

Theoretical Criminology
CJ-404/504
Fall 2017
Smith Hall, Room 416

Instructor Information

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Course Description

This course focuses on a critical analysis of the major criminological theories and their empirical foundations. The majority of the course will focus on current theories and research. However, historical development and more critically framed theories will be examined.

Required Text

American Psychological Association [APA] (2010). *Publication manual of the American Psychological Association* (6th ed.). Washington, DC. (*Required for both undergraduate and graduate students.)

Lanier, M, & Henry, S. (2009). *Essential Criminology* (3rd Edition). Boulder, CO: Westview Press. (*Required for both undergraduate and graduate students).

Required Technology

- Computer (or access)
- Internet (send and receive email messages)
- Email (make sure all accounts are forward to Marshall email account)
- Access o MU Online (blackboard)

STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES FOR THE CRIMINAL JUSTICE & CRIMINOLOGY PROGRAM

Upon completion of the Bachelor of Arts degree in criminal justice, and in part emphasized and reinforced through this course, undergraduate students will be able to:

1. Differentiate Among Criminal Justice System Components, Roles, and Practices--Students will define and properly use specialized terms to describe, explain, and differentiate the components, roles, and practices of the criminal justice system.
2. Apply Theory in Criminal Justice and Criminology--Students will describe, explain, and differentiate major theories and theorists in criminal justice and criminology, and use one or

more of these theories to explain a selected behavior (e.g., crime), event (e.g. victimization), or policy response (e.g., law).

Upon completion of the Master of Science degree in criminal justice, and in part emphasized and reinforced through this course, graduate students will be able to:

Exhibit specialized knowledge in the criminal justice and criminology field by

1. demonstrating advanced knowledge of the terms, laws, theories, processes, research methods, statistics, and key principles and
2. analyzing and critiquing concepts, theoretical perspectives, empirical findings, and trends.

Demonstrate oral, written, and analytic abilities by

3. evaluating contemporary criminal justice issues using analytical reasoning, problem solving, and effective communication skills;
4. preparing and delivering a presentation using effective oral communication skills that contains sustained, coherent arguments or explanations; and/or
5. interpreting descriptive and inferential statistical data.

Integrate and apply advanced knowledge of the criminal justice and criminology field by:

6. designing and producing an applied, investigative, paper or project with real-world implications that draws on scientific literacy, theoretical criminology, and research methods
7. supporting a paper or project with appropriate information from the scholarly literature and using citations in APA format; and
8. assessing and articulating the relevant public policy implications of that project.

COURSE LEARNING OUTCOMES MATRIX

Course Learning Outcomes	How Each Outcome is Practiced in this Course	How Each Outcome is Evaluated in this Course
(A) Students will articulate principles and concepts of various criminological perspectives, which include deterrence, rational choice, biological, psychological, social learning, social control, conflict, labeling, social disorganization, anomie, strain, critical, postmodern, feminist, and integrated theories.	In-class examples and assignments, readings, and discussions	Theoretical analysis, mid-term exam, final exam
(B) Students will develop basic scientific inquiry skills, particularly the link between theory, research, and policy implications.	In-class examples and assignments, readings, and discussions	Theoretical analysis and criminal profile (term paper)
(C) Students will examine the utility of criminological theory by conducting a criminal profile and analysis.	In-class examples and assignments, readings, and discussions	Term paper, mid-term exam, final exam
(D) Students will conduct research using the library databases and incorporate scholarly sources into a professional paper.	Library database research for term paper	Draft of theoretical analysis, term paper
(E) Students will develop and enhance professional writing skills by using APA publication guidelines for a term paper.	APA presentation and review sessions, APA practice quiz, and draft of term paper	APA quizzes, term paper

Course Etiquette

For each class period, it is required that you come to class having read the assigned readings. This will provide a basic foundation for the material covered in class and prompt the development of class discussion. Class attendance is required as attendance is part of your final grade. Late arrivals and early departures from class are not acceptable on a regular basis. Although emergencies do occur, please let me know a head of time, if possible, because they serve as an unfair distraction to your peers and the instructor.

Grading Criteria

Paper: Students are required to write an academic research paper describing the presence of a discussed criminological theory in a popular film. Undergraduate student papers are to be eight to ten pages in length (introduction through conclusion). Graduate Students are required to submit a ten to fifteen page paper (introduction through conclusion. ***ONCE YOU CHOOSE A FILM, IT IS FINAL. The paper is worth 100 points.

Mid-Term & Final Exam: There are two exams during the course of the semester, a mid-term and a final. The final exam is not comprehensive. Exams will consist of multiple choice, matching, and short answers. Graduate exams will consist of the above and include an additional short answer question. Each exam is worth 100 points.

In-Class Assignments: There will be in-class assignments/pop-quizzes throughout the semester that will cover previous readings and class discussion. There will be no make-up for these assignments/quizzes and will be worth 75 points of the final grade.

Class Attendance: Attendance is very important and role will be taken at the start of every class. Attendance will be worth 25 points of the final grade.

