

CJ 404/504: Theoretical Criminology

Section 102

Fall 2015

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Office Hours: Mondays & Wednesdays 8:30-10:00 & 2:00-3:30 (or by appointment)

COURSE DESCRIPTION

A critical analysis of major criminological theories and their empirical foundations. Current theory and research receive greater emphasis than historical development.

- Prerequisites: CJ 200
- CJ 404/504, section 102 meets on Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays from 10-10:50 in Smith Hall 418

Please note this course is very challenging and was designed for students in their junior or senior year. To achieve the objectives of this course, you will need to process course material as an active learner, that is, you must diligently read and write. There is a lot of material that will be covered in this class, which means that it may be difficult for those of you who do not pay attention, miss class, or study on a regular basis. I suggest that you make it a habit to come to class and ask questions. Given the opportunities I will provide you, and your dedication to being an active learner, there is no doubt in my mind that you will enhance your critical thinking abilities and be successful in this course.

REQUIRED TEXTS

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

Brown, S. E., Esbensen, F., & Geis, G. (2013). *Criminology: Explaining crime and its contexts*. (8th ed.). Waltham, MA: Anderson Publishing. (*Required for both undergraduate and graduate students.)

REQUIRED TECHNOLOGY

Students must have a computer or access to one, as well as access to the Internet to send and receive email messages. If you are using an email account other than your Marshall email account, (i.e., hotmail, yahoo, aol, etc.) you must set your Marshall email account to forward to your other account. In addition, students are required to have access to MU Online in order to access course materials or to complete assignments/quizzes. Make certain that you use a computer that is compatible for completing any online assignments.

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

ASSESSMENT MEASURES AND DETERMINATION OF GRADES

Each student learning outcome is assessed in the following manner:

Grading Scale:

90% & Above = A	80%-89% = B	70%-79% = C	60%-69% = D	59% & Below = F
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Course Requirements:	Score	Weighted %	Weighted % Ave.
Mid-term & Final Exam (50%)		X .50	
Term Paper (30%)		X .30	+
Informal Assignments & Quizzes (10%)		X .10	+
Attendance (10%)		X .10	+
Grand Total =			

Calculating your class grade:

For each exam sum your earned points and then divide by the total number of possible points. Then, multiply this number by 50% (or .50). Hold on to this number for the last step. Do this for the term paper (multiply your paper grade by .30). Tally all of the points earned for all of the informal writing assignments and quiz grades (total number of earned points divided by the total possible points multiplied by .10). Last, calculate your active participation/attendance grade

(multiply the total points you earned by .10). Once you have these 4 numbers, move the decimal places over as appropriate and add them together to get the total percent or your grade for the course. If you don't want to calculate your grade this way, check the Grade Center on MU Online in our course. Just remember that that your grade is weighted!

MID-TERM & FINAL EXAM (50%)

There are two exams in this course, a mid-term and a final. The final exam is not comprehensive. Exams may consist of a variety of response formats such as, multiple choice, true/false, matching, listing, short answer, essay and/or any combination of the above. Graduate exams will include an essay portion.

Make-up Exam Policy:

In-class exams and online quizzes must be taken during the periods designated in the syllabus. If the exam or quiz is administered in class, it is imperative that you arrive on time. If a student arrives after another student has completed the exam, the student who was late will not be allowed to take the examination, because the exam has been compromised. In other words, the student who arrived late cannot take the exam or make up the exam; the student will receive a grade of zero.

Deviations from this policy are possible if the student makes provisions with the instructor before the test date. **If I am not contacted prior to the exam or if you do not show up to take the exam, you will receive a failing grade for the exam.** For those students who contact me at least 24 hours in advance and have a legitimate excuse from the Dean of Student Affairs (see Class Absences), an alternative time to take the exam will be determined. The format of the make-up exam will be left to my discretion.

TERM PAPER (30%)

Students are required to write a professional paper that will be comprised of a profile about a famous criminal or public figure and assess the motives, drives, and underlying causes of his/her behavior in a theoretical analysis. 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). *Important-Once you decide on who you want to profile, it is FINAL!

INFORMAL ASSIGNMENTS & QUIZZES (10%)

A few informal writing assignments will be administered throughout the course in order to help you develop the term paper, including the ways to use proper citations based on the APA publication manual. Assignments may be both in-class and out-of-class. Unless told otherwise, papers must be typed and double-spaced. Page numbers are a must! Standard margins and fonts should be used. For late assignments, only half credit will be given unless a university excused absence is provided.

ATTENDANCE (10%)

Students are expected to attend class and participate regularly. Attendance will be recorded daily. Each student will be awarded 100 points at the beginning of the semester for attendance. These points are yours to lose or keep. For each class day missed without a legitimate excuse and documentation from the Dean of Student Affairs, 2.5 points will be deducted from your attendance grade. If you miss a class, I recommend that you obtain the lecture notes/assignments from that day. Consistent tardiness (excessive) will result in a reduction of your attendance grade as well.

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.

Emails and Teacher-Student Correspondence:

If you have any questions about the course material, exams, or assignments you may email me, visit me during my office hours, or schedule an appointment. If you email me, under most circumstances, I will get back to you within 24 hours on weekdays (8:30 AM to 4:30 PM EST). However, there may be times when I am out of the office (for meetings, class, or conferences), hence, delaying my response.

