



Please, click on the following link to access A&M-Commerce Covid 19 Information,
<https://new.tamuc.edu/coronavirus/>

CJ 530 (01.W): SEMINAR IN CRIMINOLOGY

Spring 2023
1/17/2023 through 2/17/2023

Online

INSTRUCTOR INFORMATION

Instructor:	Mike Tapia, Ph.D.
Office Location:	BA 102
Office Hours:	Tu/Th 3:30pm – 6:00pm
Via Zoom:	Tu/Th 4:00pm – 5pm https://tamuc.zoom.us/j/94601106241
Office Phone:	Phone: TBA: Temporary Office Space this term
University Email Address:	michael.tapia@tamuc.edu
Preferred Form of Communication:	email
Communication Response Time:	Normally within 24-48 hours

COURSE INFORMATION

Recommended Textbook: Cullen, Agnew, & Wilcox. 2021. *Criminological Theory: Past to Present*. 7th Ed. Oxford University Press. . ISBN: 9780197619315.

*****Prior Versions of the Textbook are also Acceptable*****

*****All Other Readings found online, in D2L in Weekly Discussion Areas*****

Course Description

We'll study classical and contemporary theories of crime and deviance. We identify and describe various forms of criminal behavior and its correlates. Individual, structural, and integrated theories of crime causation are examined. Subtopics like race, gender, social class, juvenile delinquency, street

gangs and organized crime, white collar and environmental crime are covered in the context of theory. Students explore these topics based on their own personal interests and literature searches.

Student Learning Objectives & Outcomes

Students will: 1) explore, learn, and apply theories on crime and deviance 2) read and process classical and contemporary crime literature 3) evaluate authors' contributions to the field of crime and deviance research 4) evaluate the data and methods authors use to test theories 5) react to classmates' work 6) seek and summarize literature on topics of interest for your term paper 7) design a research proposal to include in your term paper.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS & GRADING

1. **Reading Summaries:** To facilitate class discussion, and to develop your skills in critically reviewing published research for your term paper, you are required to summarize two (2) journal articles this term. During Week 1 of the Course, sign up for any two readings on the Summaries Reading List on D2L, first-come first served.

Check the list for reading availability before making your selections. Then, email the instructor with your selections and attach a copy of the articles. He will update the list on D2L and share the reading with the rest of the class for them to skim. Summaries are due on Sunday evening before the week the reading is scheduled for discussion. Each summary is worth 10% of your course grade. See the 1-page *Summaries handout on D2L for details*. Hit each bullet point on the summaries guidelines to earn a good grade.

* **Readings** are searched & located by students using the TAMUC Library Homepage or Google/Google Scholar online. Since you have the full citation for your chosen readings, use the "One Search" feature of the TAMUC Library homepage at: <https://inside.tamuc.edu/library/index.php> and type in the journal title (appears in italics on the reading list). Select the Year, then search for the Volume & Issue number, and locate the full text link for downloading. Once you obtain a copy of the reading, email it as an attachment to your instructor for sharing with the rest of the class.

2. **Groupwork Presentation & Writeup:** To get you thinking critically about issues related to criminological theory, you'll work in small groups (pre-assigned alphabetically by the instructor) to develop an audio-narrated slideshow presentation via powerpoint. You will send it to me for uploading to D2L for the class to view and post comments on. During weeks 2 & 3, groups will present on a pre-assigned criminological theory and related theme(s) of their choice from outside sources. The quality of your presentation & write-up accounts for 20% of your course grade. (See *the Group Project Guidelines on D2L for details*).

3. **Class Participation via 'Discussions'** on D2L. This course is conducted as a seminar, where theories, concepts, issues, and ideas are presented then debated and developed. Therefore, weekly online discussions of the readings, student summaries, student presentations, and lecture materials is essential. Early in the week, I post a series of 'Discussions' in D2L for student comment. Your job is to comment with valuable insights and provide files or internet links to relevant, outside material to support and supplement your comments. Superficial comments like "good job", "I liked the reading", and purely opinionated comments are not credited. General notes about the quality of class participation in Discussions are posted periodically on D2L throughout the term. Discussion

comments are graded on a scale of 0-2 each week for a total maximum of 10 points for the term. As such, the quality of your Class Participation constitutes 10% of your course grade.

