Criminology

CRIMINAL JUSTICE 3313

Credits: 3-0
Required course for criminal justice majors
Prerequisites: CRIJ 1306 with a grade of "C" or better and junior standing

PROFESSOR

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Website: http://utminers.utep.edu/trcurry/

REQUIRED READINGS

Barkan, Steven E. (2012) Criminology: A Sociological Understanding (5th Ed.). Upper Saddle
River, NJ: Prentice-Hall. ISBN-10: 0135109795; ISBN-13: 978-0135109793

❖ Be sure to get the correct edition of this text.

DESCRIPTION & INTRODUCTION

This course is required for criminal justice majors and is intended to provide students with a broad overview of the study of criminology or, more specifically, the study of law making, law breaking and law enforcement. As these topics are addressed, the course will focus on theory as well as empirical research testing these theories. Gender, race/ethnicity, and social class represent themes that will be applied to a wide variety of issues throughout the course. In addition, emphasis is placed on white collar crime, as well as street crime.

GOALS & OBJECTIVES

The subject matter of this course is intended to provide essential knowledge for criminal justice students or for any student interested in crime and the criminal justice system. More specifically, upon successful completion of this course, students will be able to demonstrate a thorough knowledge of the various sources of criminal justice data and the key facts these data provide. Students will have developed the skills necessary to apply these facts to a variety of theories and, more generally, to evaluate the adequacy and utility of these theories. Students will also be able to appreciate how the criminal justice system both reflects and influences the larger society and have the capacity to discuss how gender, race/ethnicity and social class matter to this fundamental social institution.

LEARNING

Online classes place greater responsibility for learning the material onto the student, compared to face-to-face classes. You will learn by reading the assignments and completing quizzes and exams regarding what you have read. I will help you learn the material by providing written summaries of each reading assignment that identify major themes, key terms, and essential information. I can further help you by answering your questions and concerns through regular UTEP email or posts on the bulletin board (Ted's Tavern).

FORMAT & OVERVIEW

This course is NOT self-paced. Instead, this course is based on **weekly modules that open each Sunday morning at 12:30am and close the following Saturday at midnight (with a 24 hour grace period)**. Students are to have completed all work for the module by Saturday at midnight. As a convenience, however, students are given a 24 hour grace period (until Sunday at midnight) to complete and submit any unsubmitted work. The aim is for all students to have submitted all work by Saturday at midnight, and use the 24 hour grace period only in

emergencies. Thus, any assignments not submitted before the expiration of the module's grace period will receive a grade of zero (0)—absolutely no exceptions.

Because this course is in a compressed (seven week) format, **the pace is very fast**. In fact, it is about double the pace of a typical 15 week class in terms of readings, papers, exams, quizzes, etc. It is thus easy to get behind and, if you do, it may be difficult if not impossible to catch back up. Again, **once the module completely closes (at the expiration of the grace period), there is no way to go back and submit work you failed to complete.** You must hit the ground running and not let up for seven weeks. If you do this, there is no reason you cannot earn an "A" in the course and learn (and retain) a great deal. But, if you slack off, even for one week, you will set yourself up for a difficult struggle and severely hinder your ability to get a good grade in the course, or even pass it at all.

As outlined in the syllabus, each weekly module will focus on one or two chapters from our textbook. For each of these chapters, your professor has prepared a brief written introduction that is intended to provide guidance and structure to students as they read the chapter. Students should read this introduction <u>before</u> reading the chapter. Students are also encouraged to read the textbook author's summary at the end of each chapter and to pay close attention to the "key terms" that follow the summary. Students may wish to print the professor's written introduction as this information will become inaccessible once a given module closes.

After finishing the week's readings, students will complete a short quiz. Students will also complete two comprehensive examinations during the semester: a mid-term and a final. Again, all quizzes and exams are only available to access and complete during the module for which they are scheduled. **A failure to submit any work before the time the module's grace period expires will result in a grade of zero (0) for all unsubmitted assignments.** Additionally, the quizzes and exams are timed, meaning that once students begin the exam or quiz, they will have a specified amount of time to complete and submit their work. Once that time expires, the quiz or exam will automatically submit, whether you are finished or not.

All assignments, quizzes and exams are "open book," meaning that students can use any class materials they wish when completing these assignments. However, they cannot "collaborate" in any way with any person (whether they are a fellow student or not) when completing the assignments. Doing so constitutes cheating and will be dealt with per the policy on academic dishonesty specified later in the syllabus.

