

CCJ3011 - Criminology
Fall 2023
Monday and Wednesday 3:05-4:20 p.m., HCB 205

Instructor: William M. Casey, Ph.D.

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Office Hours: Thursday 2:00–4:00p.m., or by appointment

COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course introduces an examination of the field of criminology, including its historical development, theories, basic assumptions, and definitions. The course will focus on the foundations of criminology and criminological thought, explanations of criminal behavior (criminological theories), and the policies and programs derived from those explanations. We will also pay particular attention to the empirical evidence regarding the validity of the common explanations of crime. The knowledge gained in this course will help students develop the critical thinking skills needed to evaluate criminal behavior, explanations of that behavior, and the programs and policies that are developed based on those explanations.

COURSE OBJECTIVES

Students who successfully complete this course will be able to:

- (1) Discuss the historical development of the field of criminology
- (2) Demonstrate knowledge of basic criminological concepts and theories
- (3) Identify key criminological theorists
- (4) Identify limitations of criminological theories
- (5) Distinguish between criminological theories
- (6) Discuss why we should use evidence-based crime control policies
- (7) Identify how criminological theories influence crime control policies

READING MATERIAL

Required:

Introduction to Criminology: Why Do They Do It? (3rd Ed.) by Pamela J. Schram and Stephen G. Tibbetts. ISBN: 978-1-0718-2833-5.

On occasion I will provide additional required reading material (e.g., Journal Articles, News articles, etc.). I will post these on Canvas.

Optional:

Gehring, K. S. & Bautista, M. R. (2016-2021). *CrimComics Issues 1-11*. Oxford University Press.

EXAMS, WRITING ASSIGNMENTS, CLASS PARTICIPATION, EXTRA CREDIT, AND GRADES

Exams (60% of grade). You are required to take four exams (three exams and a final). Exams are not cumulative. There is no dropping of your lowest exam grade. Each exam must be taken at its scheduled day/time (as scheduled on the syllabus). Each exam will be worth 45 points, cumulatively the exams are worth 180 points. Each exam will include 30 questions, 15 multiple choice (worth one point each), 10 true-false (worth one point each), and 5 short answer (worth four points each). During the class prior to the exam, we will conduct a review day as a class. During the review, I will go over the major topics covered in the unit and will answer (within reason) any questions that you all have about the exam or the material that will be covered on the exam. Any material that is covered (during the lecture, on the power point slides, in the class readings, or in any videos we watch) may be included in the exam.

Writing Assignments (30% of grade). There are two at home writing assignments for this course (each worth 45 points, total of 90 points). Each writing assignment must be turned in to Canvas by midnight on the due date of the assignment. The page requirements are a minimum of 3 pages and a maximum of 5 pages (12-point font, times new roman, double spaced). The topic of the writing assignments will focus on the theory(ies) that we are covering during that part of the semester. The purpose of the writing assignments are to test (1) your knowledge of the material covered in the course, and (2) your ability to answer the question clearly and concisely. More specific instructions on these assignments will be provided later in the semester.

Class participation (10% of grade). Each student is expected to read the assigned material and contribute to class discussion (class participation is worth a total of 30 points). Students should come to class with notes over major themes in the reading and specific topics or questions to be raised. All students will be involved in the discussion.

Extra credit quizzes. You are expected to attend all class meetings, complete all readings, and to actively engage in class discussions. To encourage class attendance and reading there will be 12 extra credit points offered during the semester. These will come from three pop quizzes worth up to four points each (2 points if you are in class and take the quiz, 2 points if you get all answers correct). The information included in the quizzes will come from the reading material to be covered in class that day. The extra credit quizzes give you an opportunity to improve your grade. **As such, no other adjustments will be made to grades at the end of the semester.**

NOTE: Final grade percentages ending with a decimal of 0.5 or higher will be rounded up to the next percentage point. Under no other circumstances will final grades be adjusted, rounded, or negotiated. I will not respond to emails asking for grade adjustments.

Final grades will be computed by dividing your point total by 300 (the total number of points you are being held accountable for) to produce an average. Below are the thresholds used to determine your grade:

A	=	94 (282 pts)	C	=	74 (222 pts)
A-	=	90 (270 pts)	C-	=	70 (210 pts)
B+	=	87 (261 pts)	D+	=	67 (201 pts)
B	=	84 (252 pts)	D	=	64 (192 pts)
B-	=	80 (240 pts)	D-	=	60 (180 pts)
C+	=	77 (231 pts)	F	=	Below 60 (179 pts or below)

COURSE & UNIVERSITY POLICIES

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/academic-resources/academic-integrity-and-grievances/academic-honor-policy>)

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 Department of Student Support and Transitions 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.

