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CJ 330.01E Criminology
Tues, Thurs 11:00am – 12:15pm
Journal Bldg. Rm 234

COURSE SYLLABUS: Fall 2023
August 28, 2023 - December 15, 2023

INSTRUCTOR INFORMATION

Instructor:	Dr. Willie Edwards, Professor
Office Location:	McDowell Business Admin Bldg., Rm 102a
Office Hours:	MWF 10am - 12pm; & 3:30pm - 4:30pm
Office Phone:	(903) 886-5331
Office Fax:	(903) 886-5330
University Email Address:	willie.edwards@tamuc.edu
Preferred Form of Communication:	(email)
Communication Response Time:	(within twenty-four hours during the weekday)

COURSE INFORMATION

Materials – Textbooks, Readings, Supplementary Readings

Textbook(s) Required: *Criminology: Theory, Research, and Policy*. 5th edition.
Gennaro F. Vito & Jeffrey R. Maahs. Jones & Baartlett
Learning Publishers, 2021. ISBN 9781284181784

Optional Texts and/or Materials: Additional and/or supplementary required readings will be assigned during the semester.

COURSE DESCRIPTION

Course Description:

The focus of this course will be on the defining of criminal acts, learning the theories that can be used to explain the participation or reason for perpetrating criminal acts, and exploring the public policies that are developed to respond to the threat and existence of criminal behavior.

Course Design:

This course will be a combination of face-to-face and online. Some assignments will be completed and/or turned in through D2L, and others will be turned in during class time. A combination of lectures, discussions, and presentations will be employed to investigate the subject area. Students are expected to participate in class discussions, to demonstrate that they are reading the material and to share with the class any interesting information associated with the subject matter of the class. The professor will work to integrate face-to-face and online assignments to increase the understanding of criminological theories by the student.

Student Learning Outcomes

1. Students will become familiar with the classic and contemporary theories of criminology, and demonstrate this familiarity by achieving pass score of all exams and other writing assignments
2. Students will become acquainted with the professional journals in the field of criminology, criminal justice and sociology, and demonstrate this acquaintance by reading assigned journal articles, plus successfully completing any assignments associated with this reading
3. Students will develop an understanding of the relationship between theory and research; this understanding will be demonstrated by participating in graded class discussions held during the semester
4. This course will endeavor to increase the student's skills in writing and verbal communication, especially in the topic areas of criminology and criminal justice; by conducting exercises within and outside of class that measure these skills
5. Each student will develop a reasonable amount of knowledge about the field of crime and criminology which will be displayed by student's performance on class exams and the successful completion of all other class assignments

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

Minimal Technical Skills Needed

The class will use the D2L learning management system. Students in the class may be required to use or be able to perform tasks employing Microsoft Word, PowerPoint, and using presentation and graphics programs, etc.

Instructional Methods

This class will use a mixture of face to face, in class activities, and D2L. Please make sure you read the class syllabus closely to keep up with assignments turned in during class and

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those submitted in D2L. Assignments submitted in D2L must be on time, on or before 11:59pm of the designated due date.

Methods of Evaluation:

(1) Objective Exams (5 exams @ 100 pts. each = 500 pts.) To be completed in classroom

In this class there will be five (5) objective (most likely multiple choice) exams during the semester. Each exam will be composed of fifty questions, and each exam will be worth 100 points. Although the chapters and the dates of the exams are stated below, they are also placed under the heading titled Course Outline/Calendar. **Please do not miss a test, no make-up is planned or will be allowed.** Those who feel adventurous and miss an exam will have to take a comprehensive exam at the end of the semester in addition to the final exam.

Objective Exam # 1 (Chapters 1, 2, & 3) September 19, 2023

Objective Exam # 2 (Chapters 6) October 17, 2023

Objective Exam # 3 (Chapter 7) November 14, 2023

Objective Exam # 4 (Chapters 8 & 9) November 30, 2023

Objective Exam # 5 (Chapters 9, 10, 11, & 12) December 12, 2023

(2) Class Writing (5 writings @ 15 pts. each = 75) To be completed in classroom

During the semester there will be five (5) class writings. These writings will pertain to students answering a question or statement proposed by the professor which will deal with some aspect of criminological theory. Each writing will be worth fifteen (15) points.