COMMUNICATION

Students will be able to access the professor and each other to ask questions, share concerns, raise ideas, etc. through "Ted's Tavern," which is an open forum discussion board where students can post general questions, comments, and ideas for each other and for the professor. The professor will access Ted's Tavern at least once each business day and post any needed responses. The postings on Ted's Tavern will be continuously available to students throughout the semester. Students are required to read all postings on Ted's Tavern.

Students can also access the professor via email. However, emailing will be done only through UTEP's regular email system as the system Blackboard uses is inefficient. To reiterate, I will not use Blackboard to send emails nor will I check Blackboard's email system for student emails. Again, use only UTEP regular email system for emailing the professor. The professor will check his Blackboard email at least once each business day and respond as soon as possible. Students are required to read all emails from their professor.

REQUIREMENTS

1. **Weekly Quizzes:** Each week students are required to complete a brief 30 multiple choice question quiz over the week's material. Each of the seven quizzes is worth 50 points for a total of 350 points. A grade of zero (0) will be assigned to each quiz not submitted by the time the respective weekly module closes. Students will have 45 minutes to complete the

quiz once they begin. The quiz will automatically submit once time expires, whether you are finished or not.

2. **Comprehensive Exams**: Students will complete <u>two</u> comprehensive examinations, a mid-term and a final, consisting of about 75 multiple choice questions. All class materials, assignments and activities can be the basis of test questions. Each exam is worth 100 points for a total of 200 points. A grade of zero (0) will be assigned to each exam not submitted by the time the respective weekly module closes. Students will have <u>90 minutes</u> to complete the exam once they begin and the exam will automatically submit once time expires, whether you are finished or not.

- Both exams will be <u>comprehensive</u>, meaning they will cover <u>all</u> the material up to that point in the course. However, the exams will only become available in their respective modules once you have completed that module's quiz.

<u>GRADES</u>

<u>Grades are based on the following requirements:</u>

Syllabus Quiz	20 points
Seven Weekly Quizzes	350 points
Two Comprehensive Exams	200 points
Total	570 points

<u>Letter grades are assigned according to the following scale:</u>

A	=	89% and above
B	=	79% - 88%
C	=	69% - 78%
D	=	59% - 68%
F	=	Below 59%

- **Notice** that my grading scale is "curved" 1% in your favor. For example, in most courses a 79% is a C whereas in my class it is a B. This is to avoid the situation where someone misses

receiving a higher grade by a very small margin – because in my class you miss receiving a higher grade by a full percentage point, plus the "very small margin."

- o I apply the grading scale uniformly to all students.
- o I do not "give" grades, but rather I <u>assign</u> grades based exclusively on the points each student earns in the class.
- o <u>Remember, your grade is an accomplishment, not a gift</u>.

- No extra credit assignments will be offered–please do not ask.

- There will be no incompletes (grade of I) offered in this course.

- **Quizzes and exams will be assigned a grade of zero (0) if they are not submitted by the time the grace period expires for each weekly module.**

<u>IMPORTANT REMINDERS</u>

1. This course is based on weekly modules that open each Sunday morning at 12:30am and close the following Saturday at midnight (mountain time), with a 24-hour grace period. Students must submit all work for their assignments <u>before</u> the grace period of the module expires. **Any missing work will receive a grade of zero (0). No exceptions**.

2. <u>The 24-hour grace period is to be used only in emergencies, not as a general practice.</u>

3. The quizzes and exams are timed, meaning that once students begin the exam they will have a limited amount of time to complete and submit their work. The quizzes and exams will automatically close and submit at the end of the time limit if you haven't already submitted it yourself.

4. Do not wait until the last minute to begin exams and quizzes. This way, if you do experience any difficulties with submissions, they can be corrected before the module closes (see "technology issues" below).

5. Do not email me that you had technology problems on Sunday (or got sick or had a family emergency) and want me to reopen a quiz or exam for you, because that will not happen unless there was a system-wide problem with BB.

COMMITMENTS FROM YOUR PROFESSOR

1. I will provide you clear instructions on class expectations.

2. I will check my regular UTEP email at least once each business day and will answer back to you as soon as possible.

3. I will check "Ted's Tavern" at least once each business day and make any needed responses at that time.

4. I will provide graded feedback on your performance in a timely manner.

5. I will make time to discuss your concerns when needed.

6. I am open to suggestions about improvement of the class and class related activities.

7. I will do all I can to ensure your learning and success in this class

8. If any changes in the course are to be implemented, I will ensure that the class is notified in a timely manner.

DISTANCE LEARNING ESSENTIALS

1. Read all postings on the bulletin board (Ted's Tavern) and all emails from your professor.

2. Course Schedule Changes: As course instructor, I reserve the right to adjust the course syllabus or change assignments as needed. I will be sure to give you plenty of notice prior

to any changes. Remember that our course syllabus and class schedule are living documents and can change!