Students with disabilities needing academic accommodation should:

- (1) register with and provide documentation to the Office of Accessibility Services; and
- (2) request a letter from the Office of Accessibility Services to be sent to the instructor indicating the need for accommodation and what type; and,
- (3) meet (in person, via phone, email, skype, zoom, etc...) with each instructor to whom a letter of accommodation was sent to review approved accommodations.

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 the latest version of this statement and 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/
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Courtesy, respect, and professionalism. Please arrive at class on time prepared to discuss the materials assigned. During class, please do not be disruptive or engage in side conversations or activities. Instead, actively contribute to and engage in class discussions.

Free tutoring from FSU. On-campus tutoring and writing assistant is available for many courses at Florida State University. For more information, visit the Academic Center for Excellence (ACE) Tutoring Services’ comprehensive list of on-campus tutoring options – see <http://ace.fsu.edu/tutoring> or contact tutor@fsu.edu. High quality tutoring is available by appointment and on a walk-in basis. These services are offered by tutors trained to encourage the highest level of individual academic success while upholding personal academic integrity.

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.

Recording. In this class, consistent with state law and university policy, students are permitted to make recordings of class lectures for personal use only. As noted, sharing, posting, or publishing classroom recordings may subject you to honor code violations and legal penalties

associated with theft of intellectual property and violations of other state law. Moreover, students and educators have expressed concern that recording classroom activities may negatively impact the learning experience for others, especially in classes that involve questions, discussion, or participation. To protect a learning environment in which everyone feels free to experiment with ideas, we ask you refrain from recording in ways that could make others feel reluctant to ask questions, explore new ideas, or otherwise participate in class. Students must monitor their recording so that they do not include participation by other students without permission. Students with disabilities will continue to have appropriate accommodations for recordings as established by the Office of Accessibility Services.

COURSE CALENDAR & REQUIRED READING

Week	Date	Topics & Required Reading
Week 1	8/28 (M) 8/30 (W)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Syllabus overview, course introduction, and pre-test What is Criminology? Read Ch. 1
Week 2	9/4 (M) 9/6 (W)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No Class: Labor Day How do we measure crime? Read Ch. 2
Week 3	9/11 (M) 9/13 (W)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Classical School of Criminology Read Ch. 3 Deterrence & Rational Choice Theories Read Ch. 4
Week 4	9/18 (M) 9/20 (W)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Exam 1 review Exam 1
Week 5	9/25 (M) 9/27 (W) 9/29 (F)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Early Positivism and Biosocial theories Read Ch. 5 Video on MAOA aka “the Warrior Gene” Prompt for writing assignment 1 posted on Canvas
Week 6	10/2 (M) 10/4 (W) 10/6 (F)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Modern Biosocial theories Read Ch. 6 Psychological/trait theories Read Ch. 7 Writing assignment 1 due at midnight
Week 7	10/9 (M) 10/11 (W)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Strain Theories Read Ch. 8 Social disorganization and subcultural theories Read Ch. 9
Week 8	10/16 (M) 10/18 (W)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Exam 2 review day Exam 2
Week 9	10/23 (M) 10/25 (W)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Learning theories Read Ch. 10 Social Control theory Read Ch. 10
Week 10	10/30 (M) 11/1 (W)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Self-control theory Read Ch. 10 Labeling theory Read Ch. 11
Week 11	11/6 (M) 11/8 (W)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Exam 3 review day Exam 3
Week 12	11/13 (M) 11/15 (W) 11/17 (F)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Developmental and life-course perspectives Read Ch. 13 No Class: American Society of Criminology Annual Meeting Prompt for writing assignment 2 posted on Canvas
Week 13	11/20 (M) 11/22 (W)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No Class: Thanksgiving Break No Class: Thanksgiving Break

Week 14	11/27 (M) 11/29 (W) 12/1 (F)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Developmental and life-course perspectives Read Ch. 13 • Special Topic: Topic & readings will be announced later in the semester • Writing assignment 2 due at midnight
Week 15	12/4 (M) 12/6 (W)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Special Topic: Topic & readings will be announced later in the semester • Final exam review day
Week 16	12/14 (Th)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Final Exam: 3:00PM – 5:00PM