

CJ 201: Foundations in Criminology

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Office: Behavioral Sciences 109

Fall 2004
MWF 11:00a-11:50a
Henry Hall 227

Office Hours: Mondays/Wednesdays (Noon-1p) & Tuesdays (10:30a-11:30a)
Alternative times available by appointment only.

Course Prerequisites: None. Open to non-majors.

Catalog Description:

The study of crime: nature, types, causation theories, crime statistics, criminal law, the victim, punishment and crime prevention.

Course Outcomes:

Upon successful completion of this course, the student will have a demonstrable understanding of:

1. The differences and similarities between crime and deviance.
2. The historical and sociological foundations of criminology as a discipline.
3. The nature and extent of criminal behavior in society and the measurement thereof.
4. The major theories underlying criminology.
5. The specific elements that comprise certain crimes (e.g., robbery) and the extent of these types of crimes in our society.

Reading materials:

Criminology. Freda Adler, Gerhard O.W. Mueller, and William S. Laufer. McGraw-Hill, 5th ed. 2004.

Additional reading materials will be used in supplement to the text.

Course Approach:

This course will be presented using a variety of methods, primarily through lecture and group discussions and exercises, often employing instructional aids like PowerPoint and other audio/visual material.

Course Requirements:

- **Two (2) midterm examinations.** These exams are not cumulative and will include only materials covered in the specified sections. Items on the exam may come from the text, supplemental reading materials, classroom lecture and discussions, or other means used throughout the period. Exams may consist of questions in multiple choice, short answer, and essay formats. There will be a short review of the exam before it is administered.
- **One (1) final examination.** This exam is cumulative and will include materials covered during the entire class term. This exam will have a primary focus on the materials included in the last section of the term, but it will also include items from the entire class term. Exams may consist of questions in multiple choice, short answer, and essay formats. There will be a short review of the exam before it is administered.

- **Regular class attendance.** As a policy, if a student misses 4 classes throughout the term, a deficiency notice will be sent to the registrar's office. In cases where 4 absences occur, it will result in one of two consequences: (1) a grade deduction of, but not limited to, one full letter grade or (2) for those with extenuating circumstances, an incomplete (to be made up no later than 30 days after the final exam). "Extenuating circumstances" will be determined on a case-by-case basis, but the standard for this sort of exception is considered as circumstances beyond one's control (e.g., medical illness, family emergency). In such cases, you will be asked to provide appropriate documentation to support your absence(s).
- **Regular classroom participation.** Besides simply coming to class, students will be asked to contribute to lecture, group discussions and exercises, and informal presentations. Contributions to group and individual in-class exercises will be assessed through participation (e.g., extent and depth of discussion), completeness of in-class work turned in, etc. This also means that students will come to class prepared, being able to respond to questions posed from the instructor.

TERMS OF COURSE REQUIREMENTS:

1. Late assignments/projects will be discounted 10% per day after the due date. All late assignments must be turned in within 1 week, otherwise loss of all credit will occur.
2. Unless otherwise specified, assignments are due at the beginning of class.
3. Exams are to be taken on the days that they are administered. Exceptions are to be granted only in extenuating circumstance, otherwise loss of all credit will occur. If you are given the opportunity to take an exam after given in class, you will be given a different exam which may be more comprehensive than the initial one given.
4. Regular attendance is a must given the amount of material covered in the course. Four absences or more, not including medical emergencies, etc., will incur a minimum letter-grade reduction (the more absences up and beyond four, will affect your grade further in terms of lost letter grade). If you know you will be missing a class in the future due to legitimate reasons, be sure to tell me in advance and provide any necessary paperwork; this will allow me to keep you up-to-date on material you will be missing.
5. Students will be expected to have read materials prior to each class session and completed appropriate assignments. It is especially important that students read and do work outside of the classroom due to the breadth of materials covered in such a relatively short period of time. In-class quizzes may be administered periodically in order to assess progress and attention given to weekly readings/exercises.
6. I have an open-door approach when it comes to helping students understand the material and do well in the course. If you would like to meet with me, visit me during my office hours or call/e-mail me to set up an appointment for an alternative time if those hours don't work for you. DON'T HESITATE to talk to, call, or e-mail me!
7. Any instances of academic dishonesty will result in an "FD" (failure for dishonesty) grade for the course and will be subject to the policies and procedures for the college. If you are at all unclear about what constitutes academic dishonesty, refer to catalogued materials.
8. As a policy, opportunities for extra credit WILL NOT be available. All students begin the course with perfect scores, and will have every opportunity to maintain this score.
9. You need to provide the instructor with documentation certified from CUH about any disabilities or special needs that you may have if you want to request assistance or allowances on exams, assignments, etc. I must receive this documentation early in the semester (w/l the first two weeks).