Your final grade will be calculated using the following guidelines:

Paper 1	100 points
Mid-Term	100 points
Final	100 points
In-Class	75 points
Attendance	25 points
Total	400 points

University Grading Scale:

A	94 – 100%	A-	90 – 93%
B+	87 – 89%	B	84 – 86%
B-	80 – 83%	C+	77 – 79%
C	74 – 76%	C-	70 – 73%
D+	67 – 69%	D	64 – 66%
D-	60 – 63%	F	Below 60%

Tentative Class Schedule

Week	Dates	Topics	Reading Assignment
1	8/21	Syllabus Day 8/21 Syllabus Quiz 8/23 Introduction to Theory	Chapter 1 and Chapter 2
2	8/28	Classical, Neoclassical, and Rational Choice	Chapter 3
3	9/4	APA Session APA Quiz 9/6 Review of Paper Topics <i>*No class Monday 9/4 for Labor Day</i>	Topic due 9/8
4	9/11	Biological Theories	Chapter 4
5	9/18	Psychological Theories Quiz One 9/22	Chapter 5
6	9/25	Social Process Theories	Chapter 6
7	10/2	Control Theories Part One of Paper Due	Chapter 7
8	10/9	Social Ecology and Cultural Theories	Chapter 8
9	10/16	Exam Review 10/16 Mid-term 10/18 Anomie and Strain Theories	Chapter 9
10	10/23	Conflict and Radical Theories	Chapter 10
11	10/30	Feminist Criminology	Chapter 11
12	11/6	Critical Criminology Quiz Two	Chapter 12
13	11/13	Writing Lab 11/13 <i>*No Class Wednesday 11/15 or 11/17 for conference</i>	Writing Lab
14	11/20	<i>*No Class for Thanksgiving</i>	
15	11/27	Integrated Theories	Chapter 13
16	12/4	Class Wrap Final Paper Due 12/6 Final Exam Review 12/8	
17	12/11	Final Exam	

Make Up Policy:

There will be **no** make-up of class assignments (including exams) without a university excuse. Late papers will receive a 5 point deduction per day late (each assignment is due at the end of the class period, a 5 point deduction per day late begins immediately following the end of the class the paper is due; a hard copy must be turned in during class). Communicating absences a head of time (when possible) will help with support making up missed assignments.

Cell Phone Policy

ANY USE OF CELL PHONES WILL NOT BE TOLERATED DURING CLASS. If a cell phone is seen during class you will be asked initially to turn it to silent and to put it away. If a phone is seen a second time, I will ask that you to place it on my desk until the end of class at which point you can retrieve it as you leave the room. If usage continues, I reserve the right to ask you to leave the room and you will not be credited for any assignments accepted during that particular period.

Computer Usage Policy

The use of computers for the purpose of taking notes will be allowed. If I believe that a student is using a computer for any other purpose than class, I will reserve the right to eliminate the usage of computers by that particular student and if need be, the class as a whole.

ADDITIONAL POLICIES

University Policies:

By enrolling in this course, you agree to abide by the following University Policies: Academic Dishonesty/ Excused Absence Policy for Undergraduates/ Computing Services Acceptable Use/ Inclement Weather/ Dead Week/ Students with Disabilities/ Academic Forgiveness/ Academic Probation and Suspension/ Academic Rights and Responsibilities of Students/ Affirmative Action/ and Sexual Harassment. Please read the full text of each policy by going to www.marshall.edu/academic-affairs and clicking on “Marshall University Policies.” Or, you can access the policies directly by going to http://www.marshall.edu/academic-affairs/?page_id=802

Academic Dishonesty:

Academic Dishonesty includes cheating, fabrication and falsification of data or information, plagiarism, bribes/favors/threats, and complicity (i.e., helping or attempting someone commit an act of dishonesty). As stated in the policy, “A student, by voluntarily accepting admission to the institution or enrolling in a class or course of study offered by Marshall University accepts the academic requirements and criteria of the institution. It is the student’s responsibility to be aware of policies regulating academic conduct, including the definitions of academic dishonesty, the possible sanctions and the appeal process. For the purposes of this policy, an academic exercise is defined as any assignment, whether graded or ungraded, that is given in an academic course or must be completed toward the completion of degree or certification requirements. This includes, but is not limited to: Exams, quizzes, papers, oral presentations, data gathering and analysis, practica and creative work of any kind” (MU Undergraduate Catalog). If a student violates this policy, discretion will be used by the instructor; the possible sanction to be applied will be a failing grade for the assignment, exam, or paper. For those of you who need a reminder about the policy, please refer to the MU Undergraduate/Graduate Catalog.

Plagiarism:

For students (major or non-majors; undergraduates and graduates) who plagiarize a paper that is less than 10 pages in length, a letter grade of zero will be issued for that assignment. When a student plagiarizes a major research paper, report, legal paper, etc., that is 10 pages or more in length, a failing grade will be issued to the student for the course. It should be noted that students are entitled to an appeals process. The protocol for doing so is described under the heading

“Academic Dishonesty Policy” and the subheading “Appeals Process” in the MU Undergraduate/Graduate Catalog.

** I reserve the right to change this syllabus/schedule at any time during the course of the semester, based on student progress and materials. An update will be provided in class as well as on blackboard and email to all students.