CRIMINOLOGY

EMAIL POLICY: The best way to contact me is by email. On weekdays (M-F) I will make every effort to respond to all email inquiries promptly. If you do not receive a response within 24 hours (M-F) or 48 hours (weekends), feel free to send a follow-up email. When emailing, please use your Islander email account, include your name, and what course you are in. I will not respond to emails sent from personal email accounts. If you have questions that cannot be resolved via email, we will make arrangements to meet via Skype or on the TAMUCC campus.

COURSE DESCRIPTION: This course is meant to familiarize you with the major sociological explanations for crime, criminal behavior, and the social responses to crime.

STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES: By the end of the semester students should be able to:

1) Identify and describe the major paradigms from which theories of crime and criminality have emerged.
2) Summarize and critique each major criminological theory.
3) Compare and contrast the relative validity of each theory.
4) Assess the theoretical explanations of crime in relation to the forms of criminality.
5) Demonstrate the ability to apply professional standards of writing and research.

REQUIRED READING:


Additional handouts and readings assigned by the instructor.

RECOMMENDED READING:


INSTRUCTIONAL METHODOLOGY:

This course is being taught as a self-paced online course. However, there are some deadlines which must be adhered to. See course calendar below. Be sure you understand and are prepared to comply with all required class assignments and deadlines.

This course makes use of the Blackboard system. To be successful in the course you will need access to reliable internet service. *All of the assignments in this course will be*
submitted using Blackboard. Specific instructions for submitting assignments will be included on the individual assignments.

It is imperative that you check Blackboard and your Islander email account daily during the week for important course updates and announcements.

If you need help with Blackboard:

- View the tutorials at https://iol.tamucc.edu/student_resources.html
- Call the IT help desk at (361) 825-2692
- Email computer.helpline@tamucc.edu

FEEDBACK POLICY:

In general, I will provide you with a grade and/or feedback on assignments within three business days of the due date. If you would like feedback prior to submitting an assignment, you may submit questions or samples of your work via email. In order to guarantee feedback on written assignments, you must submit them to me at least one week prior to the due date. I will make every effort to provide feedback at all times but may not be able to provide you with timely feedback if you submit a paper less than one week prior to the due date.

MAJOR COURSE REQUIREMENTS:

EXAMS: There will be a comprehensive final exam given at the end of the semester. The exam is worth 100 points (20% of your final grade). See the course calendar for exam date. The exam may include multiple choice, true/false, short answer, and essay questions over material from the textbook and other material provided by the instructor on Blackboard. You may use notes when taking exams. However, because exams are timed, your grade will suffer drastically if you have not covered the material in the units and studied prior to the exam. You may not collaborate with other students when taking exams.

Missed Exams: You will only be able to make up a missed exam if you provide the instructor with a reasonable excuse for missing the exam ahead of time!! “Reasonable excuses” are determined at the discretion of the instructor and may require documentation. The instructor reserves the right to alter the content and format of exams taken outside of the designated exam time.

PAPER 1: Thinking About Crime
You will be required to submit one 3-5 page essay where you will discuss your views on what causes crime and what experiences have contributed to these views. Additional instructions will be posted on Blackboard. This assignment is worth 100 points (20%) of your final grade).
PAPER 2: Applying Criminological Theory
You will be required to submit one five to seven page essay over one of the major criminological theories. Additional instructions will be posted on Blackboard. This assignment is worth 100 points (20%) of your final grade).

Late Papers: Late papers will only be accepted for 72 hours past the due date/time. All late papers will have 10 points deducted per day, including holidays and weekends.

*I'm happy to read and critique completed drafts of your written work if you submit them to me (by email or in person) one week ahead of the due date. You can come by the office or email my any time with questions about the assignments.*

General Requirements for Writing Assignments:

1) Double-spaced
2) 12 point standard font (e.g., Times New Roman, Calibri, Cambria, Arial)
3) Grammatically correct and free from proofreading errors
4) Paragraph, narrative format; 3rd person speech (unless otherwise specified)
5) Must be completed in Microsoft Word and submitted as an attachment in the Assignment section of Blackboard
6) Appropriate sources will be discussed in class. Each source must be appropriately cited in text and in a reference section per APA standards.
7) No title page is necessary. Please include a title on the first page and include your name in a header.

BLACKBOARD ASSIGNMENTS: In addition to the exam and papers, you will also complete several shorter Blackboard assignments. Together, these assignments are worth 100 points (20% of your final grade). Additional instructions and resources will be posted on Blackboard.

FORUM DISCUSSIONS: Over the course of the semester, you will also participate in several forum discussions related to the course material/readings. Together, these discussions are worth 100 points (20% of your final grade). You must post in each forum at least twice. Your first post should answer the question(s) that I have posted. Your second (and any subsequent) post should be a response to another participant's post. To receive full credit for a discussion, you must post twice in the discussion forum (one initial post and one response post), and your posts must meet the substantive requirements below.