3. <u>Class Participation:</u> I strongly recommend that you check the course at least three times a week at minimum to keep up, preferably each business day.

4. <u>Being Successful in an Online Class:</u> Online learning is not a spectator sport. It is everyone's responsibility to participate as fully as they can so everyone can get the most from the experience. Here are some simple rules to follow to ensure your participation and engagement in the learning process:

   - Ask questions: If you do not know the answer, someone else likely will.

   - Reach out to others: Offer a fact, article, link or other item that can help others learn.

   - Be appropriate: The online classroom is not the place for insulting or insensitive comments, attacks, or venting. Inappropriate behavior will be subject to disciplinary action and will be reported to the Dean of Students and other appropriate authorities.

   - Be diplomatic: When sending messages on emotionally charged topics, make sure you write the message and then walk away for at least an hour before re-reading the message and then sending it. Re-reading emotionally charged messages ensures that they are constructive instead of destructive. Think of the person at the other end.

   - Stay focused: Stay on topic to increase the efficiency of your learning.

   - Take advantage of all the resources given to you to succeed in the class.

5. <u>Effective Electronic Communication:</u> It is also important to share a word of caution, so we can become wiser about interpersonal distance learning communications. As you may know, when communicating electronically, many of the feelings or impressions that are transmitted via body language in face-to-face communication are lost. Consequently, interpreting emotions and innuendoes is far more difficult. Only what is written, or drawn,

carries the message. Often excitement can easily be misinterpreted as anger or an insult. It is important that everyone keep this in mind when communicating electronically. Words in print may appear harmless; however, they can emotionally injure the person reading them. More information can be found at http://www.albion.com/netiquette.

6. Time Management: A good standard for time planning for a compressed course such as this is **at least 12 hours per week** (reading, communicating, writing papers, taking exams and quizzes). If you are not prepared to make this type of time commitment, I recommend you delay taking this class until you are.

ONLINE TEST TAKING TIPS FOR BLACKBOARD LEARN

1. **Adobe Flash Player** should be installed on your Windows PC or Mac computer (free download from http://www.adobe.com).

2. **Close down** all other programs running on the computer. Having multiple programs open may cause problems that result in loss of quiz data.

3. **Allow Pop-Ups:** Turn off all pop-up blockers and instant messaging software programs as these may affect tests in Blackboard.

4. **Disable "Time Outs"** in your browser: Check your browser options before the test to ensure that it is not set to disconnect after several minutes of inactivity.

5. **Clear the cache** on your computer before starting a test. To do this in Firefox, please follow these steps:

- Click the "Tools" menu.

- Select "Clear Recent History." Note: On a MAC computer, the option will be

  "Clear Private Data."

- Then select all of the checkboxes in the "Details" area.

- Then click "Clear Now."

6. **Do not** double-click the start button on a test while waiting for it to load. This can cause multiple instances of the exam to open, leading to some confusion.

7. **Do not** resize or refresh the screen after loading the quiz/test; make sure it is the size you want before going into the quiz/test. Most browsers refresh the page when you resize the screen. This means it will try to reload the quiz and may prohibit you from taking the test.

8. **NEVER** use your web browser's "Back" or "Forward" buttons, particularly when taking a test. This will end your test, and you may not be able to get back in!

9. **For tests** that present one question at a time, students should click the "Next" button, rather than hit "Enter" on the keyboard.

CHECK YOUR TECHNOLOGY

As you prepare to take this course, we want to share with you some basic information about technology to make this a successful experience. Having your computer requirements checked and all software up to date is essential to access course content. Please take some time to ensure you have the technology you need to get successfully started.

1. **You must use a computer.**
   - Mobile devices will not be able to access quizzes, exams and other assessments.

2. **Supported Browsers**
   - **For a PC**: FireFox, Internet Explorer (Do NOT use IE7), and Chrome

- **For a Mac:** Safari, Firefox, and Chrome

3. **Browser performance hints include:**

- Clear browser cache

- Allow pop-ups

4. **Check Your Java**

- Go to http://java.com

- Click on "Do I Have Java?"

- Click on "Verify Java Version."

- Update Java if needed.

5. **Additional Software**

- When creating documents, slide presentations, spreadsheets, etc., you must use Microsoft Office or a compatible program (see 10 Free MS Word Alternatives). The UTEP-IT website can also provide you with any applications, compatibility packs, patches, and updates you may need. In addition, we recommend the following software:

- Adobe Reader

- Adobe Flash Player

- QuickTime

- Windows Media Player

5. **When Using Wireless at UTEP**

- Make sure to log on to UTEP wireless with YOUR account, and NOT as a guest. Logging on with a guest account will limit will only give you 10-20 minutes of connectivity (which means it could kick you out of test if you are taking one).