Class Absences:

I understand that there are circumstances that may arise throughout the semester that prevent a student from attending class. Documentation of an excused absence can be obtained from the Dean of Student Affairs, MSC 2W38. Excused absences include: death or illness of an immediate family member, pre-approved university sponsored activity, athletics, academic activities, short-term military obligation, jury duty/court appointment, and/or religious holiday (see MU Undergraduate Catalog and the Graduate Catalog). Nonetheless, if you miss class it is your responsibility as a student to obtain any lecture notes or assignments that you missed on that day.

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.

Extra Credit:

There is one opportunity to receive extra credit in this course. That is, students may present their paper at the WVCJEA conference on Friday, November 13 at WVU-Parkersburg and earn up to 10 points added to their final course grade. In addition, students who simply attend the conference may earn up to 10 points, which will be added to their lowest exam score. Abstracts for presentations and papers for the state competition are due Friday, October 20. More details will be posted on MU Online.

Laptops and Tablets: Over time, I have observed more students who prefer to use laptops and tablets in class. If you wish to use either a laptop or tablet in class, you must receive permission from me, and you must present a compelling reason for doing so. If you are approved to use the laptop, tablet for note-taking, or e-reader, no other sites or functions may be open, and you are expected to make regular eye contact when I am speaking.

Classroom Civility:

1. All students are expected to be in class on time (including exam days).
2. All pagers, cell phones, and electronic devices such as iPods or MP3 players must be turned off before you enter the classroom. Please no text messaging or tweeting during class or during exams.
3. One-on-one or personal conversations during lecture or class discussions are not permitted.
4. Respect different opinions and keep an open mind. Support your fellow classmates and reward each other with positive remarks/comments.
5. All students are expected to abide by the academic dishonesty policy-this means no cheating or plagiarizing!
6. Students are expected to speak one at a time. Do not be disruptive.
7. Working on other materials during class time is considered disruptive not only to the

instructor but to other classmates as well.

8. Do not use class time to catch up on your ZZZZZ's.
9. No food or alcoholic beverages are permitted (non-alcoholic beverages are acceptable).
10. Students are prohibited from leaving the classroom once the lecture or discussion has started. Only in the case of an emergency can a student leave the room. If you need to leave class early for some reason, notify the instructor in advance.

The DeTardo-Bora Policy:

Since students have a code of conduct to follow, I believe the instructor should follow one as well. Throughout this course, I will make an effort to see that the following responsibilities are carried out (these responsibilities were adapted from McKeachie, 1999).

1. I will encourage the free pursuit of learning
2. I will demonstrate respect for students
3. I will respect confidentiality
4. I will model the best scholarly and ethical standards
5. I will foster honest academic conduct and ensure fair evaluation
6. I will avoid exploitation, harassment, or discrimination

Tentative Course Outline: CJ 404/504.102

Dates/Course Topics	Readings	Due Dates
Week 1: 8/24, 8/26, 8/28		
Review Syllabus Introduction to theory	Read Ch. 1 & Ch. 2	
Week 2: 8/31, 9/2, 9/4		
Classical, neoclassical, & rational choice Theories	Read Ch. 5 pp. 153-194 & Ch. 5 pp. 194-208	
Week 3: 9/7*, 9/9, 9/11		
*NO CLASS-Labor Day Review paper requirements APA review		Topic due (9/9)
Week 4: 9/14, 9/16, 9/18		
Born to be bad: Biological theories	Read Ch. 6 pp. 217-232 & pp. 232-257	APA online practice quiz due by midnight (9/14) APA online quiz (graded) due by midnight (9/16)
Week 5: 9/21, 9/23, 9/25		
Born to be bad: Contemporary approaches psychological theories		
Week 6: 9/28, 9/30, 10/2		
The sick society: Anomie & strain	Read Ch. 7 pp. 265-291	
Week 7: 10/5, 10/7, 10/9		
Social ecology In-class writing lab-draft term paper and exam review Midterm exam (10/9)	Read Ch. 7 pp. 292-302	Criminal profile due (10/5) (Part I of the term paper)
Week 8: 10/12, 10/14, 10/16		
Learning criminal behavior Subculture Theories	Read Ch. 8 pp. 309-323 Read Ch. 8 pp. 323-334	
Week 9: 10/19, 10/21, 10/23		
Social control theories	Read Ch. 8 pp. 334-355	Draft theoretical analysis due (10/21) (Part II of the term paper)
Week 10: 10/26, 10/28, 10/30*		
In-class writing lab-final paper review *WVCJEA abstracts and papers due (10/30)		
Week 11: 11/2, 11/4, 11/6*		
Labeling theories *NO CLASS-Graduate exams	Read Ch. 9 pp. 363-382	Entire term paper due (11/4)
Week 12: 11/9, 11/11, 11/13*		
Conflict and critical theories *NO CLASS-WVCJEA Conference (11/13 - crime scene competition)	Read Ch. 9 pp. 382-399	

Dates/Course Topics	Readings	Due Dates
Week 13: 11/16, 11/18, 11/20		
Gendered theory Integrated and developmental theories	Read *Intersections of race, class, gender, and crime Read Ch. 10	
Week 14: 11/23, 11/25, 11/27		
NO CLASS-Thanksgiving Break		
Week 15: 11/30, 12/2, 12/4		
The future of criminological theory Final exam review		
December 7 (10:15-12:15)		
Final exam		

**Additional readings may be assigned and made available on Blackboard.*