

Criminal Justice 405, Section 95 – Fall 2007

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.

Contact Information:

Professor: G. Dale Welch
Professor of Criminal Justice, Gerontology and Sociology

Office: Stubbs 105

Phone: 342-1434

E-mail: internet074@bellsouth.net

You must always put the course prefix and number and the word Question as your subject (e.g., CJUS 405 Question) and put your full name at the end of the message.

griffitr@tribe.ulm.edu (Tahari Griffin, Graduate Assistant)

Online Office Hours: 1:30 p.m.–4:30 p.m. Tues. and Thurs. and 7:30 a.m.–11:30 a.m. Fri.

In-Office Office Hours: 7:30 a.m. – 12:30 Tues. and Thurs.

Course Prerequisites/Corequisites:

There are no defined prerequisites.

Course Description:

Theories of Crime and Delinquency. 3 cr. An analysis of the extent of crime and delinquency; impact of crime and delinquency on society; physical, social and psychological causation of crime and delinquency; and current issues in criminology. (Same as SOCL 405)

Course Objectives and Outcomes:

Within each chapter of the required text, the author had identified objectives for the respective chapter. As you read the assigned chapters, be sure to note these specific objectives. Many of these serve as the guide for lectures, assignments, and quizzes.

Upon completion of this course, students should be able to:

1. Delineate the historical development of criminology and criminal justice and the difference between the two disciplines.
2. Understand the significance of research as it relates to the discipline of criminology.
3. Identify the different methods for measuring and reporting crime data.
4. Describe the six broad different theoretical views of crime causation and their general focus.
5. Recognize the significant contributors to criminological theory and identify their primary writings.
6. Comprehend the significance of current issues in criminal behavior
7. Name the primary academic associations, websites, and academic journals in criminology.

Course Topics:

Subject matter to be covered in this class may include, but shall not be limited to, the following

Introduction to Criminology

Criminology vs Criminal Justice

Research and Criminology

Theories of Crime: I – Choice

The Nature and Extent of Crime

Theories of Crime: II – Trait Theories

Victimology

Theories of Crime: III – Social Structure

White Collar and Corporate Crime

Theories of Crime: IV: Social Process Theories

Cyber Crime

Theories of Crime: V: Conflict Theory

Crimes Without Victims

Theories of Crime: VI: Developmental Theories

Violent Crime

Instructional Methods and Activities:

Course Information: This course incorporates the use of textbook, online lectures, assigned readings that will be posted on related websites, Discussion Board, and weekly assignments. For each lesson 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 review quizzes and written assignments. 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 or more reading the lessons, chapters in the text and completing the weekly assignments. It is up to you as how you manage your time. You will NOT be able to progress at your own speed. Assignments are due each week.

Lessons:

Each topic listed above will be presented as a Lesson and posted in Lessons. **Always** read the lesson first. The lesson will provide a general study guide for the topic. “Study notes” and “important concepts” are provided at the beginning of each Lesson. The study notes are possible

test questions. The important concepts are your guide to concepts that will be on the major exam.

Assignments:

Written Assignments: Each weekly assignment has a due date posted. Remember, blackboard will show the date and time that an assignment is submitted. There will be a three day grace period (after the posted due date) for submitting an assignment (*excluding Discussion Board topics*), but a late penalty of 3 points per calendar day will be assessed for late assignments beginning with the 4th lesson. After the three day grace period, the assignment will be removed from Blackboard and a grade of zero will be recorded for the assignment. In other words, you must keep up on each assignment.

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.

Outside Readings: Some lessons will include an outside reading assignment that will be linked to an assigned website or the assigned article will be posted as a separate item in Lessons. Sometimes an assigned reading may not be related to the assigned topic at the moment it is assigned because current events don't happen on our schedule. There will be a minimum of six outside reading assignments.

Graduate Student Papers: Graduate students must submit a 12 – 15 page research paper on an approved topic from the short list provided in Course Information. The paper must be from current (2000 – 2007) professional sources (books, journal articles (any discipline), professional association websites, or training documents. General website information is not acceptable unless approved in advance.

Discussion Board:

As part of your grade, each student is required to participate meaningfully in online 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.

Discussion Board assignments will have a due date for posting and sometimes for responding to other students. There is no grace period for posting or responding on Discussion Board topics. The points to be earned and an applicable penalty for not responding or responding incorrectly are defined within each Discussion Board assignment. Read the contract carefully with respect to this topic.

Examinations:

There will be three unit exams and one combined unit/comprehensive final. The unit exams will cover four to five chapters. Tentative exams dates are note in the schedule below. Exams will be available for 24 – 36 hours, so there is little if any excuse for not taking the exam during the posted time.

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 within a lesson and are not publicly announced or a few special questions designated in an assignment. Once the deadline for a bonus opportunity expires, the exercise may not be submitted.