4. **Term Paper Drafts & Progress Updates:** At two points in the semester (**Sat. 2/4/23 and 2/11/23**) I will gauge your progress on the term paper, assign a grade ranging from 0 to 3.33, and provide feedback. For the first draft, include: 1) a general statement of the purpose of your work and how it is progressing to date; 2) key concepts in your topic 3) summaries of published research on your topic you've found so far 4) identify other key resources for examining the topic 5) problems that you have encountered, or expect to encounter, and 6) a works cited/references page. These write-ups are due on the dates listed above and the written feedback I provide throughout the term should be reflected in your final term papers. These term paper progress updates constitute 10% of your final grade.

5. **Term Paper:** Your primary assignment for the course is to develop a term paper (7-8 pp., double-spaced). This is a critical literature review on a relevant topic in criminological theory using the format for summaries for each reading you use. **For best results in the class as a whole, browse and read all material ahead of time, to make your reading summaries topics and group project material overlap as much as possible for use on your term paper (i.e. try to make all of your assignments have the same or a similar topic).**

Towards the end of the paper, include a research design section with proposed data and methodology subsections. This is where you design a hypothetical study *detailed how you would conduct actual research testing the theory by gathering & analyzing data.* A preliminary description of the paper idea (2 page minimum), plus a list of references collected to date is due on Sat Feb. 4th. A second, much more developed paper draft is due Sat, Feb. 11th. The quality of your term paper will count as 40% of your course grade.

Term Paper Due on the Last Regularly Scheduled "Class", Friday, Feb. 17th

To summarize, course requirements are weighted as follows:

Journal Article Summaries	20%
Groupwork Presentation	20%
Participation in Weekly Discussions	10%
Term Paper Progress Updates & Drafts	10%
Term Paper	40%
TOTAL	100%

Final grades are determined as follows:

A = 90%-100%	D = 60%-69%
B = 80%-89%	F = 59% or Below
C = 70%-79%	

Minimal Technical Skills Needed:

1. Ability to use Microsoft Word
2. Ability to navigate the D2L Learning System
3. Ability to navigate TAMUC Library Resources to find journal articles/readings per the instructions above
4. Ability to navigate the internet to find journal articles/readings and items for discussion posts and term papers

Instructional Methods

This is a fully online graduate seminar delivered on the D2L/Brightspace Platform.

Student Responsibilities and Tips for Success in the Course

1. Read this syllabus with great care and pay attention to its details. Mark assignment due dates and other important notes in your personal calendar. Revisit the syllabus periodically and ask questions if you have them.
2. The key to doing well in an online class is to thoroughly and carefully review all content on the D2L course page and, again, revisit the syllabus periodically.
3. **The class is designed for you to use your assignments to build towards your final project**, so please start reviewing reading options, slides, etc., and brainstorming ideas for your projects a.s.a.p. I am always willing to discuss your ideas.
4. The reading list contains a set of items from which you may choose to fulfill the first of two summaries assignments. Your second reading (or both), you must find on your own, and send a copy to the instructor for approval.
 - Use these handpicked readings to start your Term Paper as well as for Group Projects (where possible).
5. You should conduct internet searches to contribute high-quality (informative) entries to online Discussions.
 - **When selecting readings, try to make them coincide with your group and final project topic** wherever possible. This will greatly increase your efficiency in the class.
6. Avail yourself of resources at the TAMUC Writing Center for proofreading and advice: [TAMUC Writing Center](#) Do not plagiarize or purchase term papers off of the internet to present as your own work. This never ends well for the student or the instructor, as filing paperwork for academic misconduct with the university takes time out of everyone's busy schedule. Please see the info on Academic Dishonesty/Integrity on p. 6 below.

