

## **Criminal Justice 405**

### **Theories of Crime and Delinquency**

**Note: This course is the same as SOCL 405. You can't receive credit for both. If your student classification is Freshman or Sophomore or you have not completed your development courses, you are not eligible for enrollment in a senior level course. If any of these restrictions apply to you, you must drop or provide written approval from your academic advisor and academic dean.**

**Professor:** G. Dale Welch  
Professor of Gerontology and Sociology

**Office:** Stubbs 105

**Phone:** 342-1434

**E-mail:** [welch071@bellsouth.net](mailto:welch071@bellsouth.net)

**Office Hours:** 7:30 a.m. – 10:30 a.m. Tuesday and Thursday, 7:30 – 11:30 a.m. Friday

**Basic Rules for this Internet Course:** In assignments is a contract that you will read and resubmit with your name, CWID, major, and date you reviewed it. This defines the boundaries for the class and provides some general information about procedure. Be sure you keep a copy as a reference. BE AWARE: You will be receiving an assignment about every four to six days. These assignments (described below) are lengthy and detailed.

**Course Information:** This course incorporates the use of a textbook, on-line lecture, assigned readings that will be posted or on related websites. You will have questions to answer that are related to the on-line lectures, assigned chapters in the text and supplemental text, and review of the assigned websites. There may also be short quizzes, written assignments, and use of the on-line discussion board. Use of the discussion board enables you to communicate your ideas and to respond to the ideas of your classmates. Discussion board policies are presented below.

This online course will enable you to experience all the information brought into a traditional classroom setting, but to learn it in a non-traditional format and to familiarize yourself with new web-based technology and pedagogy. Please study this syllabus and the posted contract carefully and use them as reference tools. It is very important that you become familiar with the policies and procedures outlined for this course.

#### **Course Management:**

There are two factors that pose the greatest problems for students enrolled in an Internet course:

- 1) Lack of basic computer skills
- 2) Lack of self-discipline to schedule time to complete assignments.

It is easy to put off doing an assignment. Due dates will come very quickly. Keep in mind that you are not in a traditional classroom, but you will spend the equivalent amount of time for being in class and doing outside assignments. It is up to you as how you manage your time. You will NOT be able to progress at your own speed.

#### **Required Text:**

Segal, Larry. J., *Criminology: The Core*, Belmont, CA, Wadsworth/Thompson Learning Press, 2005.

### **Course Objectives:**

As you read each chapter, be sure to note your author's specific objectives for the chapter. Many of these serve as the guide for lectures, assignments, and quizzes. Upon completion of this course, students will be exposed to the author's objectives and an understanding of the:

1. Historical development of criminology and criminal justice.
2. Measurement of crime; official and unofficial.
3. Schools of thought in criminological theory.
4. Contributors to criminological theory and some of their primary writings.
5. Current issues in criminology.
6. Identification of academic associations, websites, and academic journals in criminology.

### **Lessons:**

Each topic will be presented as a Lesson – posted in course documents. **Always** read the lesson first. The lesson will provide a general study guide for the topic. Sometimes “study questions or study notes” will be provided at the beginning of the Lesson. These are possible test questions.

### **Assignments:**

**Written Assignments:** Note that as you read the assigned on-line lectures, articles, and chapters in the text, you will have lesson questions to answer and submit. Each assignment has a due date posted. Remember, blackboard will show the date and time that an assignment is submitted. **A late penalty of 3 points per calendar day will be assessed for late assignments beginning with the 4<sup>th</sup> lesson.**

**Website Assignments:** Several lessons will include one or more websites. You may be required to respond to questions related to information posted on one or more of these websites.

### **Short Review quizzes:**

Short review quizzes may be given after a lesson has been completed or as part of a lesson. These are timed quizzes and will be noted in the lesson.

### **Non-Text Outside Reading:**

There will be six to eight outside reading assignments. Some of these will be posted in Blackboard and others will be located within assigned websites. There will be questions to answer from these readings as part of a special posting of questions. A few questions may be included in the major exams. Responses to these articles will always be due on Monday by midnight unless they are located within a regular assignment. It is important that you understand that some of these readings may not be directly related to the current lesson, but they are all related to a topic that will be discussed.

