Criminology
CRJU 2004 B
Department of Criminal Justice
College of Arts & Letters
University of North Georgia

Instructor: Dr. Samantha Balemba
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Office Hours: Monday, Wednesday, Friday 8:50 AM – 9:50 AM
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PREREQUISITES
CRJU 1100

TEXT BOOKS


Note: You may use the 11th edition for the purposes of this class as well. However, all exams are based on these versions of the text and I cannot vouch for any previous versions. Use of an earlier version is at your own risk.

COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course explores criminological theory and its policy implications from the late 18th century to the present. Emphasis is on social and social-psychological explanations of criminality. Students will also evaluate how crime is measured and the strengths and weaknesses of those measurements.

COURSE OBJECTIVES

- Understand the major theoretical perspective of criminal and deviant behaviors
- Analyze the past and present literature in criminology
- Evaluate how crime is measured and the strengths and weaknesses of those measurements
- Understand how criminological theory shapes criminal justice policy and practice

METHOD OF INSTRUCTION

In-class lectures

Note: If you need this document in another format, please email Dr. Balemba at samantha.balemba@ung.edu or call 706-864-1871.
EVALUATION METHODS

Exam 1 15%
Exam 2 15%
Exam 3 15%
Exam 4 (Final Exam) 15%
Term Paper 25%
Assignments 15%

90 – 100% = A
80 – 89.9% = B
70 – 79.9% = C
60 – 69.9% = D
≤ 59.9% = F

ASSIGNMENTS

Assignments will consist of short (1-2 page) reflection papers. Each student must complete THREE such papers throughout the semester. However, I want you to write about something YOU care about, so you get to choose the week you complete each assignment, based on that week’s reading. The first assignment will be completed within the first five weeks (so, you choose one of the first four chapters), the second will be completed within the next four weeks (so, chapters 5-8), and the third within the next five weeks (chapters 9-12). Whichever week you choose, you must submit the assignment by the FRIDAY OF THAT WEEK. The deadlines are simply the LAST week you can submit for each assignment.

More information about assignment specifics will be provided in the first lecture and on D2L.

LATE ASSIGNMENTS WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED. This means that each assignment MUST be in by the FRIDAY of the week you have chosen at 4:00 PM to count for that week.

TERM PAPER

Your term paper will be a 4 – 5 page compare and contrast paper. You will choose two theories to compare and discuss the strengths and weaknesses of each theory, part of which will identify each theory’s applicability to crime and the impact on the Criminal Justice System.

More information about term paper specifics will be provided in the first lecture and on D2L.

LATE TERM PAPERS WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED. This means that your term paper MUST be in by FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 13th at 4:00 PM.
ATTENDANCE POLICY

Per university policy, once you reach three documented absences in this course for any reason (~10% of course meetings), I will initiate a class withdrawal. If this occurs prior to the midpoint of the term, a W will be entered. If this occurs after the midpoint of the term, a WF will be entered. Students that are unable to attend class due to university-sponsored events must notify me prior to leaving for the event in writing and meet with me during office hours (or at a scheduled appointment) in order to avoid being counted absent for the event. You are given four absences to use prior to being withdrawn from the course. These are intended to be used for sickness, family issues, work, etc. I do not require documentation for these issues.

SUPPLEMENTAL SYLLABUS

Students are expected to refer to the Supplemental Syllabus for the following information:

1. Academic Exchange
2. Academic Integrity Policy¹
3. Academic Success Plan Program
4. Class Evaluations
5. Course Grades and Withdrawal Process
6. Disruptive Behavior Policy
7. Inclement Weather
8. Smoking Policy
9. Students with Disabilities

The supplemental syllabus can be located at:
http://ung.edu/academic-affairs/policies-and-guidelines/supplemental-syllabus.php

¹ Incidents of academic dishonesty are taken very seriously. Cheating on tests or assignments will result in an automatic 0 for the test/assignment as well as a possible F in the course and the filing of an incident report. Plagiarism will also not be tolerated, and can include intentional use of another’s work without proper citation as well as using material already prepared and/or submitted for another course. If you have any questions or concerns about this policy, please come talk to me BEFORE submitting potentially dishonest work.
COURSE SCHEDULE

WEEK 1: August 17th – 21st
WHAT IS THIS CRIMINOLOGY THING?
Concepts of Crime, Law, and Criminology
READING: Siegel, Ch. 1

WEEK 2: August 24th – 28th
WHAT DO CRIME PATTERNS LOOK LIKE AND HOW CAN WE TELL?
The Nature and Extent of Crime
READING: Siegel, Ch. 2

WEEK 3: August 31st – September 4th
WHAT ABOUT THE VICTIMS?
Victims and Victimization
READING: Siegel, Ch. 3

WEEK 4: September 7th – 11th
No reading for this week. Just catch-up and studying!

EXAM 1: THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 10TH (Chapters 1-3)

WEEK 5: September 14th – 18th
THE CHOICE TO COMMIT CRIME (OR TO DO ANYTHING!)
Rational Choice Theory
READING: Siegel, Ch. 4

ASSIGNMENT 1 must be submitted on or before this week.

WEEK 6: September 21st – 25th
WHAT DO BIOLOGY AND PSYCHOLOGY HAVE TO DO WITH IT?
Trait Theories
READING: Siegel, Ch. 5

WEEK 7: September 28th – October 2nd
OK, THEN WHAT ABOUT SOCIOLOGY?
Social Structure Theories
READING: Siegel, Ch. 6
WEEK 8: October 5th – 9th
WHAT’S THE IMPACT OF FAMILY AND LEARNING?
Social Process Theories
READING: Siegel, Ch. 7

EXAM 2 – THURSDAY, OCTOBER 8th (Chapters 4-6)

WEEK 9: October 12th – 16th
WHO’S THAT MARX GUY?
Critical Criminology and Restorative Justice
READING: Siegel, Ch. 8

ASSIGNMENT 2 must be submitted on or before this week.

October 12th: Last day to drop class without a penalty

WEEK 10: October 19th – 23rd
HOW DO CRIMINALS DEVELOP OVER TIME?
Developmental Theories
READING: Siegel, Ch. 9

WEEK 11: October 26th – 30th
MURDER, RAPE, AND ROBBERY (Part 1)
Interpersonal Violence
READING: Siegel, Ch. 10

EXAM 3 – THURSDAY, OCTOBER 29th (Chapters 7-9)

WEEK 12: November 2nd – 6th
MURDER, RAPE, AND ROBBERY (Part 2)²
Interpersonal Violence
READING: Siegel, Ch. 10

THURSDAY REGULAR CLASS CANCELLED
Office hours also cancelled Thursday and Friday.
(Because I’ll be representing UNG at a Georgia conference!)

² Note: If you are choosing Chapter 10 for your Assignment 3, you can submit either Week 11 or Week 12.
WEEK 13: November 9th – 13th
CRIMES AGAINST THE COUNTRY
Political Crime and Terrorism
READING: Siegel, Ch. 11

TERM PAPER DUE FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 13TH BY 4:00PM!!!