6. File Names

- When saving and giving your file a name: NO SYMBOLS, except dash and underscore; a space is a symbol. File names should contain letters, numbers, and/or a dash (-) and/or an underscore (_) only. Otherwise, a file may not open.
- Example of a Bad Filename: Mr. Joe's assignment 3.1 5/10/2013.doc
- Example of a Good Filename: Mr_Joe_assignment_3_1_5-10-2013.doc
- Example of a Better Filename: Joe_assign-3-1.doc

TECHNOLOGY SUPPORT AT UTEP

1. Blackboard Student Services provides 24/7 help desk and technical support to faculty and students in online courses.
   - Contacting Blackboard Student Services 24/7 Support call toll free 1-877-382-0491. Technical support for online courses is available for BOTH faculty and students.
   - Use the Browser Checker located at the top of the Blackboard Portal to ensure you have all of the right plugins for this and other courses.
   - Technical Assistance: See the Technical Support link on the left side menu of Blackboard
   - Hardware Requirements: See the Getting Started link on the left side menu of Blackboard.
   - Software Requirements: See the Getting Started link on the left side menu of Blackboard.
2. Another available resource for online courses is the UTEP Support Center. Check out the "Knowledge Base" and FAQ repository for answers to the most frequently asked technical questions and solutions to technical issues. You can also submit a help ticket and receive a reply within a few minutes.
3. Your professor will not provide technical assistance to students. Rather, students should familiarize themselves with the assistance available to them whenever they have problems

(see below). Students should also ensure that they have the appropriate hardware and software (see below). My recommendation is that students use the latest version of the Firefox browser, as this seems to be the most compatible with Blackboard. Students should inform the professor if the technical assistance they experience is not satisfactory.

CLASS AND UNIVERSITY POLICIES

1. Academic Dishonesty Statement: Academic dishonesty is prohibited and is considered a violation of the UTEP Handbook of Operating Procedures. It includes, but is not limited to, cheating, plagiarism, and collusion. Cheating may involve copying from or providing information to another student, possessing unauthorized materials during a test, or falsifying research data on laboratory reports. Plagiarism occurs when someone intentionally or knowingly represents the words or ideas of another person's as ones' own. And, collusion involves collaborating with another person to commit any academically dishonest act. Any act of academic dishonesty attempted by a UTEP student is unacceptable and will not be tolerated. Violations will be taken seriously and will be referred to the Dean of Students Office for possible disciplinary action. Students may be suspended or expelled from UTEP for such actions.

   - Academic dishonesty is an assault upon the basic integrity and meaning of a University. Cheating, plagiarism, and collusion in dishonest activities are serious acts which erode the University's educational and research roles and cheapen the learning experience not only for the perpetrators, but also for the entire community. It is expected that UTEP students will understand and subscribe to the ideal of academic integrity and that they will be willing to bear individual responsibility for their work. Materials (written or otherwise) submitted to fulfill academic requirements must represent a student's own efforts.

   - Any act of academic dishonesty attempted or completed by a UTEP student is unacceptable and will not be tolerated.

- Violations will be referred to the Dean of Students for possible disciplinary action. Students may be suspended or expelled from UTEP for such actions.

2. <u>Notice of Safe Assign:</u> This course will utilize third party software that has the ability to automatically detect plagiarism on documents submitted for grading.

3. <u>Copyright Notice:</u> Many of the materials that are posted within this course are protected by copyright law. These materials are only for the use of students enrolled in this course and only for the purpose of this course. They may not be further retained or disseminated.

4. <u>Disabled Student Statement:</u> In Section 504 of the Vocational Rehabilitation Act of 1973 and the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) of 1990, if a student needs an accommodation then the Office of Disabled Student Services located at UTEP need to be contacted. If you have a condition, which may affect your ability to perform successfully in this course, you are encouraged to discuss this in confidence with the instructor and/or the director of the Disabled Student Services.

- You may call 1.915.747.5148 for general information about the American with Disabilities Act (ADA) and the rights that you have as a UTEP student with a disability.

- Individuals with disabilities have the right to equal access and opportunity. It is the student's responsibility to contact the instructor and The Disabled Student Services Office at The University of Texas at El Paso.

A RECIPE FOR DISASTER

1. Don't take seriously the warning that each module closes Saturday at midnight (with a 24 hour grace period).
2. Wait until Sunday to being work on the week's module.

