



**Florida State University
College of Criminology and Criminal Justice**

CCJ 3011 Criminology

Credit Hours: 3
Meeting Time: Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays, 1:20-2:10pm
Meeting Location: Bellamy 00116

Professor: Joseph A. Schwartz, Ph.D.
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Phone: (850) 644-7949
Office: College of Criminology and Criminal Justice Building, 304A
Office hours: Tuesdays & Thursdays 7:30am-9:00am (and by appointment)

TAs: Chris Cassity
Email: cde20ct@my.fsu.edu
Office: Criminology and Criminal Justice Building, 304
Office hours: Mondays 12:00-2:00pm (and by appointment)

What you Will Learn

This course introduces an examination of the field of criminology, including its theories, basic assumptions, and definitions. More specifically, the course will focus on the foundations of criminology and criminological thought, explanations of criminal behavior (criminological theories), and special topics within the field of criminology. The primary goal of this course is to provide students with the preliminary tools necessary to critically evaluate criminal behaviors and common explanations for such behaviors. To accomplish this goal, particular emphasis will be placed on using an empirically based approach to understanding the underlying causes of criminal behavior.

Course Objectives

The main objectives of this course are:

1. To be able to describe how crime is measured
2. To be able to identify changes in criminal behavior over time
3. To be able to discuss general classifications explanations of crime
4. To be able to identify elements of a good criminological theory
5. To be able to discuss major shifts in criminological theories over time
6. To be able to describe the methodological approaches used in criminological research
7. To be able to evaluate research designs used in criminological research
8. To be able to identify key criminological theorists
9. To be able to identify limitations of key criminological theories
10. To be able to distinguish between key criminological perspectives

Required Course Materials

Book

Brown, S. E., Esbensen, F. A., & Geis, G. (2019). *Criminology: Explaining Crime and its Context* (10th ed.). Waltham, MA: Anderson. ISBN: 9781138601796.

Other Materials

You need to make sure that you have stable and reliable access to the Internet, as well as the ability to view and read PDF files, watch streaming audio/video, and use word processing programs. If you do not have a reliable Internet connection at home, you need to set aside time in your schedule to access the online material from a computer with a sufficient connection speed. Not having appropriate access to Internet/computer resources is not a valid excuse for late assignments or incomplete materials.

Evaluation and Grading

Course grades will be based on the following:

| | |
|-------------------------------|--------------------|
| Discussion Briefs (5): | 150 points (15%) |
| Online Quizzes (5): | 100 points (10%) |
| Exam 1: | 250 points (25%) |
| Exam 2: | 250 points (25%) |
| Exam 3: | 250 points (25%) |
| Total points possible: | 1000 points |

Grading Scale

| | | | |
|----|--------|----|----------|
| A | 93-100 | C | 74-76 |
| A- | 90-92 | C- | 70-73 |
| B+ | 87-89 | D+ | 67-69 |
| B | 84-86 | D | 64-66 |
| B- | 80-83 | D- | 60-63 |
| C+ | 77-79 | F | Below 60 |

Course Structure and Format

This is a traditional, in-person course with topics organized around the weeks of the semester. Your overall grade in the class will be based on your performance on three separate components:

Discussion Briefs

On Monday of each week, I will post a discussion question or prompt and you will be expected to submit a response by the following **Friday at 11:59 pm EST** on Canvas. Depending on the content covered and the questions/prompts supplied for each week, responses are expected to vary in length, but should consist of **at least 2-3 paragraphs** to adequately engage the provided questions/prompts. Discussion briefs are worth 20 points each for a total of 100 possible course points (30 points × 5 briefs = 150 course points).

Discussion briefs are expected to meet the following requirements in order to receive full credit:

1. The brief must effectively address all parts of the discussion question/prompt
2. The brief must ***cite and reference*** all assigned readings and any other materials referenced in the brief

3. The brief must convey that you have read all of the required readings for that week
4. Briefs must be free from grammatical errors, well-written, and proofread prior to submitting
5. The brief should be submitted before the deadlines listed above

Weekly discussion posts that meet these minimum requirements will receive full credit. Posts that do not meet the minimum requirements will receive a lower grade. Discussion briefs cannot be made up and late posts will not be accepted. A grading rubric for discussion briefs will be provided to give an a more direct example of these expectations, how briefs will be graded, and how students can receive full credit.

Briefs will be submitted on Canvas as a Word (.doc or docx) document. However, as mentioned above, students are expected to bring a copy of their brief with them when attending the Discussion section each week.

Online Quizzes

Five quizzes will be administered on Canvas throughout the semester. Each quiz is worth 20 course points for a total of 100 overall points (20 points × 5 quizzes = 100 points). Quizzes typically consist of 10 practice exam questions in multiple choice and true/false format. All quizzes are due by **Friday at 11:59pm EST** of the week they are assigned, and all due dates are listed in the course schedule.

Exams

Three exams will be administered in class throughout the semester. Each exam consists of 50 multiple choice and true/false questions worth four points each, for a total of 250 possible points per exam (5 points × 50 questions = 250 points). The dates in which exams will be administered are included in the calendar on Canvas and are also listed in the course schedule.