TECHNOLOGY REQUIREMENTS

LMS

All course sections offered by Texas A&M University-Commerce have a corresponding course shell in the myLeo Online Learning Management System (LMS). Below are technical requirements

LMS Requirements:

<https://community.brightspace.com/s/article/Brightspace-Platform-Requirements>

LMS Browser Support:

https://documentation.brightspace.com/EN/brightspace/requirements/all/browser_support.htm

YouSeeU Virtual Classroom Requirements:

<https://support.youseeu.com/hc/en-us/articles/115007031107-Basic-System-Requirements>

ACCESS AND NAVIGATION

You will need your campus-wide ID (CWID) and password to log into the course. If you do not know your CWID or have forgotten your password, contact the Center for IT Excellence (CITE) at 903.468.6000 or helpdesk@tamuc.edu.

Note: Personal computer and internet connection problems do not excuse the requirement to complete all course work in a timely and satisfactory manner. Each student needs to have a backup method to deal with these inevitable problems. These methods might include the availability of a backup PC at home or work, the temporary use of a computer at a friend's home, the local library, office service companies, Starbucks, a TAMUC campus open computer lab, etc.

COMMUNICATION AND SUPPORT

Technical Support

If you are having technical difficulty with any part of Brightspace, please contact Brightspace Technical Support at 1-877-325-7778. Other support options can be found here:

<https://community.brightspace.com/support/s/contactsupport>

Interaction with Instructor Statement

If you have any questions or are having difficulties with the course material, please contact your Instructor. His preferred method of contact is TAMUC email: michael.tapia@tamuc.edu, or via D2L's messaging program.

COURSE AND UNIVERSITY PROCEDURES/POLICIES

Syllabus Change Policy

The syllabus is a guide. Circumstances and events, such as student progress, may make it necessary for the instructor to modify the syllabus during the semester. Any changes made to the syllabus will be announced in advance.

University Specific Procedures

Student Conduct

All students enrolled at the University shall follow the tenets of common decency and acceptable behavior conducive to a positive learning environment. The Code of Student Conduct is described in detail in the [Student Guidebook](#).

<http://www.tamuc.edu/Admissions/oneStopShop/undergraduateAdmissions/studentGuidebook.aspx>

Students should also consult the Rules of Netiquette for more information regarding how to interact with students in an online forum: <https://www.britannica.com/topic/netiquette>

TAMUC Attendance

For more information about the attendance policy please visit the [Attendance](#) webpage and [Procedure 13.99.99.R0.01](#).

<http://www.tamuc.edu/admissions/registrar/generalInformation/attendance.aspx>

<http://www.tamuc.edu/aboutUs/policiesProceduresStandardsStatements/rulesProcedures/13students/academic/13.99.99.R0.01.pdf>

Academic Integrity

Students at Texas A&M University-Commerce are expected to maintain high standards of integrity and honesty in all of their scholastic work. For more details and the definition of academic dishonesty see the following procedures:

[Undergraduate Academic Dishonesty 13.99.99.R0.03](#)

[Undergraduate Student Academic Dishonesty Form](#)

<http://www.tamuc.edu/aboutUs/policiesProceduresStandardsStatements/rulesProcedures/documents/13.99.99.R0.03UndergraduateStudentAcademicDishonestyForm.pdf>

[Graduate Student Academic Dishonesty Form](#)

<http://www.tamuc.edu/academics/graduateschool/faculty/GraduateStudentAcademicDishonestyFormold.pdf>

<http://www.tamuc.edu/aboutUs/policiesProceduresStandardsStatements/rulesProcedures/13students/undergraduates/13.99.99.R0.03UndergraduateAcademicDishonesty.pdf>

Students with Disabilities-- ADA Statement

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

Velma K. Waters Library Rm 162

Phone (903) 886-5150 or (903) 886-5835

Fax (903) 468-8148

Email: studentdisabilityservices@tamuc.edu

Website: [Office of Student Disability Resources and Services](#)

<http://www.tamuc.edu/campusLife/campusServices/studentDisabilityResourcesAndServices/>

Nondiscrimination Notice

Texas A&M University-Commerce will comply in the classroom, and in online courses, with all federal and state laws prohibiting discrimination and related retaliation on the basis of race, color, religion, sex, national origin, disability, age, genetic information or veteran status. Further, an environment free from discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation, gender identity, or gender expression will be maintained.

