



CJ 330.001 – Crime & Criminology
COURSE SYLLABUS: Spring 2013
Class Time: MWF 10:00am - 10:50am
Rm. BA 106

Instructor: Dr. Willie Edwards, Associate Professor
Office Location: Ferguson Hall, Social Science Bldg., Rm 217
Office Hours: MWF 11:00am – 12:00pm &
Tues (only) 3:00pm – 4:15pm
Any other Times, Please Schedule an Appointment
Office Phone: (903) 886-5331
Office Fax: (903) 886-5330
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COURSE INFORMATION

Materials – Textbooks, Readings, Supplementary Readings:

Textbook Required: *Criminology: A Sociological Understanding*. 5th Edition, Steven E. Barkan, Pearson/Prentice Hall Publishers, 2012. ISBN 13:978-0-13-510979-3

Additional and/or supplementary required readings will be assigned during the semester.

Course Description:

The focus of this course will be on the defining of criminal acts, learning the theories that can be used to explain the participation or reason for perpetrating criminal acts, and exploring the public policies that are developed to respond to the threat and existence of criminal behavior.

Course Design:

A combination of lectures, discussions, and presentations will be employed to investigate the subject area. Students are expected to participate in class discussions, to demonstrate that they are reading the material and to share with the class any interesting information associated with the subject matter of the class.

Student Learning Outcomes:

1. Students will become familiar with the classic and contemporary theories of criminology, and demonstrate this familiarity by achieving pass score of all exams and other writing assignments
2. Students will become acquainted with the professional journals in the field of criminology, criminal justice and sociology, and demonstrate this acquaintance by reading assigned journal articles, plus successfully completing any assignments associated with this reading
3. Students will develop an understanding of the relationship between theory and research; this understanding will be demonstrated by participating in graded class discussions held during the semester

4. This course will endeavor to increase the student's skills in writing and verbal communication, especially in the topic areas of criminology and criminal justice; by conducting exercises within and outside of class that measure these skills
5. Each student will develop a reasonable amount of knowledge about the field of crime and criminology which will be displayed by student's performance on class exams and the successful completion of all other class assignments

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

Instructional / Methods / Activities Assessments

Methods of Evaluation:

There will be a total of five grades. Four of the five grades will be earned from exams scheduled during the semester. See course content schedule for dates of exams. Each exam will be composed of multiple choice type questions, essays and/or short answer questions. The exams will test for application and inference. Very little recall type questions will be used. Complete essay or short answer type exams may be used if deemed necessary or appropriate by the professor. There will be four exams.

The fourth test will be divided into two parts. The first part will cover Critical or Conflict Theories. This test will be a take home. This test will be worth fifty (50) points. The second part will cover the types of crimes which will be the in-class final exam. This second part will be worth fifty (50) points.

The fifth grade will be obtained from a combination of writing exercises, discussions and the reading of research articles. This particular grade will be explained in more details as we progress through the class. The accomplishment of the fifth grade will be as follows:

4 research articles (reading & writing exercise) @ 10 pts. each	= 40 pts.
6 in-class writings on theories @ 10 pts. each	= 60 pts.

Course Possible points:

4 Test @ 100 pts. each	= 400 pts.
1 Exercise grade @ 100 pts.	= 100 pts.
	500 pts.

Grading

The following grade scale will be used:

A = 90 – 100	500 – 450 pts.
B = 80 - 89	449 – 400 pts.
C = 70 - 79	399 – 350 pts.
D = 60 - 69	349 – 300 pts.
F = 59 or below	299 or less pts.

All criminal justice majors must make at least a C in all classes required for the major.

There will be no individual extra credit work, and no make-up exams. If an exam is missed a comprehensive exam must be taken by the student near the end of the semester. If a student misses more than one exam he or she should drop the course. Graded discussions and summaries cannot be turned in late or made up. **Late work is unacceptable.**

COMMUNICATION AND SUPPORT

Interaction with Instructor Statement:**Contact of Professor:**

Students wishing to contact the Professor should visit his office during the stated office hours or make an appointment. Students may also contact the Professor using the office telephone number or the email, both are provided on the first page of this class syllabus.

Research Assistance:

For research assistance, students should contact: Ms. Emily Witsell Reference Librarian at James G. Gee Library Room 218; 903-886-5719 emily.witsell@tamuc.edu or <http://www.tamuc.edu/library>

Tips on How to be successful in this Class:

1. Students must commit serious time to reading the textbook, and other assigned readings.
2. Students should ask questions of the professor if there is any information he/she does not understand.
3. Students should regularly attend class.
4. Students should take good, clear and understandable notes from the lectures.
5. Students must commit a serious amount of time to preparation for the exams.
6. Students must make the most of the “easy” grades so they help to balance or soften the more difficult grades.

