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Crime in America- CJ 1307.74W Spring 2025

COURSE SYLLABUS: Spring 2025

INSTRUCTOR INFORMATION

Instructor: Jana Miller
Office Location: Virtual
Office Hours: As Needed
Office Phone: 903-257-8765 Text (cell)
Office Fax: None
University Email Address: Jana.Miller@tamuc.edu or JMiller@navarrocounty.org
Preferred Form of Communication: Email or Text
Communication Response Time: Within 24 hours or less

COURSE INFORMATION

Materials – Textbooks, Readings, Supplementary Readings

Textbook(s) Required: **Required: Criminological Theory, 8/E J. Robert Lilly, Francis T. Cullen and Richard A. Ball; Sage College Publishing**
ISBN: **978-1-0718-1641-7**
Software Required: None
Optional Texts and/or Materials; None

The syllabus/schedule are subject to change.

Course Description

This course is designed to explore crime, its context, and especially its causes. First, a foundation will be provided concerning the basic concepts of crime, law, and criminology. Next, theories of crime causation will be explored. The etiology or causes of crime are at the heart of this course, with the theories acting as pillars in the class structure. Next, crime typologies will be examined, or the different kinds of crimes most prevalent in our society. Lastly, we will gain an overview of the criminal justice system itself. The intent of this format is to present a balanced perspective on the field of criminology for new students to the discipline. Attention will also be directed to assure inclusion of issues concerning race, gender, and class, which are often overlooked.

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Student Learning Outcomes (Should be measurable; observable; use action verbs)

1. The student will demonstrate an understanding of theoretical criminology, crime and deviance, and the social context of crime
2. The student will demonstrate an understanding of crime causation
3. The student will demonstrate an understanding of future issues and trends related to criminology.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

Minimal Technical Skills Needed

1. Attend class regularly (via Internet)
2. Read material **before** class
3. **Active** participation in discussions (not just “I agree/disagree”)

Instructional Methods

The method of instruction for this course will be a combination of power point presentations, discussions, and group activities. The specific activities used to engage students in mastering chapter material will be discussion board participation, exams and a research paper as assigned.

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Student Responsibilities or Tips for Success in the Course

Communication is the key to success! Please sign into your course as often throughout the week, as possible. Complete your discussion boards as requested. Understand, that I can only grade what I have and the more I have the better the grade. If you ever have any questions, please just ask.

GRADING

Final grades in this course will be based on the following scale:

A = 90%-100%

B = 80%-89%

C = 70%-79%

D = 60%-69%

F = 59% or Below

Total points corresponding to the final letter grades

A	738 – 820
B	656 – 737
C	574 - 655
D	492 – 573
F	<492

Assessments

Exams: You will have 4 exams during the course (each exam is worth 100 points). The exams, in general, will not be cumulative, however some of the material presented later in the course builds on topics previously discussed. Exams are to be taken on the date listed on the syllabus. Each examination will consist of short essay questions. You may prepare for these exams by reviewing reading assignments, class notes and discussion questions. Please know that a short essay is not 1-3 sentences. It is a well thought out answer in 2-3 good paragraphs. You should also cite any sources used to answer these questions.

Online Discussions: We are going to integrate most of our learning into online discussion. Please, make sure you are familiar with all aspects of D2L. There is an online tutorial if there is something you do not understand. Not understanding D2L is not an acceptable excuse for late assignments. Start now getting familiar

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with it. For full credit of 20 points, you will need to post an original post that is cited correctly (APA) and answer TWO of your classmates with a reply which consists of more than “I agree or I disagree”. There should be a total of THREE replies to each discussion board for full credit.

Research Project: The research project will be in the format of a PowerPoint due at the end of the semester. I would like you to create this PowerPoint based on one of the theories we discuss in this course. The idea is the theory you choose should be able to explain parts of criminological behavior. So, once you have chosen your theory, I want you to completely define the theory and explain how this theory fits into identifying behaviors. This PowerPoint must be at least 20 slides long not including your title slide and works cited slide(s). Please, use APA format writing style and for your works cited slides. You must use at LEAST 5 sources or works cited. Your work will be graded for grammar, spelling and content. You will have all semester to work on this project and if you have any questions, please ask. I am here to help you learn and have a positive learning experience. I want you to be creative using color and pictures. Please use examples to back up your theory. You can use humor, have fun with this project, and just understand it is your final. You will have deadlines to meet throughout the course with reference to this project, so please be on the lookout for prompts on your syllabus. This will be your final exam as well and is worth 200 points of your final grade.

