



Theoretical Criminology
CJ 404/504
Spring 2017
Department of Criminal Justice and Criminology
Marshall University

Classroom: SH 418
Meeting Times: Monday and Wednesday: 2pm – 3:15pm
Instructor: Wyatt Brown, Ph.D.
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Office Hours: Monday and Wednesday, 12:00pm-2:00pm; Tuesday and Thursday 2-3pm
Office: Smith Hall 731

Please note that the best way to contact me is via email.

In the event of an emergency, it may be necessary for MU to suspend normal operations. During this time, MU may opt to continue delivery of instruction through methods that include but are not limited to: MU Online, Skype, and email messaging and/or an alternate schedule. It's the responsibility of the student to monitor the Blackboard site for each class for course specific communication, and the main MU, College, and department websites, and email for important general information.

Course Description 404

A critical analysis of the major criminological theories and their empirical foundations. Current theory and research receive greater emphasis than historical development. (Prerequisite: CJ 200)

Course Description 504

Course is designed to provide the student already familiar with the basic concepts of criminological theory the opportunity to examine in depth a selected set of theories (Prerequisite: CJ 504, its equivalent, or permission of instructor)

University Policies

By enrolling in this course, you agree to the University Policies listed below. 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 www.marshall.edu/academic-affairs/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/Sexual Harassment

Required Materials

1. Lilly, J. R., Cullen, F. T., & Ball, R. A. (2014). Criminological theory: Context and Consequences. 6th edition. ISBN: 9781452258164
2. Additional articles/chapters/excerpts provided on the course website on Blackboard.

Student Learning Outcomes

At the end of this course, students will have a grounded understanding of overall goals and applications of criminological theory. Students will not only be exposed to various types of criminological theory but they will also be able to utilize what they have learned by applying these theories to criminal cases.

Course Learning Outcomes Matrix

Course Learning Outcome	How Each Outcome is Practiced in this Course	How Each Outcome is Evaluated in this Course
1) Students will understand and effectively articulate what a theory is and how theory is assessed in the discipline of criminology and criminal justice.	In-class examples and assignments, readings, and discussions	Term paper, quizzes exam, final exam
2) Students will understand and articulate the underlying assumptions, key theoretical concepts and theoretical propositions of each of the historical and contemporary theories of crime and criminal behavior presented in the class.	In-class examples and assignments, readings, and discussions	Term paper, quizzes exam, final exam
3) Students will understand, articulate, and critically assess the logical construction of each of these key theories.	In-class examples and assignments, readings, and discussions	Term paper, quizzes exam, final exam
4) Students will understand, articulate, and critique the policy implications of each theoretical perspective.	In-class examples and assignments, readings, and discussions	Term paper, quizzes exam, final exam
5) Students will be able to effectively compare and contrast each theory against one or more of its theoretical rivals with regard to logical construction, empirical assessment, and policy implication.	In-class examples and assignments, readings, and discussions	Term paper, quizzes exam, final exam
6) Students will conduct research using the library databases and incorporate scholarly sources into a professional paper.	Research for term paper/draft	Term paper draft, Term paper

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 Expectations

To ensure learning outcomes are met, students are expected to:

Attend Class and Participate. Students are expected to be prepared for class by completing required readings prior to the start of class. Students are expected to attend **all** classes and are responsible for **all** material presented during class sessions, including course related announcements. **PowerPoint slides and lecture notes will not be made available on Blackboard or via email.**

*Note that if a student **must** miss class, it is the **student's responsibility** to obtain lecture notes from one of their classmates. Therefore, it is **expected** that all students will have the contact information of at least one classmate.*

Advocate. Students in this class are expected to be proactive. This is critical in a criminal justice course. If a student finds him/herself struggling with course material, concerned about his/her grade, or otherwise in need of assistance, s/he is expected to advocate for themselves by communicating with the instructor *as soon as possible*. Helping you earn the grade you want is a top priority to me, but my ability to help you is greatly diminished, if not eliminated entirely, if you choose to procrastinate.

Check Email & Blackboard Regularly for Course Correspondence. Important information regarding the course schedule, assignments, and grades will be posted to Blackboard.

Be Respectful. This includes directing full attention to class lectures and discussions. Students are not permitted to use cell phones or other electronic devices during class. Laptops are to be used for access to word processing for class notes only. Students who disregard this expectation may be asked to leave class and will be responsible for any material missed.

When participating in class and in email exchanges with the instructor and other classmates, students are expected to use respectful language. Do not communicate with others via the internet in a way you would not interact with them in person. Disrespectful language, and/or disrespectful classroom behavior will not be tolerated. Disregard for this expectation will result in students being asked to leave class. In instances of serious or repeated infractions, students will be subject to University disciplinary action.

Complete Exams, Reading Questions and Assignments When Scheduled. Students are informed both verbally (in class) and in writing (this syllabus) of the due dates of ALL exams and assignments **for the entire semester on the first day of class.** For this reason:

LATE WORK IS NOT ACCEPTED & MAKE UP EXAMS ARE NOT AN OPTION*

** Exception: Emergencies, Religious Observances, & University Excused Absences.* Students are expected to notify their instructors at the beginning of each academic term if they intend to be absent for an announced examination. Students absent for religious reasons, as noticed to the instructor at the beginning of each academic term, will be given reasonable opportunities to make up any work missed.

