



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

CCJ 3011 Criminology

Credit Hours: 3
Meeting Time: Mondays and Wednesdays, 3:05-4:20pm
Meeting Location: Bellamy 0180

Professor: Joseph A. Schwartz, Ph.D.
Email: jaschwartz@fsu.edu
Phone: (850) 644-7949
Office: College of Criminology and Criminal Justice Building, 304A
Office hours: Wednesdays 9:00am-11am (and by appointment)

TAs: Chris Cassity
Email: cde20ct@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

Schram, Pamela J., & Tibbetts, Stephen G. (2021). *Introduction to Criminology: Why Do They Do It?* (3rd ed.). Thousand Oaks, CA: SAGE. ISBN: 9781544375731.

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	94-100	C	74-76
A-	90-93	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 a brief is due, I will post a discussion question or prompt and you will be expected to submit a response by the following **Sunday 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 30 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 **should not contain direct quotes**, including but not limited to quotes that are not properly presented and/or cited (which are flagged by the anti-plagiarism software).
4. The brief must convey that you have read all of the required readings for that week
5. Briefs must be free from grammatical errors, well-written, and proofread prior to submitting
6. The brief should be submitted before the deadlines listed above

Discussion briefs that meet these minimum requirements will receive full credit. Briefs that do not meet the minimum requirements will receive a lower grade. Discussion briefs cannot be made up and late assignments will not be accepted. A grading rubric for discussion briefs will be provided to give 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.

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 ***Sunday 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 throughout the semester. Each exam consists of 50 multiple choice and true/false questions worth five points each, for a total of 250 possible points per exam (5 points × 50 questions = 250 points). **Exams will be administered during class time via Canvas using Honorlock.** No outside materials are allowed (i.e., closed note and closed book), the exam must be taken in a quiet environment without any interruptions, and students are not allowed to leave the room during the course of the exam. Cell phones, tablets, laptops, smart watches, and any other electronic devices are not permitted. Finally, **all contents of the exam are confidential and should not be copied, recorded, transmitted, retained, or shared by students for any reason.** Failing to follow these requirements will be considered as a violation of the FSU Academic Honor Policy and will be reported as such resulting in a 0 on the exam and any additional reprimands determined by FSU. Exams dates are provided 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, Re-Grading Assignments, 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.

Assignments will be graded as quickly as possible once turned in. It is possible that the course TA or I made a mistake when grading your assignment and I want to ensure that any mistakes are corrected in due course. However, instances of **re-grading** assignments should be reserved for rare situations in which a mistake was made during the grading process. With this in mind, re-grading requests must be made within **5 days of the grades being posted to Canvas**. In addition, for any re-grading request, the course TA and/or I will grade your assignment as if it were a fresh submission, meaning **you are just as likely to lose points as you are to gain them**.

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/>

CCJ 3011 Spring 2023 Course Schedule

Date	Topic	Readings	Stuff To Do
Week 1 (week of 1/9)	Introduction to Course	None	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Core Course Pre-Quiz (EXTRA CREDIT) 2. Practice Honorlock Poll (EXTRA CREDIT)
Week 2 (week of 1/16)	What is Criminology?	Schram & Tibbetts, Chapter 1	<p>***Class cancelled, Monday, 1/16 for MLK Day***</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Quiz #1
Week 3 (week of 1/23)	Measures of Crime	Schram & Tibbetts, Chapter 2	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Discussion #1
Week 4 (week of 1/30)	Distributions of Crime	None	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Quiz #2
Week 5 (week of 2/6)	Wrap up Distributions of Crime	None	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Exam #1 Review 2. Exam #1 on Wednesday, 2/8
Week 6 (week of 2/13)	Biosocial Criminology Overview	Schram & Tibbetts, Chapters 5 & 6	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Discussion #2
Week 7 (week of 2/20)	Rational Choice Theory	Schram & Tibbetts, Chapters 3 & 4	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Quiz #3
Week 8 (week of 2/27)	Social Structure Theories	Schram & Tibbetts, Chapters 8 & 9	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Quiz #4
Week 9 (week of 3/6)	Social Process Theories Part I (Learning Theories)	Schram & Tibbetts, pp. 230-247	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Exam #2 Review 2. Exam #2 on Wednesday, 3/8
Week 10 (week of 3/13)	***No Class—Spring Break***		

Week 11 (week of 3/20)	Wrap up Social Process Theories Part I (Learning Theories)	None	1. Discussion #3
Week 12 (week of 3/27)	Social Process Theories Part II (Control Theories)	Schram & Tibbetts, pp. 247-266	1. Discussion #4
Week 13 (week of 4/3)	Social Reaction Theories	Schram & Tibbetts, Chapter 11	1. Quiz #5
Week 14 (week of 4/10)	Life-Course & Developmental Theories	Schram & Tibbetts, Chapter 13	1. Discussion #5
Week 15 (week of 4/17)	Life-Course & Developmental Theories	Schram & Tibbetts, Chapter 13	None
Week 16 (week of 4/24)	Wrap-Up and Review	None	1. Exam #3 Review 2. Core Course Post-Quiz (EXTRA CREDIT)
Finals Week (Week of 5/1)	*** Exam #3 is scheduled for Thursday, 5/4, 3:00-5:00pm ***		

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.