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Crime in America CJ 1307.71W
COURSE SYLLABUS: Spring 2023

INSTRUCTOR INFORMATION

Instructor: Laura E. Salander
Email: laura.salander@tamuc.edu
Office Hours: By Appointment
Division Phone Number: 903-886-5332

COURSE INFORMATION

Textbook(s) Required: Criminological Theory (2018), 7/E Franklin P. Williams, III and Marilyn D. McShane ISBN-978-0134558899

Additional required readings will be assigned weekly in D2L/Brightspace and resources will be provided in the online learning platform in order to access the readings.

Course Description

American crime problems are studied in the historical perspective. Social and public policy factors affecting crime are discussed. The impact of crime and crime trends are shown along with the social characteristics of specific crimes. The prevention of crime is emphasized.

Student Learning Outcomes: Upon successful completion of this course, students should be able to do the following:

1. Describe and evaluate major theoretical explanations of crime.
2. Explain the extent, variety, locations, and impact of crime and delinquency in America.
3. Identify key criminogenic conditions.
4. Describe and evaluate our systems for recording and measuring crime.
5. Evaluate the effectiveness of social policies related to crime control.
6. Enumerate and explain the major factors which mitigate to lessen criminal responsibility.
7. Critique key characteristics of major criminology theory groups.
8. Discuss key features of major crime typologies.

The syllabus/schedule are subject to change.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

Minimal Technical Skills Needed

Using the learning management system (D2L), using Microsoft Word and PowerPoint, using presentation and graphics programs, and Turnitin. Written and oral communication skills; reading; memorization; critical thinking. You should know how to access a Web site when given an address, use the features of your Web browser, download files, attach files to emails, and use word processing software, ...etc.

Instructional Methods

This course is designed in a format that is delivered asynchronously 100% online. In the online environment, students will be engaged in discussion forums and weekly unit completion of materials that will lend success to completion of the course work. The weekly lessons will be released on Sunday at 5pm.

Each week/unit starts on Monday and ends on Sunday at 11:59pm CST and your grade for activities will be posted as soon thereafter as possible.

This course will provide a variety of activities and assessments to assist you in achieving the outcomes/objectives for the course. You will work toward achieving these outcomes through discussions/comments, written assignments, video assignments, quizzes and exams.

Student Responsibilities or Tips for Success in the Course

The student must log into the course through myLeo multiple times throughout the week to complete weekly assignments and post and respond on discussion boards. Weekly reading is expected as well as taking scheduled quizzes/exams and completing all other assignments. Students should check email daily and set up automatic notifications for announcements and other reminders in the D2L system. Any changes/updates to assignments will be posted mainly through the "Announcements" tool on D2L.

Students must cite in-text using APA style for all assignments. All written work is subject to Turnitin review. Any student who plagiarizes will receive a zero on the assignment in question.

Netiquette Expectations: When sending an email please put the COURSE NUMBER (CJ 1307) in the subject block of the email as well as signing your name. Further – per University requirements, please contact me using your University e-mail account.

Do's • Keep all postings to class-related content, such as the textbook readings, videos, and assignments. • Use caution when discussing personal matters; the discussion board is for general comments. • Ask each other for advice, suggestions, and tips to improve the quality of class work. • Encourage each member of the class to do the best work possible.

Don't's • Don't challenge or attack others; the discussions are meant to stimulate conversation, not create contention. • Avoid all defamatory, profane, threatening, offensive, or illegal materials; do not post anything in a message that you would not

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want the world to see, or you would not want anyone to know came from you. • Avoid using the discussion board as a forum for complaints; any relevant issues should be brought to the professor's attention in a private e-mail. • Don't use inappropriate language toward other students and/or the professor. Any violation of the standards of appropriate behavior online will be reported to the Dean of Students and appropriate disciplinary action will be taken by the college.

