COURSE DESCRIPTION:

- An advanced study and critical appraisal of various theories of crime causation, including an examination of biological, psychological, economic and sociological perspectives on the etiology of crime.

COURSE GOALS & OBJECTIVES:

- The goal of this course is for the student to understand and critically evaluate the various theories used to explain the etiology and epidemiology of criminal behavior and crime rates, as well as theories underlying various functions of the criminal justice system. The course is comprised of six (6) Modules. Specific learning objectives have been outlined for each Module, all of which will be assessed via weekly discussions and three essay assignments, three online exams. All assignments are designed to enhance students’ academic and professional skills. These skills include: accurate, concise summarization of information including proper citations; clear written communications; successful, creative use of resources; and last, but certainly not least, critical thinking skills.
REQUIRED READINGS:


PDF (Posted on Canvas):


COURSE REQUIREMENTS:

This is a WEB course, so it is important that you have access to a computer and good internet connection to successfully complete and participate in this course. If you have any issues with internet connection (especially when it concerns the submission of assignments or exams) you will need to contact the UF Help Desk Immediately. If you encounter issues, you MUST have verification from the UF Help desk to make up any assignments. The UF Help Desk number is: 352-392-HELP (4357) and their site can be found at: http://helpdesk.ufl.edu/.

COMMUNICATIONS:

• With the Instructor:
  o Emails sent during regular business hours will typically receive a response within 24 hours. Emails sent on Holidays or weekends will normally be responded to within 48 hours. Sent messages are not considered completed communications until they are received and have been given a response. If you leave an important message and do not hear back within an acceptable timeframe, please follow up to ensure your message has been received. Also, please address and word emails semiprofessionally with a recipient; signature; and subject at the start and finish. Please refrain from using texting jargon (i.e. lol)- Email communications are potential public records and documentation, so please proceed as such. Refer to Netiquette Guidelines below for more information.
• With Fellow Students:
  o A Miscellaneous Discussion Board is provided for students to post questions for one another to answer. Students are encouraged to use and check this board PRIOR to emailing “housekeeping” questions about the syllabus etc..., as many questions may be more quickly or easily answered by one another. However, this board will NOT be regularly monitored by the course instructor and any pressing questions or questions that go unanswered should be emailed to me directly.
COURSE POLICIES

ASSIGNMENTS AND GRADING:

(Helpful hint: plan ahead, review due dates, and inform me of any conflicts you foresee as soon as possible.)

Exams:

- There will be three (3), non-cumulative exams in this course, each worth 300 points each (total 900 points). Exams will cover lecture and reading materials, as well as any discussion topics and assigned videos. Exams will consist of 75 multiple-choice questions worth four points each. Exams will be open book and you will have 60 minutes to take each exam. Exam periods begin on the designated Fridays at 8am and close at midnight each designated Sunday evening so you will have almost 3 whole days in which to take your exam (check the separate Course Schedule to view designated Exam dates). Any exam deadline not met will result in 0 points earned and no make-up dates will be allowed. Exams can be found under the “Quizzes” tab on the Canvas site.

Essays:

- The deadlines for the three (3) assigned essays are specified on the Student Deadline Checklist. Please be wary of deadlines, as the submission portal will close by 8:01am on the date they are due. Each essay is worth 100 points each.
- Each essay should be no longer than 5 pages but should thoroughly address each piece of the question asked. Students are encouraged to seek external information from any of the University’s online resource centers and other reliable online depositories to supplement reading and lecture material and to maximize points earned on essays and discussion posts. Quality of references and materials cited will also factor into your grade. Refrain from any Wikipedia’s; about.com; etc (DO NOT USE THESE). These are not scholarly, reliable sources and should NOT be used, referenced, or cited. Try using the library (www.uflib.ufl.edu - For example there are several online books, databases, journals, and other resources offered online through the UF library), government sites, .org”s etc... as a starting place (see Suggestions for Student Success for more information). Be sure to use proper APA citations and reference lists in all written work (see Plagiarism policy and Suggestions for Student Success for citation tips). All essays should be uploaded as a Microsoft Word document (.doc or .docx). ABSOLUTELY NO .pdf or Onenote or Mac pages or other text editor versions will be accepted.
- All written assignments should be formatted as double-spaced, 12 point, Times New Roman- nothing else, as other fonts are not always compatible or legible. Be sure to format your documents with one (1) inch margins.