Campus Concealed Carry Statement

Texas Senate Bill - 11 (Government Code 411.2031, et al.) authorizes the carrying of a concealed handgun in Texas A&M University-Commerce buildings only by persons who have been issued and are in possession of a Texas License to Carry a Handgun. Qualified law enforcement officers or those who are otherwise authorized to carry a concealed handgun in the State of Texas are also permitted to do so. Pursuant to Penal Code (PC) 46.035 and A&M-Commerce Rule 34.06.02.R1, license holders may not carry a concealed handgun in restricted locations.

For a list of locations, please refer to the [Carrying Concealed Handguns On Campus](#) document and/or consult your event organizer.

Web url:

<http://www.tamuc.edu/aboutUs/policiesProceduresStandardsStatements/rulesProcedures/34SafetyOfEmployeesAndStudents/34.06.02.R1.pdf>

Pursuant to PC 46.035, the open carrying of handguns is prohibited on all A&M-Commerce campuses. Report violations to the University Police Department at 903-886-5868 or 9-1-1.

A&M-Commerce Supports Students' Mental Health

The Counseling Center at A&M-Commerce, located in the Halladay Building, Room 203, offers counseling services, educational programming, and connection to community resources for students. Students have 24/7 access to the Counseling Center's crisis assessment services by calling 903-886-5145. For more information regarding Counseling Center events and confidential services, please visit www.tamuc.edu/counsel

COURSE OUTLINE / CALENDAR

Detailed Schedule (Subject to Minor Adjustments)

Week 1: *Course Orientation, Intros, Theoretical Foundations, Browse Theories/Topics*

<u>Date</u>	<u>Topics / Duties</u>
1/17: (Tues.)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Carefully read the Syllabus & browse all Course Materials on D2L▪ Post a brief Self Intro/Bio per the instructions on the professor's emailed intro notes. This comprises one of the first two (2) Class Participation points for Week 1.
1/18: (Wed.)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Find & Choose two (2) Articles to Summarize▪ Use TAMUC Online Library resources or Google Scholar to find a copy of your Articles▪ Send the Instructor a copy of each article you wish to Summarize. This comprises the other half of your Week 1 Participation Points.
1/19 – 1/21: (Thurs - Sat.)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Review Slides on Individual Perspectives: Biosocial and Trait Theories▪ Contact Group members to coordinate the Group Presentation project.▪ Browse readings & other class materials to inform your comments on Week 2's Discussion▪ Groups 1, 2 & 3: Spend the weekend putting together your Presentation. Email the instructor with ideas, questions, and issues.▪ Review the Slides on The Ecological Perspective: Neighborhoods and Crime
1/22: (Sun.)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Groups 1, 2, & 3: Presentations due by 11:59 pm.▪ Those Summarizing Readings in Week 2, submit 2-page summary by 11:59pm.

Week 2: *Discussions over 1st set of Group Presentations & Article Summaries*

<u>Date</u>	<u>Topics / Duties</u>
1/23: (Mon.)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Week 2 Article Summaries Posted for Class Discussion▪ Groups 1, 2, & 3 Presentations Posted for Class Discussion
1/24: (Tues.)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ View Group Presentations & Article Summaries.▪ Link the content in Group Presentations & Article Summaries to slides, readings, and internet research to inform your Week 2 Discussion comments.
1/25 – 1/27: (Wed.-Fri.)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ If you haven't done so yet, continue to Sign up for Article Summaries for Weeks 3, 4, & 5. (or change selections to better fit your term paper/group project topic(s)).▪ Groups 4, 5, & 6: work on Presentation▪ Week 3 Article Summary writers: read your selection(s) & draft your 2-page Summary(ies).▪ Review the Slides on The Learning Theories
1/29 (Sun.)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Week 2 Discussion Posts Due by 11:59pm.▪ Week 3 Article Summaries, Due by 11:59pm.▪ Groups 1, 2, & 3 Project Write-ups Due by 11:59pm.