Additional Information: The information in this class may be controversial therefore all students are expected to respect each other. I will not tolerate disrespectful behavior, and those that choose to engage in this type of behavior will be disciplined appropriately. Please respect your classmates and your professor.

GRADING

Assignments for this course will be scored using a points system. Below is an explanation of how each assignment type will be scored.

Assignment Type	# of Assignments	Point Value	Total Points
Crime Theory Assignment	1	150	150
Exams	4	100	400
Participation/Discussions	10	40	400
Notes Journal	1	50	50
		TOTAL	1000

Grades earned on each assignment will be added together and will be divided by the total number of points possible in the course. Below is the overall point scale/grading schema for the course.

Total points possible for the semester = 1000.

1000-900 = A
899-800 = B
799-700 = C
699-600 = D
599 and below = F

Assessments

Exams

There will be four exams in the course worth 100 points each (400 total course points). They will cover assigned chapters/readings for that section and the due dates will be posted in the course calendar. Exams will consist of essay, multiple choice and true/false questions. Essays require essay format and at least two paragraphs of content. You will have 2 hours in which to take the exam. You may take the exam one time.

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Historical Crime and Integrated Theory Presentation or Paper: (150 points total – 10 points for Proposal and 140 points for presentation or paper). Proposal is due **3/26/23 by 11:59pm and Presentation or Paper is due 4/30/23 by 11:59 pm**. See MyLeo/D2L Assignment for details and Rubric.

Participation/Discussions: (10 posts/comments at 40 points each = 400 points) There will be 10 discussions posted throughout the semester worth 40 points each total (30 points for the initial post and 10 points for your comments). Discussion on topics must be done during the week(s) we are discussing the course material. Posts are due on Saturday by 11:59pm and comments are due by Sunday at 11:59pm of the week assigned.

Introduction (1 Introduction post not graded) Every student must introduce him- or herself by the fifth day of class (Saturday) during Week One. This information will be entered as a threaded discussion. You will receive 10 extra credit points for completing this task by the deadline. See introduction assignment post details in D2L.

Discussion Posts

The Discussions in this class will focus on the specific assignments connected to each week. Each student is expected to participate in the weekly discussion by responding to ideas(s) presented by the professor. A minimum of one initial discussion per week is required by Saturday at 11:59pm of the week assigned and two peer responses by Sunday. This must not be all on one day. Students may post earlier than the absolute due date if desired, but no later than the identified date. Five (5) points will be deducted for posts made after the Saturday deadline. The post will close on Sunday of the week assigned. Posts cannot be entered once the discussion is closed (Sunday at 11:59 pm).

The **Discussions** are directly related to the assigned lecture material. Upon completion of the assigned lecture material, you are expected to engage in an **ongoing** discussion/debate with your classmates. Your contributions to the discussion forums will be graded for **quality** and a **detailed analysis** linking the material to a critical appraisal of theory, policy, and practice. You must integrate course material (textbook) and outside material into your post and cite it properly. In all cases, students must have **one in-text citation and provide a full bibliography/works cited at the end of their post for all citations mentioned in the post in APA format** (See information later in the syllabus for more information on citing utilizing APA citation format).

These posts should be **the equivalent of 1 page in length or a minimum of 250 words**. The specific discussion assignment is located in each unit Week by clicking on the Discussion link.

Posts are due by Saturday at 11:59PM CST during the week assigned.

Comment Posts

Comment posts are responses you make to the discussion posts that you and your classmates post each week and are due by Sunday by 11:59pm. You are **required** to make a minimum of **two** comments for each discussion. I would strongly encourage you

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to engage your colleagues well past the two-comment minimum in order to maximize your opportunity for meaningful discussion and learning.

Comment posts should be meaningful, and at least one paragraph in length. Merely agreeing or disagreeing with a classmate will not be looked upon favorably and will result in a loss of points. A meaningful post is one that moves the discussion forward in some substantive way through providing one's perspective, additional information through research, or reframing the discussion in some new way. You are expected to engage in an **ongoing** discussion/debate with your classmates. Your comments will be graded for **quality**, and **relevance**. Your comments will also be graded based on your ability to engage in critical thinking.