Make Up Exam / Assignment Policy:

If a student feels an unforeseen event requires them to request a make-up test/assignment, he or she **must** complete the following:

(1) Determine the event constitutes a University Excused Absence or an emergency. Emergencies refer to **very serious** physical or mental health issues only. Because students are made aware of class due dates in advance, emergencies do **NOT** refer to events such as: social obligations (e.g., weddings, birthdays), computer/technology issues, or work requirements.

(2) Communicate (email/office hours) your issue as soon as possible: preferably before class. Delayed requests may not be considered.

(3) Provide acceptable documentation of the emergency (documents from a person or organization other than the student [e.g. medical professional]).

If the instructor determines all 3 criteria are satisfied, a make-up exam / assignment will be given at a date and time of the instructor's choosing.

Extra Credit

There will be no opportunities for extra credit in this course.

Policy Regarding Absences

Although encouraged, attendance is not required. In the event of an absence, no student will be given the opportunity to earn credit toward an in-class assignment or an examination. The professor is not obligated and will not provide to any absent student lecture notes, class summaries, or any other information that was provided in class. The university has detailed policies regarding absences, including what constitutes an excused absence. In the event of a university-excused absence, the professor will follow the guidelines set forth by the university. Each student is expected to review, be familiar with, and follow the university's guideline regarding absences.

Incompletes

As late work is not accepted and make up exams are not scheduled, no grade of Incomplete ("I") will be given in this class.

Academic Dishonesty

Any form of cheating on examinations constitutes unacceptable deceit and dishonesty. Disruption of the classroom or teaching environment is also unacceptable. The Marshall University has very specific policies and procedures regarding academic dishonesty or disruption of academic process. If you have any questions, please refer to the University's Undergraduate Academic Dishonesty policy at:

- Academic Dishonesty Policy:
<http://www.marshall.edu/board/files/policies/MUBOG%20AA-12%20Academic%20Dishonesty.pdf>
- Student Handbook:
<http://www.marshall.edu/student-affairs/files/15-16-Code-of-Conduct.pdf>

In an effort to ensure compliance, plagiarism tracking software will be employed in this course. The Marshall University has an account with *SafeAssign* an automated plagiarism detection service which allows instructors to submit student assignments to be checked for plagiarism. The professor reserves the right to submit assignments to this detection system. Assignments are compared automatically with a large database

of journal articles, web articles, and previously submitted papers. The instructor receives a report showing exactly how a student's paper was plagiarized.

Because all papers will be submitted to *SafeAssign*, you should know your rights:

This course requires you to submit your paper to a plagiarism detection site that will be identified by your instructor. In order to comply with federal (FERPA) and state privacy laws, you (students) are not required to include personal identifying information such as your name, SSN, and/or 901# in the body of the work (text) or use such information in the file naming convention prior to submitting. Please follow carefully your instructor's instructions regarding what identifying information to include. Your submission will be placed in the course grade center in your account that can be accessed by the instructor and attributed to you.

Students with Disabilities

Students with disabilities are responsible for registering with the Office of Disabilities Services (ODS) in order to receive academic accommodations. ODS encourages students to notify instructors of accommodation requests at least five business days prior to needing the accommodation. A letter from ODS must accompany this request.

- For more information, see: <http://www.marshall.edu/disability/>

Class Notes and Tape Recordings

Any student who wishes to tape record class lectures must first get permission from the instructor. Any recording, whether audio or written (i.e., class notes), can only be used by the individual who recorded them. No student has permission to sell or distribute any recording (in any form) made in the course.

Grading Scale and Distribution

Grading Scale

Grading is an exceptionally difficult task, especially in a criminal justice class. To that end, the grading criteria for this class is determined prior to the start of class and is detailed in the syllabus. There will be no changes to the grading scale, as in the points a student acquires will determine their final grade.

Grade Distribution

The final grade is the total of five different components: exams, weekly reading questions, survey assignment, critical thinking assignment, and class participation.

1. Exam (200 points)

There will be one final examination in this course. The format of the exam may include any of several formats (e.g., multiple-choice items, short-answer, fill-in-the-blank, essay, etc.). Graduate exams will include an essay portion. These exams comprise 20% of the final grade. The questions on the exam will be based on material from the readings, homework, lectures, and discussions. All material to which you are exposed may appear on the exam. Thus, even if a topic in the readings is not discussed in class, a question on that topic may still appear on the exam. Conversely, not everything from discussions will be included in exams. Students have 120 minutes to complete the exam- extra time will not be allotted, including to students who arrive late to class.

- **Final Exam: May 1, 12:45pm- 2:45pm**

2. Quizzes (500 points)

There will be 5 quizzes and you are required to take all 5 quizzes, no quiz scores will be dropped. Quizzes are closed book, but students are permitted one page (front and back, 8.5 x 11 paper) of notes for each quiz. The quizzes will consist of multiple choice, true or false, short answer, and fill-in-the-blank questions (essay questions for master's students) based on the assigned material.

