student may be penalized for more than three hours of absence at the discretion of the instructor. It is the responsibility of the student to monitor number of absences.

Accordingly, after the first unexcused absence, the instructor will deduct points from the final grade based on the following scale:

- 4 absences = 10 point reduction in final grade
- 5 absences = 20 point reduction in final grade
- 6 + absences = 30 point reduction final grade

**Student Absences on Religious Holy Day Policy**

Section 51.91 (b) of the Texas Education Code requires that an institution of higher education excuse a student from attending classes or other required activities, including examinations, for the observation of a religious holy day, including travel for the purpose. A student whose absence is excused under this subsection may not be penalized for that absence and shall be allowed to take an examination or complete an assignment from which the student is excused within a reasonable time after the absence. University Policy 861001 provides the procedures to be followed by the student and instructor.

A student desiring to absent himself/herself from a scheduled class in order to observe (a) religious holy day(s) shall present to each instructor involved a written statement concerning the religious holy day(s). This request must be made within the first fifteen days of the semester or the first seven days of a summer session in which the absence(s) will occur. The instructor will complete a form notifying the student of a reasonable time frame in which the missed assignments and/or examinations are to be completed.
GRADING POLICY:

A = 90-100%
B = 80-89%
C = 70-79%
D = 60-69%
F = Below 60%

1. Class Participation and homework: 10 points
2. Exams: 15 points each for 30 points total
3. Final Exam: 20 points
4. Quizzes: 5 Points
5. Journal Project: 15 Points

Class Participation: Students will receive up to 5 points based upon attendance, participation in class discussions, and completion of in class assignments.

Assignments: Homework and in class assignments for this class are mandatory. Failure to complete and submit and/or present assignment on time will result in a 5 point deduction from the final grade. Students must complete all required reading assignments by the dates specified in the course outline. Students are responsible for all assigned material whether or not it is discussed in class.

Exams: Three exams will be given on the dates listed in the course outline. Exams will cover material discussed in class and required readings. These exams will be composed of true false, multiple choice, short answer, and essay questions. Two exams are worth 15 points each and the final exam is worth 20 points for a total of 50 points.

Quizzes: Quizzes may be given throughout the semester to ensure that students are keeping up with the required readings and attending class regularly.

Journal Project: Students will be required to complete a journal project throughout the course session in which students discuss and describe their ideas on assigned course topics using terminology and concept from their readings. The complete journal project is due at the end of the semester, but will require students to turn in assignments throughout the semester. This project is worth 15% of the student’s final grade.

Presentation: Students will have opportunities throughout the semester to discuss an outside criminological reading in a book club setting. At the end of the semester each book club group will present their outside reading to the class. The presentation is worth 10% of the student’s final grade.

Book Report: Students are required to write a 5-7 page book report on their outside criminological reading that is discussed in book club meetings. The book titles will be announced on the first day of class and are by contemporary criminologist Jeff Ferrell. The book report is an individual (NOT GROUP) assignment and should meet APA requirements. The report is worth 10% of the student’s final grade.

Late Work: Late work will NOT be accepted without appropriate documentation of an excused absence, such as a physicians note.
MAKE UP EXAM POLICY

Students are required to take the examinations on the dates indicated in the course schedule. Any scheduling difficulties should be addressed the first week of class. If an emergency arises, students should notify the instructor as soon as possible before the absence. Notifications after the absence are not acceptable, barring extreme circumstances. If you miss an examination without prior approval from the instructor, the grade recorded will be a zero. If it is not possible to discuss the absence prior to the exam date due to an emergency, it is the student’s responsibility to contact the instructor as soon as possible after the emergency. Appropriate documentation of the nature of the absence must be provided to the instructor.

ACADEMIC HONESTY

The Faculty of the College of Liberal Arts expects students to conduct their academic work with integrity and honesty. Acts of academic dishonesty will not be tolerated and can result in the failure of a course and dismissal from the University. Academic dishonesty includes, but is not limited to, cheating on a test, plagiarism, collusion – the unauthorized collaboration with another person in preparing work offered for credit, the abuse of resource materials, and misrepresentation of credentials or accomplishments as a member of the college.

DISABLED STUDENT POLICY

The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) requires that all students with disabilities be guaranteed a learning environment that provides for reasonable accommodation of their disabilities. If you believe you have a disability requiring an accommodation, please contact the Disability Services Office at (361) 825-5816 or visit the office in Driftwood 101. Students with a disability which affects their academic performance are expected to arrange for a conference with the instructor in order that appropriate strategies can be considered to ensure that participation and achievement opportunities are not impaired.

ADDITIONAL IMPORTANT INFORMATION

Confidentiality: If you would like to discuss your course performance, an appointment with the instructor may be made at a mutually agreeable time. In order to protect student confidentiality, it is against TAMU-CC policy for an instructor to discuss grades by telephone or through email. Any discussions on student’s course performance must be conducted with the instructor in person.

Academic Advising: The College of Liberal Arts requires that students meet with an Academic Advisor as soon as they are ready to declare a major. The Academic Advisor will set up the degree plan which must be signed by the student, a faculty mentor, and the department chair. If you are majoring, or planning to major in a field taught in the College of Liberal Arts, and if you have not yet obtained a signed degree plan, you should see you Academic Advisor immediately. Degree plans are important and useful to successful progress toward graduation. The College’s Academic Advising Center is located in Driftwood 203E, and can be reached at 825-3466.
GRADE APPEAL PROCESS

Grade Appeal Process: As stated in University Rule 13.02.99.C2, Student Grade Appeals, a student who believes that he or she has not been held to appropriate academic standards as outlined in the class syllabus, equitable evaluation procedures, or appropriate grading, may appeal the final grade given in the course. The burden of proof is upon the student to demonstrate the appropriateness of the appeal.

