



**Summer 1, 2015 Syllabus  
Crime and Criminology  
SOC 330**

**Professor:** Dr. Filip Wiecko

**Office:** online course

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<b>COURSE INFORMATION</b>
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**Materials- Textbook**

*Criminological Theory: Past to Present fourth edition (or newer) Essential Readings by Francis T. Cullen and Robert Agnew*

**Course Description:**

The purpose of this course is to introduce students to the subject of criminology so that they may be better informed citizens, able to exercise independent, critical judgment of public policies for dealing with crime, and so that they will be equipped to study criminology further, if they so choose. The course will cover a wide range of criminological topics, including descriptions of crimes and criminals, but will stress explanations of criminal behavior and ways of reducing crime.

**Student Learning Outcomes:**

**Specifically I expect you:**

1. To acquire an informed understanding of the basic concepts in criminology
2. To recognize the major sources of data on crime trends and patterns
3. To examine the historical evolution of criminological theory
4. To examine the causes of traditional and non-traditional criminal behavior
5. To assess the relative utility of various explanations of the causes of crime
6. To appreciate the role of criminological theory as a social science
7. To appreciate emerging, critical, and global versions of criminology

<b>COURSE REQUIREMENTS</b>
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There are two exams in this course. Each exam is worth **30 points**. There are also four threaded discussions which you will have to respond to. I will start a thread for a specific topic and you

are required to comment on that post at least once and also respond to another student's post at least once. I will start a thread the first week of class and you will have the week to participate. A new thread will start every week. **Important: These posts must be thoughtful and written in a grammatically correct manner.** I do not set a length requirement for posts, but if it exceeds 500 words it is probably too long. Similarly, if your post is made up of a sentence or two, it is doubtful you have put much thought into it. Statements such as "I agree with her" are not a valuable contribution to a discussion. Each threaded discussion is worth **10 points**.

## TECHNOLOGY REQUIREMENTS

Our campus is optimized to work in a Microsoft Windows environment. This means our courses work best if you are using a Windows operating system (XP or newer) and a recent version of Microsoft Internet Explorer (6.0, 7.0, or 8.0).

Your courses will also work with Macintosh OS X along with a recent version of Safari 2.0 or better. Along with Internet Explorer and Safari, eCollege also supports the Firefox browser (3.0) on both Windows and Mac operating systems.

## ACCESS AND NAVIGATION

This course will be facilitated using eCollege, the Learning Management System used by Texas A&M University-Commerce. To get started with the course, go to: <https://leo.tamu-commerce.edu/login.aspx>.

You will need your CWID and password to log in to the course. If you do not know your CWID or have forgotten your password, contact Technology Services at 903.468.6000 or [helpdesk@tamu-commerce.edu](mailto:helpdesk@tamu-commerce.edu)

## COMMUNICATION AND SUPPORT

I will do my best to answer all emails within 24 hours of receiving them. I can be reached via email all week and I can also arrange to meet with you in person.

## COURSE AND UNIVERSITY PROCEDURES/POLICIES

### **Make-up Policy:**

*Any* make-up tests are allowed **only at the discretion of the instructor** and immediate notification from the student is imperative. **Note:** University policy does allow excused absences in certain situations such as: school sponsored events, jury duty, and military service. All of these excuses require proper documentation. Family emergencies, illnesses, births, deaths, incarceration or other events and calamities are **NOT** excused absences.

### **Academic Integrity and Dishonesty:**

I take plagiarism and other forms of cheating very seriously. *All the work you do in this course is to be your own.* I encourage you to study with friends, but be sure that everything you turn in is your own, original work. Regarding references, anytime you use someone else's work and do not accompany it with a proper citation to the author, you have committed plagiarism regardless of whether or not you intended

to do so. It is also inappropriate to use your own work for multiple classes and any such actions will be treated just like plagiarism. Do not copy anything off the internet, out of books/articles, from friends, or from any other source or person. This includes direct cutting-and-pasting, summarizing or quoting without citing, and changing the original wording just enough so that you think you can pass it off as your own. **If I find that you have engaged in plagiarism, you will receive an F in the entire course and I reserve the right to take further disciplinary action(s) at the university level. Do Not Do It!**

### **Students with Disabilities:**

I am committed to assisting students with documented disabilities to succeed in this course. 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**  
**Room 132**  
**Phone (903) 886-5150 or (903) 886-5835**  
**Fax (903) 468-8148**  
[StudentDisabilityServices@tamu-commerce.edu](mailto:StudentDisabilityServices@tamu-commerce.edu)

### **Statement on Student Behavior:**

As stated in the student handbook: “All students enrolled at the university shall follow the tenets of common decency and acceptable behavior conducive to a positive learning environment.” (See Student Guide Handbook, Policies and Procedures, Conduct, for more information)

<b>COURSE OUTLINE / CALENDAR</b>
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### **Schedule:**

This schedule is **tentative** and I reserve the right to modify it, with notice, as needed during the semester. All alterations to the schedule will be announced through email and it is your responsibility to be aware of these changes. Important dates are listed below:

Week One	First day of class—Syllabus and course introduction Section One pp 1-88 and thread post number 1
Week Two	Section Two pp 89-238 and thread post number 2
Week Three	<b>First Exam (Wednesday)</b> Section Three pp 239-380 and thread post number 3
Week Four	Section Four pp 381-450, and thread post number 4
Week Five	<b>Second Exam (Friday)</b> , and Section Five pp 451-end.