Discussions:

- There are a total of twelve (12) discussion prompts divided among the six Modules, each worth ten (10) points, for 120 points all together. Students are required to respond to the discussion prompt with their own thread AND make substantive comments on at least two (2) other students’ posts. The deadlines for all required discussion posts fall on Thursdays by 11:59pm (see the Due Dates document for all due dates and discussion prompts). These discussions are designed with specific learning objectives in mind and should not be considered “busy work”. Any assignment deadline not met will result in 0 points earned and no make-up dates will be allowed. You must provide your own thread and two substantive comments to earn any points.
Extra Credit

• Throughout the semester I will offer different opportunities for extra credit projects and assignments to the class.
• One opportunity for extra credit will be based on your discussion posts. Each Week, after reading all students discussion threads in response to the prompts, you will be asked to vote on which student provided the most thoughtful exposition of the issue. The student who gets the most “votes” for that week will receive 5 extra credit points added on to their final point total. You may not vote for your own thread and you may not vote multiple times (we are able to monitor this). Each student may only receive this one time. Note that your discussions will be due Thursdays. The extra credit polls will be due Fridays by 11:59pm. The link to the polls can be found under the quizzes tab.
• Other extra credit opportunities as mentioned above will be offered throughout the semester.

Preparation & Participation:

• Because of the nature of this course, it is suggested that students attend to each week’s module material early in the week, giving ample time to construct thoughtful posts and essay answers by each deadline. This course quickly “picks up the pace” around Module 2 with new information being presented while students should be reviewing for exams covering material from prior modules. Your grade will likely suffer from poor preparation, as it will be difficult to “cram” material covered while providing valuable input to discussion prompt and essays. Make organization and preparedness a priority as it is your responsibility to plan ahead and review due dates. Review the syllabus regularly for due dates and prepare for discussions, essays, and exams by completing assigned readings and viewing lectures prior to deadlines. Completing assignments earlier than the marked deadline is permitted. All materials and modules have been posted, just be mindful of important deadlines, exam and essay grades, and discussion post dates. You can review the posted schedule to help stay on track and pace for the course. If you chose to work ahead that is allowed, however, exam dates must be taken in the provided window and all assignments and discussions must be completed by the listed due dates and times.

GRADED WORK AND GRADING:

The success or failure of an online program (and the value of your degree) will depend on academic integrity: both in terms of content of the courses and in terms of the grades you earn. We need to structure grading in ways that make cheating harder—that includes more writing assignments. That also includes using exams as assessment tools—we will not release the correct answers. Because of past problems that students have had with Proctor-U, we will not use it in this class.

The online format has some benefits for students. One of them is moving away from the large in-class closed book tests. There are also some benefits in terms of flexibility, but there are limits. Modern technology makes it easier to cheat, so we will have to be fairly rigid.

Grammar, punctuation, and syntax matter in all written assignments. You are expected to submit your own independent work. Please be careful about plagiarism; it is easy to “cut and paste” from others’ work. CITE, CITE, CITE! If you take someone else’s ideas, cite it; if you take someone’s words verbatim, use quotation marks and cite it. If you are referring to our text or lecture material, make sure that you indicate that.
Computation of Final Grade:

You can earn 1320 total points for the course. Three exams are worth a total of 900 points, 3 essays worth a total of 300 points, and the discussions worth a total 120 points (1320 points total). I will compute the percentage grade by dividing the total points earned by 1320 total possible points. I have provided a breakdown below:

Grading:

Grades will be determined from your grades on a combination of exams and assignments:

| Exams (3 Exams each worth 300 points) | 900 pts |
| Essays (3 Essays each worth 100 points) | 300 pts |
| Discussion Post/Reply | 120 pts |
| **Total Possible:** | **1320 pts** |

Final Grades will be determined according to the following structure.