You are encouraged to monitor your grades throughout the semester via the grade book in D2L. If you turn in an assignment and do not receive a grade or have a question about the grading, I need to know immediately. I will not entertain any disputes later than one week after the grades are posted.

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:

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<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:

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

Interaction with Instructor Statement

COURSE AND UNIVERSITY PROCEDURES/POLICIES

Course Specific 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.

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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>

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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.

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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

Department or Accrediting Agency Required Content

COURSE OUTLINE / CALENDAR

Course Outline by Topic and Chapter

Week 1 (01.13.2025-01.19.2025)

Chapter 1 Contrast and Consequences of Theory- entry 1
Please introduce us to you- entry 2

Complete Discussion Board

****Note****- you have two entries to make for **full credit!**

Week 2 (01.20.2025-01.26.2025)

1.20.2025- HOLIDAY

Chapter 2 The Search for the Criminal Man

Chapter 3 The Rejecting Individualism- The Chicago School

Chapter 4 Crime In American Society: Anomie and Strain Theory

Complete Discussion Board

SECTION II: THE FOUNDATIONS OF AMERICAN CRIMINOLOGY

Week 3 (01.27.2025-02.02.2025)

EXAM 1- Chapters 1, 2, 3 & 4

Week 4 (01.31.2022-02.06.2022)

Chapter 5 Society as Insulation: The Origins of Control Theory

Complete Discussion Board

PowerPoint Topic- Please send via EMAIL the topic you would like to use for your PowerPoint. This must be approved before you begin. This is part of your final grade.

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Week 5 (02.03.2025-02.09.2025)

Chapter 6 The Complexity of Control: Hirschi's Two Theories and Beyond
Complete Discussion Board

SECTION III: BUILDING ON THE FOUNDATION

Week 6 (02.10.2025-02.16.2025)

Chapter 7 The Irony of State Intervention: Labeling Theory
Chapter 8 Social Power and the Construction of Crime: Conflict Theory
Complete Discussion Board

Week 7 (02.17.2025-02.23.2025)

EXAM 2-Chapters 5, 6, 7, & 8

PowerPoint works cited Due- Please send via EMAIL a few of the sources you will be using as part of your PowerPoint. This is part of your research paper grade.

SECTION IV: MODERN CRIMINOLOGY

Week 8 (02.24.2025-03.02.2025)

Chapter 9 The Variety of Critical Theory
Complete Discussion Board

Week 9 (03.03.2025-03.09.2025)

Chapter 10 The Gendering of Criminology: Feminist Theory
Complete Discussion Board

Week 10 (03.10.2025-03.16.2025)

SPRING BREAK

Week 11 (03.17.2025-03.23.2025)

Chapter 11 Crimes of the Powerful: Theories of White-Collar Crime

Chapter 12 Bringing Punishment Back In: Conservative Criminology
Complete Discussion Board

Week 12 (03.24.2025-03.30.2025)

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EXAM- 3 -Chapters 9, 10, 11 & 12

Any Questions about your PowerPoint??

Week 13 (03.31.2025-04.06.2025)

Chapter 13 Conservatism in Context: Contemporary Developments
Complete Discussion Board

SECTION V: CONTEMPORARY PERSPECTIVES

Week 14 (04.07.2025-04.13.2025)

Chapter 14 Choosing Crime in Everyday Life: Routine Activity and Rational Choice
 Theory
Chapter 15 The Search for the “Criminal Man” Revisited: Biosocial Theories
Complete Discussion Board

Week 15 (04.14.2025-04.20.2025)

Chapter 17 The Development of Criminals: Life-Course Theories
Chapter 18 Black Criminology: Theorist of Race and Crime

Complete Discussion Board

Week 16 (04.21.2025-04.27.2025)

Exam 4- Chapters 13, 14, 15, 17 & 18

**Complete FINAL copy of PowerPoint which is due via EMAIL, NO LATER THAN
05.04.2025 at 11:30PM.**

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