COURSE AND UNIVERSITY PROCEDURES/POLICIES
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Course Specific Procedures:**Class Policy:**

Class attendance and participate are expected. Tardiness is reacted to in an unfavorably manner. Students will not be permitted to enter the class after the professor has initiated the focus for that class period.

Telephone and pagers must be placed on vibrate but should not be answered unless you work for some type of emergency agency (medical or law enforcement, etc.) or you know it to be an emergency call.

A scantron answer sheet (blue) and a number two pencil should be brought to class for each exam, unless instructed differently by the professor.

This department has a strong policy and a low tolerance for cheating. Plagiarism is disliked and treated very seriously. Texas A&M University-Commerce does not tolerate plagiarism and other forms of academic dishonesty. “Academic dishonesty” includes, but is not limited to, plagiarism (the appropriation or stealing of the ideas or words of another and passing them off as one’s own), cheating on exams or other course assignments, collusion (the unauthorized collaboration with others in preparing course assignments), and abuse (destruction, defacing or removal) of resource material.

Sites that address plagiarism and how to avoid it: <http://www.plagiarism.org> or <http://www.unc.edu/depts/wcweb/hanouts/plagiarism.html>.

A student may drop a course by logging into their MYLEO account and clicking on the hyperlink labeled ‘Drop a class’ from among the choices found under the MYLEO section of the Web page.

It is the student's responsibility to be aware of the rules or policies relating to withdrawal or "X." You are encouraged to follow the appropriate procedures of the university as they relate to this matter. I will be as helpful and understanding where possible, but please be aware that this professor does not like to give an incomplete as a grade.

University Specific Procedures:

ADA Statement :

The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) is a federal anti-discrimination statute that provides comprehensive civil rights protection for persons with disabilities. Among other things, this legislation requires that all students with disabilities be guaranteed a learning environment that provides for reasonable accommodation of their disabilities. If you have a disability requiring an accommodation, please contact:

Office of Student Disability Resources and Services
Texas A&M University-Commerce
Gee Library 132
Phone (903) 886-5150 or (903) 886-5835
Fax (903) 468-8148
StudentDisabilityServices@tamuc.edu
[Student Disability Resources & Services](#)

Student Conduct:

All students enrolled at the University shall follow the tenets of common decency and acceptable behavior conducive to a positive learning environment. (See *Code of Student Conduct from Student Guide Handbook*).

COURSE OUTLINE / CALENDAR

Course Content Schedule – CJ 330 – Spring 2013

January 14, 16, 2013	Introduction & Class Requirements Chapter 1 – Criminology & Sociological Perspective
January 21, 2013	Continuation of Chapter 1
January 23, 25,	Chapter 3 – Measurement & Patterning of Criminal Behavior In-class writing (1)
January 28, 30,	Chapter 4 – Victims & Victimization Chapter 5 - Classical & Neoclassical Perspectives In-class writing (2)
February 4,	Test 1 - Chapters 1, 3-5
February 6,	Results of Test 1 Begin Chapter 7 - Sociological Theories: Social Structure

February 11,13, 15, 2013	Continuation of Social Structure Theories Research Article (1)
February 18, 20,	Chapter 7 - Sociological Theories: Social Structure
February 25, 27, March 1,	Completion of Chapter 7 In-class writing (3)
March 4,	Test 2 - Chapter 7
March 6,	Results of Test 2 Research Article (2)
March 8,	Open
March 11-15, 2013	Spring Break
March 18, 20, 22,	Begin Chapter 8 - Sociological Theories: Social Processes In-class writing (4)
March 25, 27, 29,	Continuation of Chapter 8
April 1,	Test 3 - Chapter 8
April 3,	Results of Test 3 Chapter 9 - Sociological Theories: Critical Perspectives In-class writing (5)
April 5,	No class
April 8,	Continuation of Chapter 9 Give out Take Home Test over Chapter 9 (worth 50pts)
April 10,	Research Article (3)
April 12,	Return of Take Home Test Begin Discussion on Types of Crimes Research Article (4)
April 15, 17, 19,	Continuation of Types of Crimes
April 22, 24, 26,	Continuation of Types of Crimes In-class Writing (6)
April 29, May 1, 3,	Continuation of Types of Crimes
May 6,	Final Examination -10:30am - 12:30pm (worth 50 points)