### **Graduate Students:**

Graduate students will be required to submit a 12 page term paper on an assigned topic. The paper must have professional references with none dated before the year 2000. All papers must

follow the APA style of documentation within the text of the paper and in the bibliography. Papers are due April 15. Papers will be checked for plagiarism.

### **Discussion Board:**

As part of your grade, each student is required to participate meaningfully in on-line discussions that are posted in Discussion Board. The Discussion Board is a place for you to express your opinion on a specific topic and to exchange ideas with fellow students.

Keep your comments focused. Don't just post a sentence. Post meaningful and thought out dialogue. When an assignment is given, you must present your view. Sometimes, after a designated time period, you will be required to react to one or more other student views. After the initial time period, you may participate as often as you wish—reacting to others or defending your position. Don't get your feelings hurt, don't be overly defensive, and don't be too sensitive. On the other hand, don't be too blunt and set in your own way.

### **Bonus Opportunities:**

There may be a time or two during the semester that an opportunity for extra credit points may be earned. These opportunities are usually posted with a lesson and are not publicly announced or a few special questions in an assignment. Once the deadline for a bonus opportunity expires, the exercise may not be submitted.

### **Examinations:**

Do not view the assignments (questions to be answered) as just questions to be answered. You are to learn the material as you do the assignments not just perform a routine exercise. There will be three unit exams and a combined unit exam/comprehensive final during the semester. Each exam may include discussion questions, true or false, multiple choice, multiple answer, fill-in-the-blank, and matching questions. Each test will vary in length and points, depending on the number of chapters covered and the amount of test material. Questions on all exams will be randomized and selected from a pool of questions. The exam will be available for a designated block of time. No one is to assist you in taking the exam, nor is anyone to observe you taking the exam. You will be able to use your notes and text but too much use of these resources will reduce your time for completing the exam. Taking more time than allowed will result in a reduction of one point per minute over the time limit. Yes, the computer does provide me a record of how much time you took to complete the exam and gives me a signal that you exceeded the time.

Since exams will be online and can be taken at any time within a designated period, there is hardly any reason for not taking the exam within the required time frame. In the event you can't take the exam within the designated time, prior approval (before the exam time) is required to take the exam at a later date.

### **Grading Scale:**

**Take Special Note:** Final grades will be based on an accumulation of points. You can determine your grade at any point in time by multiplying the number of points that are possible by the following percentages: A= 94% - 100%, B= 87% - 93 % , C= 70% - 86%, D= 65% - 69%, F= 59% or less.

### **Computer Requirements:**

1. In order to take this online class, you can use your personal computer or use a computer in one of the University labs. You must download Lockdown Browser before you can take an exam. You will be given more information about this a little later in the semester.
2. You will need access to an Internet provider.
3. Plug-ins for your browser: Real Audio Player, Acrobat Reader, & Shockwave (all are available as free downloads)
4. A word processing program: Word Perfect or Word. **DO NOT USE ANY OTHER WORD PROCESSING SOFTWARE. THESE ARE THE ONLY TWO THAT I WILL ACCEPT.**

**Netiquette and Academic honesty:** Students are required to read assignments, to follow directions, to meet deadlines, to participate fully in class activities, and to complete all projects. As responsible members of an educational community, students must conduct themselves courteously and in accordance with college policy. See suggestions for online discussions at ([http://onlinelearning.tc.cc.va.us/new/n\\_succes.htm#netiquet](http://onlinelearning.tc.cc.va.us/new/n_succes.htm#netiquet)). Respectful dialogue, including alternative viewpoints, is welcome in academic inquiry.

### **Students MUST do their own original work:**

Cheating or plagiarism, which is the accidental or intentional misrepresentation of another's work as one's own, may lead to dismissal and failure in the course. See the ULM Student Handbook at ([www.ULM.edu/studentpolicy](http://www.ULM.edu/studentpolicy)) for additional information on academic honesty and academic misconduct. DO NOT loan your material, disks, CDs, or memory sticks to others in the class. Some folks will just download your material. Both parties will be guilty unless it can be proven that the material was stolen. Labeling a situation as suspicion of copying or working together is a rather subjective evaluation. However, it will be based on some pretty solid evidence that will be difficult to deny. Best thing to do is don't test me.