A student with a complaint about a grade is encouraged to first discuss the matter with the instructor. If the problem cannot be resolved at this level, the student may take the steps below.

1. Presentation of grievance to instructor. (This step must be taken within fourteen calendar days after the beginning of the next term.)
2. Appeal to department chair or area coordinator.
3. Written appeal to the University Academic Standards Grievance Committee.
4. Preliminary review and advising by an ombudsman appointed by the Provost.
5. Submission of file by department chair to the chair of the University Academic Standards Grievance Committee.
6. Review of file by committee chair and submission of case to committee.
7. Proceedings of the University Academic Standards Grievance Committee. (Committee holds hearing, reviews data, presents findings to all parties, and makes recommendation to Provost.)
8. Decision by Provost.
9. Final appeal in writing to the Provost if student or instructor thinks appropriate procedures have not been followed.

For complete details, including the responsibilities of the parties involved in the process and the number of days allowed for completing the steps in the process, see University Rule 13.02.99.C2, Student Grade Appeals, and University Procedure 13.02.99.C2.01, Student Grade Appeal Procedures. These documents are accessible through the University Rules Web site at http://www.tamucc.edu/provost/university_rules/index.htm. For assistance and/or guidance in the grade appeal process, students may contact the Office of Student Affairs.

CLASS CONDUCT

General Conduct
All students are expected to be respectful to others and the instructor at all times. Class discussions may include controversial topics. Students should be respectful of others’ viewpoints and opinions, even those that they may not agree with. Any conduct deemed by the instructor to be disruptive to the class may result in the student’s removal from the class. The removal will count as an unexcused absence. Excessive tardiness (2+) without a legitimate excuse may be counted as an absence at the discretion of the instructor.

Tobacco Products
No tobacco products allowed in the classroom at any time. Violations will result in the student’s removal from the class and the removal will count as an unexcused absence.

Use of Electronic Devices in the Classroom
- Turn off all cell phones, pagers, iPods, and any other distracting devices prior to class. This means no text messaging during class!
- Laptops may be used in class **with** prior approval from the instructor for class purposes only (no surfing, email, or IM services may be accessed).
- Students are encouraged to use electronic resources outside of class for discussion forums and to access reading materials on class topics.

**COURSE SCHEDULE**
The anticipated schedule of readings and major exams is as follows:

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>DATE:</th>
<th>TOPIC</th>
<th>ASSIGNMENT</th>
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<tr>
<td>Jan. 12</td>
<td>Introduction to the course</td>
<td>Syllabi &amp; Chapter 1 (S)</td>
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<td>Jan. 17-19</td>
<td>Criminology: An Overview</td>
<td>Chapter Chapters 2 (S: L&amp;H)</td>
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<td>Jan. 24-26</td>
<td>Research &amp; Statistics on Crime</td>
<td>Chapters 3 (S)</td>
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<td>Jan. 31- Feb. 2</td>
<td>Review</td>
<td>Chapters 4 (S)&amp; 3 (L&amp;H)</td>
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<td><strong>Exam I</strong></td>
<td>Handouts</td>
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<tr>
<td>Feb. 7-9</td>
<td>Classical Theories</td>
<td>Chapters 5 (S)&amp; 4 (L&amp;H)</td>
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<td>Handouts</td>
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<td>Feb. 14-16</td>
<td>Biological Theories: Born to be Bad</td>
<td>Chapters 6 (S)&amp; 5 (L&amp;H)</td>
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<td>Handouts</td>
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<td>Feb. 21-23</td>
<td>Psychological Theories: Criminal Minds</td>
<td>Chapter 7(S)</td>
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<td>Handouts</td>
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<td>Feb. 28-Mar. 1</td>
<td>Review</td>
<td>Chapter 8 (S) 8(L&amp;H)</td>
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<td><strong>Exam II</strong></td>
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<td>March 7-9</td>
<td>Sociological Theories: Chicago School</td>
<td>Chapter 9(L&amp;H)</td>
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<td>Anomie &amp; Strain</td>
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<td>March 13-15</td>
<td>Spring Break</td>
<td>Chapter 8 (S) 6 &amp; 7(L&amp;H)</td>
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<td>March 20-22</td>
<td>Social Process Theories: Learning to be</td>
<td>Chapter 9 (S) &amp;10 (L&amp;H)</td>
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<td>Bad</td>
<td>Handouts</td>
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<td>March 27-29</td>
<td>Social Conflict Theories</td>
<td>Chapter 11 (L&amp;H)</td>
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<td>Handouts</td>
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<td>April 3-5</td>
<td>Feminist Theory</td>
<td>Chapter 12 (S: L&amp;H)</td>
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<td>Journal Project Due</td>
<td>Handouts</td>
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<td>April. 10-12</td>
<td>Crimes Against Persons</td>
<td>Chapter 13 (S: L&amp;H)</td>
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<td>Handouts</td>
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<td>April 17-19</td>
<td>Crimes Against Property</td>
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<td>April 25-27</td>
<td>Presentations</td>
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<td>May 1</td>
<td>Presentations &amp; Review</td>
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<td>May 3</td>
<td><strong>Final Exam (11-1:30)</strong></td>
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