**NOTE: I DONOT ROUND GRADES UP WHAT YOU EARN IS WHAT YOU WILL RECEIVE**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Points Earned</th>
<th>Grade</th>
<th>Percent</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1320-1228</td>
<td>A</td>
<td>93-100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1227-1188</td>
<td>A-</td>
<td>90-92</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1187-1149</td>
<td>B+</td>
<td>87-89</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1148-1096</td>
<td>B</td>
<td>83-86</td>
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<tr>
<td>1095-1056</td>
<td>B-</td>
<td>80-82</td>
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<tr>
<td>1055-1017</td>
<td>C+</td>
<td>77-79</td>
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<td>1016-964</td>
<td>C</td>
<td>73-76</td>
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<tr>
<td>963-924</td>
<td>C-</td>
<td>70-72</td>
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<tr>
<td>923-885</td>
<td>D+</td>
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<td>D</td>
<td>63-66</td>
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<tr>
<td>831-792</td>
<td>D-</td>
<td>60-62</td>
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<tr>
<td>791 and below</td>
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<td>59 and Below</td>
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Suggestions for Student Success:

- The following links are just a small sampling of some reliable, validated online resources. Visit [http://guides.uflib.ufl.edu/criminology](http://guides.uflib.ufl.edu/criminology) for an already compiled listing of great resources for criminological research and course projects. Other useful websites to visit are [http://grammar.quickanddirtytips.com/](http://grammar.quickanddirtytips.com/) and [http://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/560/01/](http://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/560/01/). Both sites offer useful tips and formatting guidelines for proper citation, punctuation or general grammar questions, and basic writing tips you should find useful when completing your weekly essays.
Students with Disabilities

- Students requesting classroom accommodation must first register with the Dean of Students Office. The Dean of Students Office will provide documentation to the student who must then provide this documentation to the Instructor when requesting accommodation. Remote online courses can complicate matters so please get information about accommodations to me by before the first timed graded work is due so we have time to work out arrangements. You may raise matters or concerns you have about the course with your instructor, the department chair (Dr. Zsembik) or the university ombudsman (http://www.ombuds.ufl.edu/).

Student Rights and Responsibilities:

- Please inform yourself about your rights and responsibilities, including academic honesty guidelines, formal and informal procedures for hearing academic dishonesty cases, the grievance procedure, and confidentiality of student records. See generally: http://www.registrar.ufl.edu/catalog/policies/students.html. See also: http://www.dso.ufl.edu/sccr/. According to university rules, on all work submitted for credit by students at the university, the following pledge is either required or implied: "On my honor, I have neither given nor received unauthorized aid in doing this assignment." You are expected to do your own independent work.

- Student records are confidential. Only information designated “UF directory information” (see University Regulation 6C1-4.007) may be released without your written consent. UF views each student as the primary contact for all communication. If your parent or anyone else contacts me about your grade or performance or for any information that is not “UF directory information,” I will ask him or her to you.

Academic Honesty

- Cheating and/or Plagiarism is not tolerated at the University of Florida so on all exams and work submitted, the following statement is implied: “On my honor, I have neither given nor received unauthorized aid in doing this assignment.” For more on Academic Honesty guidelines please see the Student Guide at www.dso.ufl.edu/stg/. If the honor code is broken, such matters will be taken to the department and University of Florida Judicial Affairs.
CLASSROOM TECHNOLOGY

Canvas:

• Canvas is accessible at: http://lss.at.ufl.edu. If you experience any computer-related difficulties, don't hesitate to contact the UF Computing Help Desk at http://helpdesk.ufl.edu, 352-392-4357. Please familiarize yourself with the course site, as it is intended to enhance your learning experience. The "Student Help FAQ" tab is a good introduction for anyone new to e-Learning.