Policies and Requirements

Course Expectations

You are highly encouraged to attend each and every class meeting. Information will be covered in class that is not in the PowerPoint slides or the assigned readings. If you miss a class meeting, I highly recommend that you borrow notes from one of your fellow students and talk to me and/or the course TA about any additional clarification you may need. I do not post my PowerPoint slides on Canvas and will not provide students who have missed a class with my notes.

In addition, the following expectations will be enforced:

1. All readings are expected to be completed by the assigned date.
2. You are expected to complete all assignments on time.
3. Plagiarism and cheating will not be tolerated. Note the Academic Honor Policy below.
4. Extend courtesy and respect to your fellow classmates at all times. Disrespect or hateful speech of any kind directed toward other students, myself, or anyone else will not be tolerated.
5. If you have any problem or experience any unforeseen circumstances, do not hesitate to contact me. The sooner you inform me of an issue, the more options we have to get it resolved.
6. Except for changes that substantially affect implementation of the evaluation (grading) statement, this syllabus is a guide for the course and is subject to change with advance notice.
7. All work must be original and created for this semester's course.

Grade Change Requests, Extra Credit, Late/Make Up Work and Rounding

I know it is tempting to **request more points** or a change to your grade as we move through the semester. Besides, "it never hurts to ask," right? I've deliberately designed this course to provide you with as many

opportunities as possible to achieve the grade you have in mind. There are many, many opportunities for points outside of exams, which gives you far more control over your final grade in the class. With that in mind, I cannot accommodate grade change requests, appeals for more points, or any similar requests. For these reasons, any requests will be ignored, and I will not respond to emails making these requests.

In regard to **extra credit**, I will not provide extra credit to individual students. Any extra credit opportunities will be made available to the entire class, at my discretion, and will be announced via Canvas in full detail. Please do not ask for extra credit. If an extra credit opportunity becomes available, I will announce it to the entire class.

Late work will only be considered or accepted in exceptional circumstances. Specifically, students must 1) notify me within 24 hours of missing the assignment, AND 2) provide me with a university approved excuse for missing the assignment (see the “University Attendance Policy” below for what constitutes a university approved excuse). I may request written documentation for the excuse if necessary. If this procedure is not followed, you will receive a score of zero for the assignment. Any make up exams may consist of entirely of short answer questions and administered using Honorlock.

Grades are **rounded** to the nearest whole number when calculating your final grade. For example, an 89.5 (or greater) will round to a 90, but an 89.4 will round to an 89. This is the only rounding that will take place for this course. I do not round individual assignment, quiz, or exam grades. Any requests for additional rounding or another form of rounding will not receive a response.

University Attendance Policy

Excused absences include documented illness, deaths in the family and other documented crises, call to active military duty or jury duty, religious holy days, and official University activities. These absences will be accommodated in a way that does not arbitrarily penalize students who have a valid excuse. Consideration will also be given to students whose dependent children experience serious illness.

Academic Honor Policy

The Florida State University Academic Honor Policy outlines the University's expectations for the integrity of students' academic work, the procedures for resolving alleged violations of those expectations, and the rights and responsibilities of students and faculty members throughout the process. Students are responsible for reading the Academic Honor Policy and for living up to their pledge to "...be honest and truthful and...[to] strive for personal and institutional integrity at Florida State University." (Florida State University Academic Honor Policy, found at <http://fda.fsu.edu/Academics/Academic-Honor-Policy>).

While you are encouraged to support one another and work collaboratively when appropriate, plagiarism or other academic dishonesty of any kind will not be tolerated in this class. Incidents of cheating or plagiarism of any type will be rigorously pursued. Any form of academic dishonesty will result in a grade of “zero” for that particular assignment. I reserve the right to screen for plagiarism, including electronic citation checkers (e.g., SafeAssign). For this course, you may be required to submit assignments to SafeAssign. All written materials will become source documents in the SafeAssign database and will be used solely for the purpose of detecting plagiarism.

Academic Success

Your academic success is a top priority for Florida State University. University resources to help you succeed include tutoring centers, computer labs, counseling and health services, and services for designated groups, such as veterans and students with disabilities. The following information is not exhaustive, so please check with your advisor or the Dean of Students office to learn more.

Americans with Disabilities Act

Florida State University (FSU) values diversity and inclusion; we are committed to a climate of mutual respect and full participation. Our goal is to create learning environments that are usable, equitable, inclusive, and welcoming. FSU is committed to providing reasonable accommodations for all persons with disabilities in a manner that is consistent with academic standards of the course while empowering the student to meet integral requirements of the course.

To receive academic accommodations, a student:

1. Must register with and provide documentation to the Office of Accessibility Services (OAS)
2. Must provide a letter from OAS to the instructor indicating the need for accommodation and what type
3. Should communicate with the instructor, as needed, to discuss recommended accommodations. A request for a meeting may be initiated by the student or the instructor.

Please note that instructors are not allowed to provide classroom accommodations to a student until appropriate verification from the Office of Accessibility Services has been provided.

This syllabus and other class materials are available in alternative format upon request.