(3) Research Article Exercise (2 research articles @ 20 pts. each = 40 pts.) To be completed in classroom

During the semester the class will be responsible for reading two (2) assigned research articles dealing with a specific criminological theory. These articles will be posted in the resource area of D2L and are likely to be given as handouts in class. On designated dates the class will be responsible for having read the article then prepared to do a writing assignment on that specific research article. Each research article writing answer will be worth 20 points.

(4) Student Selected Research Article Summary (2 Student Selected articles @ 30 pts. each = 60pts.) Submitted through D2L

Students are provided a format which must be used to summarize a research article selected by each individual student. (The articles discussed in class cannot be used for this assignment.) Students are responsible for summarizing two different research articles during the semester. The format for this assignment is attached to this class syllabus as Attachment A. The research articles must pertain to one of the criminological theories studied in this class or presented in the textbook. The summary is due on the date identified below by 11:59pm and must be placed in the appropriate submission area

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marked “Student Selected Research Article Summary.” These assignments are worth 30 points each.

Student Selected Research Articles (selected by student) Summary due:

October 9, 2021 by 11:59pm & November 14, 2021 by 11:59pm

- **Points to consider for maximum grade achievement:**

- Format of summary followed as required
- Pertinent details of article present/presented
- Clarity exists in student’s writing

Student Responsibilities or Tips for Success in the Course

Students should plan to regularly log onto the course website. Students should be very aware of their study habit and how much time they should commit to each class, the amount of weekly study time and participation time will impact your degree of success.

In addition, here are some other points to consider:

Tips on How to be successful in this Class:

1. Students must commit serious time to reading the textbook, and other assigned readings.
2. Student should ask questions of the professor if there is any information, he/she does not understand.
3. Students should regularly attend class.
4. Students should take good, clear, and understandable notes from the lectures.
5. Students must commit a serious amount of time to preparation for the exams.
6. Students must make the most of the “easy” grades, so they help to balance or soften the more difficult grades.

GRADING

Course Possible points:

5 Test @ 100 pts. each	= 500 pts.
5 Class Writing @ 15 pts., each	= 75 pts.
2 Research Articles Exercise @ 20pts. each	= 40 pts.
2 Research Article Student Selected Summary @ 30 pts. each	= 60 pts.
	675 pts. total

Grading

The following grade scale will be used:

- A = 675 – 607 pts.
- B = 606 – 540 pts.
- C = 539 – 472 pts.
- D = 471 – 405 pts.
- F = 404 or less pts.

Assessments

All class assessments are connected to one or more Student Learning Outcomes:

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1. *Students will become familiar with the classic and contemporary theories of criminology...* (will be measured by the administering of the five objective exams; and the weekly quizzes).
2. *Students will become acquainted with the professional journals in the field of criminology...* (will be measured by accomplished work of each student writing a research article summary; and by the students reading and sharing in a discussion of two research articles selected for this task by the professor).
3. *Students will develop an understanding of the relationship between theory and research...* (will be demonstrated by students participating in the discussion of the two research articles and by the writing to be performed in and outside the classroom).
4. *This course will endeavor to increase the student's skills in writing and verbal communication...* (this assessment will occur through the speaking of students during the class discussion and the writing assignments such as the research article summary, and others).
5. *Each student will develop a reasonable amount of knowledge about the field of crime and criminology...* (to be demonstrated through all the assignments and tasks identified with this class).

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.

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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:

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

Interaction with Instructor Statement

Contact of Professor:

Students wishing to contact the Professor should visit his office during the stated office hours or make an appointment. Students may also contact the Professor using the office telephone number or the email, both are provided on the first page of this class syllabus.

COURSE AND UNIVERSITY PROCEDURES/POLICIES

Course Specific Procedures/Policies

Class Policy:

This department has a strong policy and a low tolerance for cheating. Plagiarism is disliked and treated very seriously. Texas A&M University-Commerce does not tolerate plagiarism and other forms of academic dishonesty. “Academic dishonesty” includes, but is not limited to, plagiarism (the appropriation or stealing of the ideas or words of another and passing them off as one’s own), cheating on exams or other course assignments, collusion (the unauthorized collaboration with others in preparing course assignments), and abuse (destruction, defacing or removal) of resource material.

Sites that address plagiarism and how to avoid it: <http://www.plagiarism.org> or <http://www.unc.edu/depts/wcweb/hanouts/plagiarism.html>.