Discussions:

• As mentioned above, a Miscellaneous Discussion Board thread has been started for any questions regarding this course. Fellow students can post responses/replies to questions. Time sensitive questions/suggestions regarding course material should be directed to me, as I will not be reviewing this forum.

Netiquette:

• All members of the class are expected to follow rules of common courtesy in all email messages, threaded discussions and chats. Please review the Netiquette Guide to Online Courses.

TECHNICAL REQUIREMENTS:

• A reliable computer running Windows XP (or higher) or Mac OS X 10 (or higher). - A web browser with Adobe Flash Player installed. We recommend Flash Player 10. - A reliable, high-speed internet connection.

NETIQUETTE GUIDE FOR ONLINE COURSES

• It is important to recognize that the online classroom is in fact a classroom, and certain behaviors are expected when you communicate with both your peers and your instructors. These guidelines for online behavior and interaction are known as netiquette.

Security:

• Remember that your password is the only thing protecting you from pranks or more serious harm. • Don't share your password with anyone • Change your password if you think someone else might know it
  • Always logout when you are finished using the system

General Guidelines:
• When communicating online, you should always:
  • Treat instructor with respect, even in email or in any other online communication
  • Always use your professors’ proper title: Dr. or Prof., or if you in doubt use Mr. or Ms.
  • Unless specifically invited, don’t refer to them by first name.
• Use clear and concise language
• Remember that all college level communication should have correct spelling and grammar
• Avoid slang terms such as “wassup?” and texting abbreviations such as “u” instead of “you”
• Use standard fonts such as Times New Roman and use a size 12 or 14 pt. font
• Avoid using the caps lock feature AS IT CAN BE INTERPRETTED AS YELLING
• Limit and possibly avoid the use of emoticons like :) or
• Be cautious when using humor or sarcasm as tone is sometimes lost in an email or discussion post and your message might be taken seriously or offensive
• Be careful with personal information (both yours and other“s)
• Do not send confidential patient information via e-mail

Email Netiquette: When you send an email to your instructor, teaching assistant, or classmates, you should:
• Use a descriptive subject line
• Be brief
• Avoid attachments unless you are sure your recipients can open them
• Avoid HTML in favor of plain text
• Sign your message with your name and return e-mail address
• Think before you send the e-mail to more than one person. Does everyone really need to see your message?
• Be sure you REALLY want everyone to receive your response when you click, “reply all”
  • Be sure that the message author intended for the information to be passed along before you click the “forward” button

Message Board Netiquette and Guidelines:

• When posting on the Discussion Board in your online class, you should:
  • Make posts that are on topic and within the scope of the course material
  • Take your posts seriously and review and edit your posts before sending
  • Be as brief as possible while still making a thorough comment
  • Always give proper credit when referencing or quoting another source
  • Be sure to read all messages in a thread before replying
  • Don’t repeat someone else’s post without adding something of your own to it
  • Avoid short, generic replies such as, “I agree.” You should include why you agree or add to the previous point
  • Always be respectful of others” opinions even when they differ from your own
  • When you disagree with someone, you should express your differing opinion in a respectful, non-critical way
  • Do not make personal or insulting remarks
  • Be open-minded
UF POLICIES

• University Policy on Accommodating Students with Disabilities:

  • Students requesting accommodation for disabilities must first register with the Dean of Students Office (http://www.dso.ufl.edu/drc/). The Dean of Students Office will provide documentation to the student who must then provide this documentation to the instructor when requesting accommodation. You must submit this documentation prior to submitting assignments or taking the quizzes or exams. Accommodations are not retroactive, therefore, students should contact the office as soon as possible in the term for which they are seeking accommodations.

• University Policy on Academic Misconduct:

  • Academic honesty and integrity are fundamental values of the University community. Students should be sure that they understand the UF Student Honor Code at http://www.dso.ufl.edu/students.php.