Criminology
Fall 2019
CRIJ 4335_002

Instructor: Dr. Deborah A. Sibila
Office: BH 352
Telephone: 361 825-4132
Email: Deborah.Sibila@tamucc.edu
Class Hours: Wednesday 7:00 – 9:30 p.m.
Classroom: O’Connor 118
Office Hours: Tues 5:00 – 7:00 p.m.; Wed 3:00 – 5:00 p.m.; Thurs 2:00 – 3:00 p.m.; or by appointment

Required Text:


Course Description:

This course will introduce students to theories of why people commit crime. It will start with an explanation of what criminology is, and how crime is measured. It will then work through classical theories of crime, as well as biological, psychological, and sociological theories. The course will also discuss theories of victimology, and specific types of crime such as violent, property, and white-collar crimes, and how each of these crime categories can be explained by, or viewed through, different criminological theories.

Learning Objectives and Outcomes:

The course objectives are:

1. To provide a framework for the study of crime, criminal behavior, and criminal justice 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 students to research, theory, and policies in criminology and sociology that are relevant to the problems of a demanding criminal justice environment and discuss how criminological theory applies to the American Criminal Justice System (policing, courts, and corrections) as well as the administration of justice in the United States.
3. To discuss the nature and extent of crime, known crime correlates, and various factors leading to criminal behavior and develop the knowledge and skills to analyze, critique, and construct criminological theory.
4. To critically analyze and evaluate various criminological theories with an emphasis on understanding the role of social, political, historical, cultural, and economic factors as well as the practical and policy implications of criminological theory.
**Learning Outcomes** - By the end of the course, the student 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.

**Grading:**

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grade</th>
<th>Points Range</th>
<th>Points</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Exam 1</td>
<td>100 pts</td>
<td>405 – 450 pts = A</td>
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<tr>
<td>Exam 2</td>
<td>100 pts</td>
<td>360 – 404 pts = B</td>
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<tr>
<td>Exam 3</td>
<td>100 pts</td>
<td>315 – 359 pts = C</td>
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<tr>
<td>Quizzes</td>
<td>50 pts</td>
<td>270 – 314 pts = D</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Online Assignments</td>
<td>50 pts</td>
<td>269 pts &amp; below = F</td>
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<tr>
<td>Class Participation</td>
<td>50 pts</td>
<td>450 pts</td>
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Your final grade for the course will be determined by the number of points you earn through online exams, online assignments, quizzes and class participation. There is a total of 450 possible points in this course. If you have concerns/questions about any grades received in this class, you must come to speak with me in person – email me so that we can set up an appointment for a meeting. I will not give grade information via email or over the telephone.

The instructor reserves the right whether or not to provide students with extra credit opportunities.

**Exams:**

There will be three exams given during the semester. Exams will be hosted on Blackboard and will consist of 50 multiple-choice and true/false questions. All exams cover approximately the same amount of information and there are no comprehensive exams. Material for the exams comes from classroom discussions as well as the assigned readings from your textbooks. Class sessions will not cover all material from the assigned readings, but all assigned readings, regardless of whether the material is discussed in class, may be covered on the exams. Each exam is worth 100 points. Exams will be worth a total of 300 points towards your final grade.

**Make-Up Exams:**

Students will contact the instructor for make-up approval if they miss an exam. Approval for make-up exams is completely at the instructor's (my) discretion. If a student fails to contact the instructor within 48 hours of missing an exam to obtain approval for a make-up, he/she will not be allowed to make up the exam.

**Quizzes:**

During the course of the semester, six (6) quizzes will be administered to students to ensure that they are reading assigned class material throughout the semester. Quiz format will be multiple choice, true/false and/or short answer. The instructor reserves the right to decide the platform on which to give quizzes to students — in the classroom or via Blackboard. A student will not be permitted to make-up a missed quiz if he/she is more than 10 minutes late to class and/or is absent from a class when a quiz is given. Each quiz is worth 10 points. Please note that while six quizzes are given, only the top five quizzes will count for your grade average. The lowest quiz will be dropped. Quizzes will be worth a total of 50 points towards your final grade.
**Online Assignments:**

Students will also be responsible for six (6) online assignments covering course topics covered during class. See the schedule below for exact posting and due dates for each assignment. These assignments are designed for you to incorporate course material into real-life issues and events. Each written assignment is worth 20 points. Please note that while there are six online assignments, only the top five assignments will count for your grade average. There is a total of 50 points available through the online discussion forums. Additional guidance and grading rubric for the online assignments will be provided to students on Blackboard prior to the first online assignment.