Grading System:

The class will be graded on a curve, based on the highest score received on exams, participation, and attendance. For this curve, a standardized grading system will be used:

A = 93-100% (of highest point total received)

B = 84-92%

C = 75-83%

D = 66-74%

F = 65% and below

Point Distribution & Scoring System:	% of Final Grade	Point distribution		
Final examination	30%	100 / 30	=	30
Midterm Exam #1	25%	100 / 25	=	25
Midterm Exam #2	25%	100 / 25	=	25
Classroom Participation	10%	100 / 10	=	10
Classroom Attendance	10%	100 / 10	=	10
	100%			100 points

As a policy, the curve for this class will not exceed a straight 90-80-70-60 curve. For example, if a student scores 100% on an exam, the curve will revert downward to a standard 90-80 . . . etc. curve. It will not be 93%/84%, etc. Based on overall class performance, the instructor will adjust the curve accordingly if anomalies occur.

Course Schedule

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Week	Date	General Topic	Have Read for Week
1	8/23	Overview of Criminology	Ch. 1 (pp. 1-21)
	8/25		
	8/27	No Class – Fall Spirit Convocation	
2	8/30	Identifying, Measurement, Nature/Extent of Crime	Ch. 2 (pp. 22-56)
	9/1		
	9/3		
3	9/6	No Class – Holiday (Labor Day)	Ch. 3. (58-79)
	9/8	Foundations of Criminological Theory/ Major Schools of Thought	
	9/10		
4	9/13	Psychological & Biological Perspectives	Ch. 4 (81-113)
	9/15		
	9/17		
5	9/20	Exam #1 on Wednesday 9/22 (Chapters 1-4) Strain & Cultural Deviance Theories	Ch. 5 (114-126)
	9/22		
	9/24		
6	9/27	Strain & Cultural Deviance Theories (cont'd.) Formations of Subcultures	Ch. 5 (127-141) Ch. 6 (142-165)
	9/29		
	10/1		
7	10/4	Social Control Theory	Ch. 7 (166-187)
	10/6		
	10/8		
8	10/11	No Class – Holiday (Discoverer's Day)	Ch. 8 (188-211)
	10/13	Labeling, Conflict, & Radical Theories	
	10/15		
9	10/18	Environmental Theory	Ch. 9 (212-234)
	10/20		
	10/22		
10	10/25	Exam #2 on Monday 10/25 (Chapters 5-9) Violent Crimes	Ch. 10 (235-258)
	10/27		
	10/29		
11	11/1	Violent Crimes (cont'd.)	Ch. 10 (259-286)
	11/3		
	11/5		
12	11/8	Property Crimes	Ch. 11 (288-314)
	11/10		
	11/12		
13	11/15	White-Collar & Corporate Crime	Ch. 12 (316-351)
	11/17		
	11/19		
14	11/22	Public Order Crimes	Ch. 13 (352-380)
	11/24		
	11/26	No Class – Thanksgiving Recess	
15	11/29	International & Comparative Criminology	Ch. 14 (382-407)
	12/1		
	12/3		
FINAL EXAMINATION: WEDNESDAY, December 8 th , 10:30a-12:30p (Chap. 1-14; all materials covered during term)			