- Quiz 1: January 30th
- Quiz 2: February 20th
- Quiz 3: March 15th
- Quiz 4: April 5th
- Quiz 5: April 26th

3. Term Paper Part 1 (100 Points)

Due: **March 15th- Submit the assignment online.**

This term paper affords you the opportunity to apply your critical thinking skills in the field of criminology for practical use in a profiling exercise. To some degree, you will approximate the methods used by crime analysts and behavioral scientists by assessing the motives, drives, and underlying causes of a criminal's behavior. In addition, you will describe how the behavior can be explained using criminological theory in the second part of the paper. **See handout posted on Blackboard.**

4. Term Paper Part 2 (100 points)

Due: **April 12th** (entire term paper, includes Part I and Part II combined, worth 100 points, submit the entire paper online only). The objective of this paper is to demonstrate knowledge of theoretical criminology and to apply theoretical principles to a crime/criminal from your first paper (i.e., criminal profile). **See handout posted on Blackboard.**

5. Participation (100 points)

Participation points are accumulated in two ways. First, in lieu of long lectures, a daily in-class assignment will be completed, turned in, and graded for completion rather than accuracy. These assignments are designed to as a guide to supplement the quizzes and final exam. The second part of the participation grade is based on both the frequency and quality of your participation in class. Frequent but off track or irrelevant contributions do not count toward participation. Students who do not wish to participate in class discussions may earn participation points by posting comments, questions, and relevant news items on the classroom discussion board on Canvas.

The following grading schema and point distribution will be used to assign final letter grades in this course:

<u>Grading Scale</u>		<u>Point Distribution</u>	
A	= ≥ 900 points	Examinations:	
B	= 800 - 899 points	Quizzes	500 pts (50%)
C	= 700 - 799 points	Final Exam	200 pts (20%)
D	= 600 - 699 points	Assignments:	
F	= ≤599 points	Term Paper Part 1	100 pts (10%)
		Term Paper Part 2	100 pts (10%)
		Participation	<u>100 pts</u> (10%)
			1000 pts

Class Schedule

Subject to Change: While it is the intention to cover topics throughout the semester as described below, the following course outline is subject to change at the discretion of the instructor. Any subsequent changes to the course outline will be discussed in class and/or posted to Blackboard.

Course Outline

Week & Topic:	Reading Due:
January 9	
M: Course Introduction	
W: Chapter 1: The Context and Consequences of Theory	pp. 1-12
January 16	
M: No Class (Martin Luther King, Jr. Day)	
W: Chapter 2: The Search for the “Criminal Man”	pp. 13-34
	No live class (professor unavailable) watch short video online
January 23	
M: Chapter 3: Rejecting Individualism: The Chicago School	pp. 36-64
W: Chapter 3: Rejecting Individualism: The Chicago School	pp. 36-64
January 30	
M: Quiz 1	CH: 1, 2, & 3
W: Chapter 4: Crime in American Society: Anomie & Strain Theories	pp. 65-93
February 6	
M: Chapter 4: Crime in American Society: Anomie & Strain Theories	pp. 65-93
W: Chapter 5: Society as Insulation: The Origins of Control Theory	pp. 94-113
February 13	
M: Chapter 6: The Complexity of Control: Hirschi’s Two Theories	pp. 114-148
W: Chapter 6: The Complexity of Control: Hirschi’s Two Theories	pp. 114-148

February 20		
M:	Quiz 2	CH: 4, 5, & 6
W:	Chapter 7: The Irony of State Intervention: Labeling Theory	pp. 149-175
February 27		
M:	Chapter 7: The Irony of State Intervention: Labeling Theory	pp. 149-175
W:	Chapter 8: Conflict Theory	pp.176-206
March 6		
M:	Chapter 8: Conflict Theory	pp.176-206
W:	Chapter 9: The Variety of Critical Theory	pp. 207-247
March 13		
M:	Chapter 9: The Variety of Critical Theory	pp. 207-247
W:	Quiz 3 Term Paper Part 1 Due Online	CH: 7, 8, & 9
March 20		
M:	No Class (Spring Break)	
W:	No Class (Spring Break)	
March 27		
M:	Chapter 10: The Gendering of Criminology: Feminist Theory	pp. 248-284
W:	Chapter 11: Crimes of the Powerful: White-Collar Crime	pp. 285-317
April 3		
M:	Chapter 12: Conservative Criminology	pp. 316-349
W:	Quiz 4	CH: 10, 11, & 12
April 10		
M:	Film	
W:	Chapter 13: Routine Activity and Rational Choice Theories Term Paper Part 2 Due Online	pp. 350-376
April 17		
M:	Chapter 14: Biosocial Theories	pp. 377- 401
W:	Chapter 15: New Directions in Biosocial Theory	pp. 402-426
April 24		
M:	Chapter 16: The Development of Criminals: Life-Course Theories	pp. 427- 460
W:	Quiz 5	CH: 13, 14, 15, & 16
May 1		
M:	Final Exam 12:45pm- 2:45pm	(ALL Material)