**Participation & Attendance:**

Students are expected to be in class daily, on time. **Individuals who are more than ten minutes late to class will be allowed to enter the classroom at the discretion of the instructor.** NOTE: if there is a legitimate reason for arriving at class late, the student has the responsibility to contact the professor prior to the beginning of class by email, telephone, or text message regarding his/her late arrival. Students who are more than more than 10 minutes late will not be allowed to take a quiz/exam or turn in a paper that day.

Students can receive up to five points for class participation for each class attended. The maximum participation points a student can earn for the semester is 50 points. Students **must be present in class** to earn participation points. The instructor reserves the right to deduct participation points when students fail to adhere to established classroom and/or university policies. The instructor reserves the right to provide students with additional options to earn participation points throughout the semester.

**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.

Students sometimes have difficulty understanding what exactly constitutes plagiarism. Often, students commit unintentional plagiarism (not citing sources properly, for example), because they are unaware of the standards that apply. Plagiarism includes:

- Using the work of another as your own,
- Downloading or purchasing ready-made essays off the web and using them as your own,
- Using resource materials without correct documentation,
- Using the organization or language of a source without using quote marks and proper citation.
- Turning in a researched project without citing sources in an appropriate documentation style.

When you are confused about citation of quotes or ideas, please visit the Writing Center or me to get help. Information on **APA documentation rules** is available at the Center for Academic Student Achievement (CASA) and at Purdue University’s OWL: [http://owl.english.purdue.edu/](http://owl.english.purdue.edu/).

**Cellphones, Laptops and Other Electronic Devices:**

All communication style or general noise making devises should be set to off or silent during class. If you have an emergency-situation or if you are on call from a professional position, please let me know before class begins. Some exceptions will, of course, be allowed in these cases. If you decide that, for any reason, you must send or receive a call or text, please leave the classroom to do so. **If you are texting in my class, I consider this rude and I reserve the right to ask you to leave my class.**
You may use a laptop for note taking only. Searching the web, checking e-mails and other non-course related activities is prohibited. If I catch any student using his/her laptop for any other purpose than note-taking, I reserve the right to ask the student to leave my class and to ban future use of their computer in class.

**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.

Students may have beverages in class; however, **eating is not allowed in classroom.** Students who must eat due to health reasons should contact the instructor prior to class to discuss their situation so that appropriate arrangements can be made as necessary.

**Recording Policy:**

In this class, students **may not** make audio or video recordings of any course activity unless the student has an approved accommodation from the Office of Disability Services permitting the recording of class meetings. In such cases, the accommodation letter must be presented to the instructor in advance of any recording being done and all students in the course will be notified whenever recording will be taking place. Students who are permitted to record classes are not permitted to redistribute audio or video recordings of statements or comments from the course to individuals who are not students in the course without the express permission of the faculty member and of any students who are recorded. Distribution without permission is a violation of educational privacy law.

**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. Students can also access information regarding Disability Services via their website at [https://disabilityservices.tamucc.edu/](https://disabilityservices.tamucc.edu/)

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.

**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.

**Dropping a Class**

I hope that you never find it necessary to drop this or any other class. However, events can sometimes occur that make dropping a course necessary or wise. **Please consult with your academic advisor, the**
Financial Aid Office, and me, before you decide to drop this course. Should dropping the course be the best course of action, you must initiate the process to drop the course by going to the Student Services Center and filling out a course drop form. Just stopping attendance and participation WILL NOT automatically result in your being dropped from the class. The last day to drop a class with an automatic grade of “W” for the Fall 2019 full term is November 8, 2019.

Grade Appeals Process:

As stated in University Procedure 13.02.99.C2.03, 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. 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 Procedure 13.02.99.C2.03, Student Grade Appeals. These documents are accessible online at: http://academicaffairs.tamucc.edu/rules_procedures/assets/13.02.99.C0.03_student_grade_appeals.pdf. For assistance and/or guidance in the grade appeal process, students may contact the Associate Dean’s office in the college in which the course is taught. For complete details on the process of submitting a formal grade appeal in CLA, please visit the College of Liberal Arts website, http://cla.tamucc.edu/about/student-resources.html.

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.

Miscellaneous Information

You will need to check Blackboard and your Islander email account daily during the week for important course updates and reading assignments.

Do not contact the instructor if you have problems with Blackboard. If you need help with Blackboard:

- View the tutorials at https://iol.tamucc.edu/bb_resources_students.html
- Call the IT help desk at (361) 825-2692
- Email ithelp@tamucc.edu.
## CRIJ 4335_002 Criminology Course Calendar

Please note that this schedule is tentative as we may need to spend more time on some topics than others.