Characteristics of Good Discussion Board Posts:

1. Complete. You should provide a well thought out response that addresses all parts of the posted question. This can generally be accomplished in 1-3 paragraphs.
2. Proofread. Your post should be clear, grammatically correct, and free from errors.
3. Considerate. Your post should be respectful of other members of the discussion forum. Civility and courtesy to everyone in the class, including the instructor, is
expected. Incivility or discourtesy to anyone in the class will not be tolerated and may result in your expulsion from the course.

4. Interactive. While your initial post in each forum should address the question that I have posted, you are also required to respond to other participants’ posts. You may agree or disagree with participants or expand on their posts. Please be respectful in doing so and explain why you agree/disagree.

**GRADING:** Your course grade will be based on your grades on the required exams and assignments. Your grades will be posted on Blackboard.

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A 448-500 points 89.5-100%
B 398-447 points 79.5-89.4%
C 348-397 points 69.5-79.4%
D 297-357 points 59.5-69.4%
F 0-296 points 0-59.4%

**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.

**CLASSROOM/PROFESSIONAL BEHAVIOR:** Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi, as an academic community, requires that each individual respect the needs of others to study and learn in a peaceful atmosphere. Under Article III of the Student Code of Conduct, classroom behavior that interferes with either (a) the instructor’s ability to conduct the
class or (b) the ability of other students to profit from the instructional program may be considered a breach of the peace and is subject to disciplinary sanction outlined in article VII of the Student Code of Conduct. Students engaging in unacceptable behavior may be instructed to leave the classroom. This prohibition applies to all instructional forums, including classrooms, electronic classrooms, labs, discussion groups, field trips, etc.

**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. Degree plans are prepared in the CLA Academic Advising Center. The University uses an online Degree Audit system. Any amendment must be approved by the Department Chair and the Office of the Dean. All courses and requirements specified in the final degree plan audit must be completed before a degree will be granted. The CLA Academic Advising Office is located in Driftwood #203. For more information please call (361) 825-3466.

**DISABILITY SERVICES:** The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) is a federal anti-discrimination statute that provides comprehensive civil rights protection for persons with disabilities. Among other things, this legislation 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 call or visit Disability Services at (361) 825-5816 in Corpus Christi Hall, Room #116.

If you are a returning veteran and are experiencing cognitive and/or physical access issues in the classroom or on campus, please contact the Disability Services office for assistance at (361) 825-5816.

**GRADE APPEALS PROCESS:** Students who feel that they have not been held to appropriate academic standards as outlined in this class syllabus, equitable evaluation procedures, or appropriate grading, may appeal the final grade given in the course. A student with a complaint about a grade is encouraged to first discuss the matter with the instructor. For complete details on the process of submitting a formal grade appeal, please visit the College of Liberal Arts website, [cla.tamucc.edu/students/studentinfo.html](http://cla.tamucc.edu/students/studentinfo.html) For assistance and/or guidance in the grade appeal process, students may contact the Associate Dean's Office.

**STATEMENT OF ACADEMIC CONTINUITY:** In the event of an unforeseen adverse event, such as a major hurricane and classes could not be held on the campus of Texas A&M University–Corpus Christi; this course would continue through the use of Blackboard and/or email. In addition, the syllabus and class activities may be modified to allow continuation of the course. Ideally, University facilities (i.e., emails, web sites, and Blackboard) will be operational within two days of the closing of the physical campus. However, students need to make certain that the course instructor has a primary and a secondary means of contacting each student.
## COURSE CALENDAR:

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| June 3, 2016 (Friday) 11:59 p.m. | Forum 0: Introductions  
Bb Assignment 0 |
| June 6, 2016 (Monday) | Paper 1: Thinking About Crime  
(Submit on Blackboard under “Assignments”) |
| June 10, 2016 (Friday) 11:59 p.m. | Forum 1  
Bb Assignment 1 |
| June 17, 2016 (Friday) 11:59 p.m. | Forum 2  
Bb Assignment 2 |
| June 24, 2016 (Friday) | Forum 3  
Bb Assignment 3 |
| June 30, 2016 (Thursday) 11:59 p.m. | Forum 4  
Bb Assignment 4 |
| June 30, 2016 (Thursday) 11:59 p.m. | Paper 2: Application of Criminological Theory  
(Submit on Blackboard under “Assignments”) |
| July 1, 2016 (Friday) | Final Exam (comprehensive)  
(On Blackboard 8 a.m. – 11:59 p.m.) |

## MY GRADES:

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A=450-500 pts., B=400-449 pts., C=350-399 pts., D=300-349 pts., F=0-299 pts.