NO LATE COMMENTS ARE ACCEPTED. All comment posts are due by Sunday at 11:59PM of the week assigned.

Assessment Method: Comments and the Discussion Post will be graded using the Discussion/Comments Grading Rubric. See information in D2L/Brightspace for Discussion Rubric. The discussion and comments for each week will be graded together and posted as one grade (Discussion = (30) + Comments 2 @ 5 points each (10) = 40 points).

Notes Journal – 50 points

The purpose of the Notes Journal is to document your gained knowledge and reflections of the course materials. The Notes Journal can be used for all your assignments in the course and ideally be helpful for your future courses.

Your Notes Journal can take any form that works for you. It can be typed, handwritten, stored on a website/blog, audio or video-recorded, etc. You will ultimately have to submit it electronically in some way so I can grade it. If your Notes Journal is digital, you can upload the document, website URL, etc. If you have a paper journal, you can scan it and then upload it.

I ask that you complete at least one journal entry per week that a reading is assigned to reflect on that week's readings, but you may also write on anything you like. Your Notes Journal can contain your answers to review questions, notes from discussions and activities, copies of the articles/websites you have read in the course, any questions you have, connections you're making between topics, a summary of the major points, your thoughts and reflections on the course material, etc. There may be points of time in the semester that I will pose a specific question to be addressed in the notes journal and will look for responses to the specific question posed. Everything I read will be kept confidential.

This assignment will be graded based largely on completion and insight not necessarily length. **There will be two deadlines for the Notes Journal – the end of Week #8 (3/12/23) and the end of Week #15 (5/6/23).** The Notes Journal is worth 50 points.

Notes Journal Late Submission Policy

Your grade will be lowered by 10% for each day late unless you have contacted me beforehand to explain any circumstances and we have agreed to an

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extension **before the due date**. Late Notes Journals will not be accepted after three days.

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

If you have any questions or are having difficulties with the course material, please contact your Instructor.

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:

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

Interaction with Instructor Statement

My primary form of communication with the class will be through Email and D2L/Brightspace Announcements. Any changes to the syllabus or other important information critical to the class will be disseminated to students in this way via your official University Email address available to me through MyLeo and in Announcements. It will be your responsibility to check your University Email and Announcements regularly. You may also want to set up notifications on your MyLeo account to receive text/email notifications.

Students who Email me outside of regular office hours can expect a reply within 24 hours M-F. Students who Email me during holidays or over the weekend should expect a reply by the end of the next regularly scheduled business day.

COURSE AND UNIVERSITY PROCEDURES/POLICIES

Course Specific Procedures/Policies

APA Citation Format Policy

It is very important that you learn how to cite properly. In some ways, citations are more important than the actual text of your paper/assignment. Therefore, you should take this task seriously and devote some time to understanding how to cite properly. If you take the time to understand this process up front, it will save you a significant amount of time in the long run (not to mention significant deductions in points).

In the social and behavioral sciences (including Criminal Justice), we use APA (American Psychological Association) format. As a rule of thumb, one cites whenever they are paraphrasing other people's words or when they quote other's words directly. You may learn to cite from a variety of different sources including the APA Tutorial and the sources listed below.

www.apastyle.org (**Opens in a new window**)

<http://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/560/02/> (**Opens in a new window**)

www.library.cornell.edu/resrch/citmanage/apa (**Opens in a new window**)

It is the student's responsibility to understand how to cite properly. If you have questions, feel free to ask.