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Topic and Chapter</th>
<th>Assignments/ Additional Information</th>
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| **Week 1 (Aug 28th)** | Class Introduction and Syllabus Review  
Chapter 1 - What is Criminology? | Read Textbook (pp 1-19)  
**NOTE: Last Day to Add a Class is Sept 3rd (Tues)** |
| **Week 2 (Sep 4th)** | Chapter 2 - Classical and Neoclassical Criminology  
Chapter 3 – Early Biological Perspectives on Criminal Behavior | Read Textbook (pp 20-56)  
**Online Assignment #1 Posted on Blackboard – Due date Jan 27th (Sun) at 11:59 p.m.** |
| **Week 3 (Sep 11th)** | Chapter 3 – Early Biological Perspectives on Criminal Behavior (continued)  
Chapter 4 – Biosocial and Other Contemporary Perspectives | Read Textbook (pp 57-76) |
| **Week 4 (Sep 18th)** | Chapter 4 – Biosocial and Other Contemporary Perspectives  
Chapter 5 – Psychological and Psychiatric Foundations of Criminal Behavior | Read Textbook (pp 77-100)  
**Online Assignment #2 Posted on Blackboard – Due date Sep 22nd (Sun) at 11:59 p.m.** |
| **Week 5 (Sep 25th)** | **Exam #1**  
(Chapters 1-5) | Class Does Not Meet  
**Exam #1 will be posted on Blackboard – Exam #1 closes Sep 29th (Sun) at 11:59 pm** |
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<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Topic and Chapter</th>
<th>Assignments/ Additional Information</th>
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<tr>
<td>Week 6 (Oct 2nd)</td>
<td>Chapter 6 – Social Structure</td>
<td>Textbook (pp 101 - 120)</td>
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<td>Online Assignment #3 Posted on Blackboard – Due Date Oct 6th (Sun) at 11:59 p.m.</td>
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<td>Week 7 (Oct 9th)</td>
<td>Chapter 7 – Social Process and Social Development</td>
<td>Textbook (pp 121-148)</td>
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<td>Week 8 (Oct 16th)</td>
<td>Chapter 8 – Social Conflict</td>
<td>Textbook (pp 149-170)</td>
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<td>Online Assignment #4 Posted on Blackboard – Due Date Oct 20th (Sun) at 11:59 p.m.</td>
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<td>Week 9 (Oct 23rd)</td>
<td>Chapter 9 – Criminal Victimization</td>
<td>Read Textbook (pp 171-194)</td>
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<td>NOTE: Midterm Grades Due Oct 30th (Wednesday)</td>
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<td>Week 10 (Oct 30th)</td>
<td>Chapter 10 – Crimes Against Persons</td>
<td>Read Textbook (pp 195-221)</td>
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<td>Online Assignment #5 Posted on Blackboard – Due Date Nov 3rd (Sun) at 11:59 p.m.</td>
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<td>Week 11 (Nov 6th)</td>
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<td>Class Does Not Meet</td>
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<td><strong>Exam #2</strong> (Chapters 6-10)</td>
<td>Exam #2 will be posted on Blackboard – Exam #2 closes Nov 10th (Sun) at 11:59 pm</td>
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<tr>
<td>Week 12 (Nov 13th)</td>
<td>Chapter 11 – Crimes Against Property</td>
<td>Read Textbook (pp 222-264)</td>
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<td>Chapter 12 – White-Collar and Organized Crime</td>
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<tr>
<td>Date</td>
<td>Topic and Chapter</td>
<td>Assignments/ Additional Information</td>
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<tr>
<td>Week 13 (Nov 20th)</td>
<td>Chapter 13 – Drug and Sex Crimes</td>
<td>Read Textbook (pp 265-295)</td>
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<td>Chapter 14 – Technology and Crime</td>
<td>Online Assignment #6 Posted on Blackboard – Due Date Nov 24th (Sun) at 11:59 p.m.</td>
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<td>Week 14 (Nov 27th)</td>
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<td>Class Does Not Meet</td>
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<td>Thanksgiving Holiday</td>
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<td>Week 15 (Dec 4th)</td>
<td>Chapter 15 – Globalization and Terrorism</td>
<td>Read Textbook (pp 296-309)</td>
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<td>Exam Review</td>
<td>Last Class Meeting of the Semester</td>
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<tr>
<td>Week 16 (TBA)</td>
<td>Final Exam (Chapters 11-15)</td>
<td>Class Does Not Meet</td>
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<td>Final Exam Posted on Blackboard – Exam Closes on TBA</td>
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