Week 3: Discuss 2nd set of Presentations, Summaries, & Prelim. Term Paper Statement Due

- 1/30: (Mon.)
- Week 3 Article Summaries Posted for Class Discussion
 - Presentations for Groups 4, 5, & 6 Posted for Class Discussion
 - Review the Slides on Strain Theory
- 1/31: (Tues.)
- Link the Presentations & Reading Summaries content to slides, readings, and internet research to inform your Week 3 Discussion comments.
 - Continue to Sign up for Article Summaries for Weeks 4 & 5 (or change selections to better fit your term paper topic).
 - Review Slides on External Control & Self Control
- 2/1 – 2/3: (Wed. – Fri.)
- Work on 2-page preliminary term paper statement: See description on p. 3 above and on emailed guidelines in D2L
- 2/4 (Sat)
- 2-page prelim term paper statement/draft due by 11:59pm (entire class).
- 2/5: (Sun.)
- Groups 4, 5, & 6: Project write-ups due by 11:59pm.
 - Week 3 Discussion Posts due by 11:59pm (entire class)
 - Week 4 Article Summaries Due by 11:59pm.

Week 4: Theories Continued, Term Paper Feedback and 2nd Draft Due.

- 2/6: (Mon.)
- Review Slides on Critical Criminology & Conflict Theory
 - Browse Week 4 Readings
- 2/7: (Tues.)
- Week 4 Article Summaries Posted for Class Discussion
 - Review Slides on Labeling Theory
- 2/8:
- Review Graded Prelim Term Paper Statement & Feedback
 - Library Workshop: [Finding Scholarly Peer-Reviewed Articles on your Research Topics \(online\) - A&M-Commerce Community Calendar \(tamuc.edu\)](https://calendar.tamuc.edu/finding-scholarly-peer-reviewed-articles)
- 2/9 – 2/10: (Thurs. – Fri.)
- Revise Term Paper for 2nd Draft
- 2/11 (Sat)
- Term Paper 2nd Draft due by 11:59pm (entire class).
- *Instructor will travel on this day, with no email access until the late afternoon.
- 2/12: (Sun.)
- Week 4 Discussion Posts due by 11:59pm (entire class)
 - Week 5 Article Summaries Due by 11:59pm.

Week 5: Theories Continued, Final Draft of Term Paper Due.

- 2/13: (Mon.)
- Review Slides on Deterrence & Rational Choice
 - Browse Week 5 Readings
- 2/14: (Tues.)
- Week 5 Article Summaries Posted for Class Discussion
 - Review Slides on Environmental Criminology
- 2/15: (Wed.)
- Review Graded Term Paper 2nd Draft & Feedback
- 2/16:
- Revise Term Paper for Final Draft

(Thurs.)

2/17: ▪ Term Paper Final Draft Due 11:59pm
(Fri.) ▪ Week 5 Discussion Posts Due by 11:59pm.

Final “Exam”: Due on or before Sunday, Feb. 19th, 11:59pm.

The final “exam” is a brief reflection regarding 1) your final project and 2) the class as a whole. Answer these additional Qs: 3) What did you learn from writing the paper, 4) any regrets, 5) different approaches you would’ve taken, 6) what would be the next steps in continuing on with your research?, 7) If your work schedule and location permitted it, gauge your interest in / preference for in taking in-person master’s level courses vs. the online program, and finally, 8) Did you access the MSAC program orientation page, CJ 500 prior to, or during this course, and if so, did it help you with your research and writing skills?

There is no page requirement for this reflection. It will constitute the last portion of your grade for the Term Paper Progress Updates. Each entry is worth 3.33 points total x 3 ~ 10 pts.