Late Work

My position is that everyone knows the rules of engagement at the beginning of the term and that it is the student's responsibility to ensure that they plan accordingly to submit their assignments in a timely manner. However, I do note that life circumstances arise. Therefore – the Historical Crime and Integrated Theory Assignment will receive a 20% deduction in points if submitted after the due date and cannot be accepted beyond one week of the due date late unless you have contacted me beforehand to explain any circumstances and we have agreed to an extension **before the due date**. Late comments on discussions will not be accepted. When a discussion is closed it cannot be reopened for late submissions. Quizzes cannot be made up. Exams will only be

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allowed a late submission under extenuating, documented circumstances. Written assignments and discussions cannot be regraded or redone.

Notes Journal Late Submission Policy

Your grade will be lowered by 10% for each day late unless you have contacted me beforehand to explain any circumstances and we have agreed to an extension **before the due date**. Late Notes Journals will not be accepted after three days.

Drop Course Policy

Students should take responsibility for dropping themselves from the course according to University policy should this become necessary.

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).

<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](#)

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

[Graduate Student Academic Dishonesty 13.99.99.R0.10](#)

<http://www.tamuc.edu/aboutUs/policiesProceduresStandardsStatements/rulesProcedures/13students/graduate/13.99.99.R0.10GraduateStudentAcademicDishonesty.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

Gee Library- Room 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.

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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.

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The instructor has the right to modify the schedule due to unforeseen circumstances/changes in events.

Tentative COURSE OUTLINE / CALENDAR Spring 2023

Weeks begin on Monday and end on Saturday.

- Week #1:** 1/17-1/22 Course Introduction. Syllabus, homework and text review.
Chapter 1 – Introduction/Assigned Readings on Historical Crimes
Introduction Post
- Week #2:** 1/23-1/29 Chapters 2, 3, 4 - Classical, Positive, and Chicago Schools/
Assigned Readings on Historical Crimes
Discussion Post #1
- Week #3:** 1/30-2/5
2/1/23 **Discussion Post #2**
Exam #1 (Chapters 1-4/Readings from Weeks #1-#2)
Census Day
- Week #4:** 2/6-2/12 Chapter 5 - Differential Association Theory/Assigned
Readings on Historical Crimes
Discussion Post #3
- Week #5:** 2/13-2/19 Chapter 6 - Anomie Theory/Assigned Readings on
Historical Crimes
Discussion Post #4
- Week #6:** 2/20-2/26 Chapters 7 & 8 - Subculture and Labeling Theories/
Assigned Readings on Historical Crimes
Discussion Post #5
- Week #7:** 2/17-3/5 **Exam #2 (Chapters 5-8/Readings from Weeks #4-#6)**
- Week #8:** 3/6-3/12 Chapter 9 – Conflict Theory/Assigned Readings on
Historical Crimes
Discussion Post #6
Notes Journal Check In – 3/12/23
- 3/13-3/17 SPRING BREAK - NO CLASS!!**
- Week #9:** 3/20-3/26 Chapter 10 – Gender Based Theories/Assigned Readings
on Historical Crimes
Discussion Post #7
Historical Event and Integrated Theory Proposal Due

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Week #10: 3/27-4/2	Chapter 11 – Social Control/Assigned Readings on Historical Crimes Discussion Post #8
Week #11: 4/3-4/9	Chapter 12 – Social Learning/Assigned Readings on Historical Crimes Discussion Post #9
Week #12: 4/10-4/16	Exam #3 (Chapters 9-12/Readings from Weeks #8-#11)
Week #13: 4/17-4/23 4/20/23	Chapter 13 &14 – Rational and Contemporary Theories of Process/Assigned Readings on Historical Crimes Last Day to Withdraw
Week #14: 4/24-4/30	Historical Event and Integrated Theory Assignment Due
Week #15: 5/1-5/6	Chapter 15 - Contemporary Integrative and Critical Theories/ Assigned Readings on Historical Crimes Discussion Post #10 Notes Journal Due – 5/6/23
Finals Week 5/6-5/12	Final Exam (Chapters 13, 14 & 15/Readings from Weeks #13-#15) due 5/10/23 by 11:59pm

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