A student may drop a course by logging into their MYLEO account and clicking on the

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hyperlink labeled 'Drop a class' from among the choices found under the MYLEO section of the Web page.

It is the student's responsibility to be aware of the rules or policies relating to withdrawal or "X." You are encouraged to follow the appropriate procedures of the university as they relate to this matter. I will be as helpful and understanding where possible, but please be aware that this professor does not like to give an incomplete as a grade.

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: [Netiquette](#)

<http://www.albion.com/netiquette/corerules.html>

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 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- 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.

Counseling Center Services

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

Course Content Schedule – CJ 330 – Fall 2023

Week One	Aug 28, - Sept 3, 2023	Introduction to Criminology
Week Two	Sept 4 - 10, 2023	Chapter 1 - Crime & Criminology
Week Three	Sept 11 -17, 2023	Chapter 2 - The Incidence of Crime Class Writing # 1, September 14, 2023 (conducted in classroom)
Week Four	Sept 18 - 24, 2023	Chapter 3 - Neoclassical Criminology Objective Exam # 1, September 19, 2023 (conducted in classroom)
Week Five	Sept 25, - Oct 1, 2023	Chapter 6 - Social Structure Research Article Exercise # 1, Sept 28, 2023 (conducted in classroom)
Week Six	Oct 2 - 8, 2023	Continuation of Chapter 6 - Social Structure Class Writing # 2, October 5, 2023 (conducted in classroom)

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		Student Selected Research Article Summary # 1 due, October 8, 2023 by 11:59pm (submitted through D2L)
Week Seven	Oct 9 - 15, 2023	Continuation of Chapter 6 - Social Structure
Week Eight	Oct 16 - 22, 2023	Objective Exam # 2, October 17, 2023 (conducted in classroom)
Week Nine	Oct 23 - 29, 2023	Chapter 7 - Social Process Paradigm Class Writing # 3, October 24, 2023 (conducted in classroom)
Week Ten	Oct 30, - Nov 5, 2023	Continuation of Chapter 7 - Social Process Research Article Exercise # 2 November 2, 2023 (conducted in classroom)
Week Eleven	Nov 6 - 12, 2023	Continuation of Chapter 7 Social Process
Week Twelve	Nov 13 - 19, 2023	Chapter 8 - Critical Approach Objective Exam # 3, November 14, 2023 (conducted in classroom) Student Selected Research Article Summary # 2 due, November 19, 2023 by 11:59pm (submitted through D2L) Class Writing # 4, November 16, 2023 (conducted in classroom)
Week Thirteen	Nov 20 - 26, 2023	Chapter 9 - Life Course
Week Fourteen	Nov 27, - Dec 3, 2023	Types of Crimes (Chapters 9, 10, 11, & 12) Objective Exam # 4, November 30, 2023 (conducted in classroom)

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Week Fifteen	Dec 4 - 10, 2023	Types of Crimes (Chapters 9, 10, 11, & 12) Class Writing # 5, December 5, 2023 (conducted in classroom)
Week Sixteen	December 11, 2023	Final Week - Exam Objective Exam # 5, December 12, 2023, Tuesday (conducted in classroom) 10:30am – 12:30pm

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Attachment A: Instructions for Research Article Summary Selected by Students

Instructions for writing Research Article Summary Exercise

Naturally, you want to provide the bibliographical information of the research article first. Place this at the top of the page (center it) and it should contain the following information:

Name of author(s)
 "Title of Article"
Title of Journal
 volume: complete number of pages, year of publication

For Example

Volkan Topalli. "When being good is bad: An expansion of neutralization theory."
Criminology 43:797-827, 2005.

Now, proceed to summarize the article:

Focus, Purpose or Goal of Article

1. Make sure you describe the focus, purpose, or goal of the article. These should all be the same. To make this easier to read, students should use these headings.

Sample

2. If a sample was used in the research then describe the sample and identify how it was collected or selected. If the article is a theoretical piece then there will be no sample and if that is the case then simply omit this area.

Findings

3. Describe the finding(s) of the research. What was the author(s) able to establish from the research should be described, discussed here.

Conclusion

4. What conclusions did the author(s) draw or write in the article? So make this a conclusion session which should be different from the findings.

Article's Application

5. In your last paragraph (or more if needed) develop a statement (brief discussion) of how this article fits into the understanding of the focus of the class, crime profiling. Relate the article/research to what we have talked about during this semester, criminological theory.