3. Come down with a stomach virus or other illness or experience some type of emergency that prevents you from submitting all or some of your work. Or experience a technology problem with your computer or internet connection.

4. Receive zeros (0s) for all unsubmitted work.

5. Watch your course average go from an A or B to a D or F.

6. Realize now that each module closes Saturday at midnight and that the grace period is only for emergencies that happen before Sunday.

TENTATIVE COURSE SCHEDULE

The professor reserves the right to make changes to the course syllabus.

Any changes will be announced ahead of time.

WEEK 1 MODULE

1. Topics

   a. What is criminology?

   b. Criminology & sociology

   c. Measuring crime and deviance – What does the research say?

   d. "Correlates" of crime and deviance

2. Readings

   a. Read this Syllabus in detail

   b. Go to your professor's home page, http://utminers.utep.edu/trcurry/ click on "Criminology" and read the "How To Read A Book" links

  c. Chapter 1: professor's introduction & text

  d. Chapter 3: professor's introduction & text

3. **Assignments**

  a. Go to BlackBoard "Getting Started" http://issweb.utep.edu/gettingstarted/ to make sure your computer has the correct browser, software and software updates. Complete the self-assessment quiz at the bottom of the page. Drop the class if you have technology problems with your computer or internet connection.

  b. Go to "Ted's Tavern" and introduce yourself

  c. Syllabus quiz

  d. Quiz 1

WEEK 2 MODULE

1. **Topics**

  a. Poverty and serious street crime: three theoretical explanations

    i. Social disorganization theory

    ii. Anomie and strain theories

    iii. Subcultural theories

2. **Readings**

  a. Chapter 7: professor's introduction & text

3. **Assignments**

a. Quiz 2

WEEK 3 MODULE

1. **Topics**

    a. Learning theories of individual deviance

    b. Social control theories of individual deviance

    c. Conflict and feminist theories: Using law and law-enforcement to protect the status quo

2. **Readings**

    a. Chapter 8: professor's introduction & text

    b. Chapter 9: professor's introduction & text

3. **Assignments**

    a. Quiz 3

WEEK 4 MODULE

1. **Topics**

    a. Violent crime: Homicide, assault, and robbery

    b. Violence against women: Rape, sexual assault and battering

2. **Readings**

    a. Chapter 10: professor's introduction & text

    b. Chapter 11: professor's introduction & text

3. **Assignments**

    a. Quiz 4

    b. Mid-Term Comprehensive Exam (comprehensive of the semester to this point)

WEEK 5 MODULE

1. **Topics**

    a. Defining and understanding white-collar crime

    b. Political crime: By and against government

2. **Readings**

    a. Chapter 13: professor's introduction & text

    b. Chapter 14: professor's introduction & text

3. **Assignments**

    a. Quiz 5

WEEK 6 MODULE

1. **Topics**

a. Consensual & public order crime: Mala prohibita offenses

b. Policing: Issues and dilemmas

2. **Readings**

a. Chapter 15: professor's introduction & text

b. Chapter 16: professor's introduction & text

3. **Assignments**

a. Quiz 6

WEEK 7 MODULE

1. **Topics**

a. Prosecution & punishment: Can the criminal justice system reduce crime?

b. Barkan's prescription for reducing crime

2. **Readings**

a. Chapter 17: professor's introduction & text

b. Chapter 18: professor's introduction & text

3. **Assignments**

a. Quiz 7

b. Final Comprehensive Exam (comprehensive of the whole semester)

Open and close dates for modules

Module	Open date and time	Close date and time
Module 1	Sunday March 24, 12:30am	Sunday March 30, 11:59pm
Module 2	Sunday March 30, 12:30am	Sunday April 6, 11:59pm
Module 3	Sunday April 6, 12:30am	Sunday April 13, 11:59pm
Module 4	Sunday April 13, 12:30am	Sunday April 20, 11:59pm
Module 5	Sunday April 20, 12:30am	Sunday April 27, 11:59pm
Module 6	Sunday April 27, 12:30am	Sunday May 4, 11:59pm
Module 7	Sunday May 4, 12:30am	Sunday May 11, 11:59pm

Key Issues

1. Quizzes, exams, and all other material in a given module can only be accessed by students during the dates when the module itself is open.

2. Quizzes and exams must automatically submit once time has expired. 45 minutes for quizzes and 90 minutes for the midterm and final exams.

3. The quizzes will be 30 multiple choice questions total, randomly selected from the assigned chapter(s) from the respective module.

4. The midterm will be 75 multiple choice questions, randomly selected from the assigned chapters from modules 1-4.

5. The final will be 75 multiple choice questions, randomly selected from the assigned chapters from modules 1-7.