For more information about services available to FSU students with disabilities, contact the

Office of Accessibility Services
874 Traditions Way
108 Student Services Building
Florida State University
Tallahassee, FL 32306-4167
(850) 644-9566 (voice)
(850) 644-8504 (TDD)
oas@fsu.edu
<https://dsst.fsu.edu/oas>

Confidential Campus Resources

Various centers and programs are available to assist students with navigating stressors that might impact academic success. These include the following:

Victim Advocate Program
University Center A, Rm. 4100
(850) 644-7161
Available 24/7/365
Office Hours: M-F 8-5
<https://dsst.fsu.edu/vap>

Counseling and Psychological Services
Askew Student Life Center, 2nd floor
942 Learning Way
(850) 644-8255
<https://counseling.fsu.edu/>

University Health Services
Health and Wellness Center
(850) 644-6230
<https://uhs.fsu.edu/>

Expectations Regarding COVID-19 and the Ongoing Pandemic

I will do everything in my power to ensure that we continue to hold class in a face-to-face format this semester. We've all been through a lot in the past couple of years and I, as much as anyone, am excited about returning to "normal," particularly in regard to teaching, my interactions with students, and everyday life on campus. With that said, I can only do so much to keep all of you and myself safe and healthy, with the ultimate goal of continuing to meet in person for the entire semester. I need your help and cooperation as well. The university has explicitly outlined what you can do to help us all work toward these goals:

- **Wear a face covering or mask at all times when inside any FSU facility, even if you are vaccinated.** This includes all of our students, faculty, staff, vendors and visitors. Recent studies and guidance from the CDC state that both unvaccinated and vaccinated individuals can transmit the current COVID-19 variant to unvaccinated persons. We expect you to help mitigate the spread by wearing a mask.
- **Get vaccinated against COVID-19, even if you've had COVID-19 in the past.** If possible, aim to be fully vaccinated, but if unable, strive to have at least one shot of Pfizer or Moderna vaccine no later than August 22. Please visit vaccine.fsu.edu for walk-in clinic dates and hours at the Tucker Center in Tallahassee or vaccines.gov to locate a COVID-19 vaccine provider near you.
- **Stay home when sick, self-quarantine and get tested for COVID-19 no sooner than 24 hours after your symptoms begin.** You can test for no cost at the Tucker Center. Schedule your test at uhs.fsu.edu/coronavirus/testing.
- **Continue to practice good hygiene habits such as washing your hands frequently.**

CCJ 3011 Spring 2022 Course Schedule

| Date | Topic | Readings | Stuff To Do |
|---------------------------------|--|--------------------------|---|
| Week 1 (week of 1/5) | Introduction to Course | None | 1. Core Course Pre-Quiz (EXTRA CREDIT) |
| Week 2 (week of 1/10) | What is Criminology? | Brown, Chapter 1 | 1. Quiz #1 |
| Week 3 (week of 1/17) | Measures of Crime | Brown, Chapter 2 | <p>***Class cancelled Monday, 1/17 for Martin Luther King, Jr. Day***</p> 1. Discussion #1 |
| Week 4 (week of 1/24) | Distributions of Crime | Brown, Chapter 3 | 1. Quiz #2 |
| Week 5 (week of 1/31) | Wrap up Distributions of Crime | None | 1. Exam #1 Review 2. Exam #1 on Friday, 2/4 |
| Week 6 (week of 2/7) | Biosocial Criminology Overview | Schwartz et al. (Canvas) | 1. Discussion #2 |
| Week 7 (week of 2/14) | Rational Choice Theory | Brown, Chapter 4 | 1. Quiz #3 |
| Week 8 (week of 2/21) | Social Structure Theories | Brown, Chapter 6 | 1. Discussion #3 |
| Week 9 (week of 2/28) | Social Process Theories Part I (Learning Theories) | Brown, pp. 267-293 | 1. Quiz #4 |
| Week 10 (week of 3/7) | Wrap up Social Process Theories Part I (Learning Theories) | None | 1. Exam #2 Review 2. Exam #2 on Friday, 3/11 |

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|--------------------------------------|---|--------------------|---|
| Week 11 (week of 3/14) | ***Spring Break - Class Cancelled 3/14 - 3/18*** | | |
| Week 12 (week of 3/21) | Social Process Theories Part II (Control Theories) | Brown, pp. 293-317 | 1. Discussion #4 |
| Week 13 (week of 3/28) | Social Reaction Theories | Chapter 8 | 1. Quiz #5 |
| Week 14 (week of 4/4) | Life-Course & Developmental Theories | Brown, Chapter 9 | |
| Week 15 (week of 4/11) | Life-Course & Developmental Theories | Brown, Chapter 9 | 1. Discussion #5 |
| Week 16 (week of 4/18) | Special Topics in Criminology | None | 1. Exam #3 Review 2. Core Course Post- Quiz (EXTRA CREDIT) |
| Finals Week (Week of 4/25) | *** Exam #3 is scheduled for Wednesday, 4/27, 12:30-2:30pm in Bellamy 00116*** | | |

Syllabus Change Policy

Except for changes that substantially affect implementation of the evaluation (grading) statement, this syllabus is a guide for the course and is subject to change with advance notice.