



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

CCJ 4601 Human Behavior

Credit Hours: 3
Meeting Time: N/A
Meeting Location: N/A

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: Tuesdays & Thursdays 8:00am-9:00am (and by appointment)

TA: Sam Allen
Email: sallen7@fsu.edu
Office hours: By appointment

What you Will Learn

This course is designed to acquaint you with the biological, genetic, and environmental origins to human behavior. Toward this end, we will examine an array of topics including personality development, brain functioning, and the biosocial basis of behavior. Discussion will also center on the manner in which various environmental influences operate through biological mechanisms to influence behavior across different stages of the life course. Particular emphasis will be placed on using empirical-based research to understand the etiology of antisocial conduct.

Course Objectives

The main objectives of this course are:

1. Describe the biosocial perspective and its contributions to the behavioral sciences.
2. Discuss the ways in which biological influences contribute to behavior.
3. Identify key environmental influences on behavior.
4. Discuss the ways biology and environment combine to shape behavior.
5. Evaluate research designs used in criminological research.
6. Discuss prevention programs informed by biosocial research.
7. Discuss the ways biosocial research can guide intervention/rehabilitation programs.
8. Summarize and evaluate the legal and ethical implications of biosocial contributions to behavior.

Required Course Materials

Book

Beaver, K. M. (2019). *Biosocial Criminology: A Primer* (4th Ed.). Dubuque, IA: Kendall/Hunt. ISBN: 978-1-5249-8319-2

NOTE: You are NOT required to buy a book that comes with an online access code.

Course Notes and Presentations

The course site contains notes, presentations, and other supporting materials that provide greater insight into the weekly course content that is not presented in the book but still directly related to the discussed topic. Please note that these materials are intended to supplement the assigned readings and are not a valid replacement for reading the book. Rather, students who do well in the course rely on both the course readings as well as the supplemental notes and presentation materials.

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 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 Board Posts:	260 points (26%)
Online Quizzes:	140 points (14%)
Exam 1:	300 points (30%)
Exam 2:	300 points (30%)
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

The course structure is organized around the weeks of the semester. Each week, I will send out an Announcement that briefly summarizes the material that will be covered. The Announcement will also provide any additional information that assists in better understanding the material covered each week. In addition, the Announcement will also include an outline of the week's objectives, a reminder of any assignments due that week, the weekly discussion question, and any other information useful for that week. In addition to each week's Announcement, a weekly PowerPoint presentation along with other interactive learning materials that reinforce the assigned readings will be made available.

Discussion Board

On Monday of each week a discussion post is due, I will post a discussion topic or prompt and you will be expected to provide a response to one or more of the questions/prompts by the following **Thursday at 11:59 pm EST**. 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. In addition to providing an original posting, you are also required to **post a reply** to at least one other student's original posting by **Sunday at 11:59 pm EST**. Therefore, to receive full credit for each week, you must provide a minimum of two posts: 1) an original post; and 2) a response. Discussion board posts are worth 52 points per week for a total of 260 possible course points (52 points × 5 weeks = 260 course points).

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

1. The post must effectively address at least one discussion question/prompt
2. The post must **cite and reference** all assigned readings and any other materials referenced in the post
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 post must convey that you have read all of the required readings for that week
5. Posts must be free from grammatical errors, well-written, and proofread prior to posting
6. The response post should provide a response that is relevant and engages the selected post
7. The original post and response post should be posted 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. If you fail to post a reply you will lose points. Discussion posts cannot be made up and late posts will not be accepted. A grading rubric for discussion posts will be provided to give an a more direct example of the expectations for discussion posts, how posts will be graded, and how students can receive full credit.

The purpose of the discussion board is to simulate a live classroom experience and to facilitate discussion between students. In line with this objective, I typically will not respond to every discussion post. Rather, I will respond to 1-2 posts per week. This is done purposefully, as I want to provide students as many opportunities as possible to interact with one another rather than take over the conversation. My goal is to facilitate discussion that reinforces course content as well as critical thinking skills.

Canvas Quizzes

Four quizzes will be administered on Canvas throughout the semester. Each quiz is worth 35 course points for a total of 140 overall points (35 points × 4 quizzes = 140 points). Quizzes typically consist of 10 practice exam questions in multiple choice and true/false format. **Students have 30 minutes to complete quizzes.** 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

Two exams will be administered on Canvas throughout the semester. Each exam consists of 50 multiple choice and true/false questions worth six points each, for a total of 300 possible points per exam (6 points × 50 questions = 300 points). Exams will be made available on a Monday and will be due by the following **Friday at 11:59pm EST**. **Students will have 60 minutes to complete each exam.** Late exams will not be accepted. **Exams will be administered on 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. The dates in which exams will be assigned and are due are included in the calendar on Canvas and are also listed in the course schedule.

Policies and Requirements

Course Expectations

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.

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 4601 Summer 2023 (Session A) Course Schedule

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.

Week 1 (week of 5/15)

Topic(s):

- Why Biosocial Criminology?

Assigned Readings:

- Beaver: Chapter 1

Assignments:

- Post a response to the weekly discussion question and at least one reply
 - o ***Post must be posted by Thursday, 5/18 at 11:59pm***
 - o ***Response must be posted by Sunday, 5/21 at 11:59pm***
- Quiz #1
 - o ***Quiz must be completed by Sunday, 5/21 at 11:59pm***

Week 2 (week of 5/22)

Topic(s):

- Genetic Origins to Antisocial Behavior

Assigned Readings:

- Chapter 2

Assignments:

- Post a response to the weekly discussion question and at least one reply
 - o ***Post must be posted by Thursday, 5/25 at 11:59pm***
 - o ***Response must be posted by Sunday, 5/28 at 11:59pm***
- Quiz #2
 - o ***Quiz must be completed by Sunday, 5/28 at 11:59pm***

Week 3 (week of 5/29)

Topic(s):

- Gene-Environment Interplay

Assigned Readings:

- Chapter 3

Assignments:

- Post a response to the weekly discussion question and at least one reply
 - o ***Post must be posted by Thursday, 6/1 at 11:59pm***
 - o ***Response must be posted by Sunday, 6/4 at 11:59pm***

Exam #1

- **Exam opens on Monday, 5/29 and must be completed by Friday, 6/2 at 11:59pm**

Week 4 (week of 6/5)

Topic(s):

- Brain and Behavior

Assigned Readings:

- Chapter 4

Assignments:

- Post a response to the weekly discussion question and at least one reply
 - o **Post must be posted by Thursday, 6/8 at 11:59pm**
 - o **Response must be posted by Sunday, 6/11 at 11:59pm**
- Quiz #3
 - o **Quiz must be completed by Sunday, 6/11 at 11:59pm**

Week 5 (week of 6/12)

Topic(s):

- Environmental Influences on Antisocial Behavior

Assigned Readings:

- Chapter 5

Assignments:

- Post a response to the weekly discussion question and at least one reply
 - o **Post must be posted by Thursday, 6/15 at 11:59pm**
 - o **Response must be posted by Sunday, 6/18 at 11:59pm**
- Quiz #4
 - o **Quiz must be completed by Sunday, 6/18 at 11:59pm**

Week 6 (week of 6/19)

Topic(s):

- Prevention, Treatment, and Future Directions

Assigned Readings:

- Chapters 6 & 8

Assignments:

- None, prep for Exam #2

Exam #2

- **Exam opens on Monday, 6/19 and must be completed by Friday, 6/23 at 11:59pm**