Evaluation and Grade Assignment:

Grades are based on your performance on scores earned on weekly assignments, participation in Discussion Board topics (point values are assigned for each topic), scores earned on special assignments, and examinations.

Do not view the weekly assignments (questions to be answered) as just questions to be answered. You are to learn the material as you do the assignments just as you would take notes in class in preparation for an exam. Each exam may include discussion questions, true or false, multiple choice, multiple answer, fill-in-the-blank, and matching questions. Each test is timed and will vary in length and points, depending on the amount of material covered. 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. One point per minute over the allowed time limit will be placed in a penalty box, which essentially reduces your cumulative score. 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.

Final grades will be based on an accumulation of points. You can determine your grade at any dividing your earned points by the number of points that are possible and see where your percentage fits on the following scale: (A = 93.5% - 100%, B = 86.5% - 93.4 % , C = 69.5% - 86.4.4%, D = 64.5% - 69.4%, F = less then 64.4%). **NOTE** that the upper level of this grading scale is a higher standard grading scale than you might experience in other classes.

Undergraduate mid-term grades will be posted on-line for students to view via Arrow. Mid-term grades indicate a student's status at mid-semester only and do not indicate the final performance outcome of a student.

Class Policies and Procedures:

At a minimum, all policies stated in the current ULM Student Policy Manual & Organizational Handbook are to be followed (see <http://www.ulm.edu/studentpolicy/>). Additional class policies include:

Students are required to read and initial a line item contract regarding special policies and procedures for the class. This contract is located within Assignments.

Textbook(s) and Materials:

Segal, Larry. J., *Criminology: The Core*, Belmont, CA: Wadsworth/Thompson Learning Press, 2008, Third Edition.

Attendance Policy:

Since this is a 100% Internet course, attendance is not required. Indirectly attendance will be measured through completion of assignments by the due date and participation in Discussion Board topics within the time frames stated. Students not completing these tasks as required will be referred to their respective Dean. Any student who misses three consecutive weekly assignments will be asked to drop the course.

Make-up Policy:

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.

Since you will have five to seven days to complete the weekly assignments, there is little if any reason assignments can't be submitted on time. In the event of an approved extended medical excuse (week or longer) or an approved University extended excused absence (week or longer), an assignment may be made up within three days of returning to the class.

Academic Integrity:

Faculty and students must observe the ULM published policy on Academic Dishonesty (see Page 4 in ULM Student Policy Manual -- <http://www.ulm.edu/studentpolicy/>).

Students MUST do their own original work:

Cheating will not be tolerated. 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) 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.

Course Evaluation Policy:

Students are expected to complete the on-line course evaluation.

Student Services:

If you need special assistance, you are encouraged to take advantage of these ULM student services:

- ❖ Student Success Center: <http://www.ulm.edu/cass/>
- ❖ Counseling Center: <http://www.ulm.edu/counselingcenter/>
- ❖ Special Needs: <http://www.ulm.edu/counselingcenter/special.htm>

- ❖ Student Health Services: <http://www.ulm.edu/studentaffairs/>

Emergency Procedures:

Since this class does not meet in a University setting, there are no emergency procedures applicable to the course. If you are taking exams or assignments in University labs, you need to be aware of emergency procedures for the related lab.

Discipline/Course Specific Policies:

Criminal Justice students taking this course as part of the requirements for their major must earn a grade of A, B, or C for the course to be applicable to their major. Earning a grade of D or F will require that the course be retaken if you want to use it toward your major. Students in Sociology may earn a grade of A, B, C, or D and the course will be applicable to the major as long as you maintain a 2.00 GPA in the major.

Tentative Course Schedule:

Listed below is the tentative course schedule for submission of assignments. This list does NOT include special outside (supplemental) readings posted in Blackboard assignments. Due dates for these special assignments or extra credit opportunities will be posted with the assignment. The instructor reserves the right to adjust the schedule as needed.

<u>Topic</u>	<u>Projected Due Date</u>
Orientation Material	August 20 – 21
Contract Submission (Extra Credit potential)	August 21 (10 pts) August 23 (0 pts) August 24 (-10 pts)
Introduction to Criminology	August 27
Criminology vs Criminal Justice	September 4
Research and Criminology	September 10
Theories of Crime: I – Choice	September 17
Exam (Lessons I – IV)	September 26 - 27
The Nature and Extent of Crime	September 24
Theories of Crime: II – Trait Theories	October 1
Mid-term Grades	October 8
Victimology	October 8
Theories of Crime: III – Social Structure	October 15
Exam II (Lessons V – VIII)	October 23 - 24
White Collar and Corporate Crime	October 22
Theories of Crime: IV: Social Process Theories	October 29
Cyber Crime	November 5
Theories of Crime: V: Conflict Theory	November 12
Unit Exam III (Lessons IX – XII)	November 20 - 21
Crimes without Victims	November 19
Theories of Crime: VI: Developmental Theories	November 26
*Violent Crime	November 30
Comprehensive Final/Unit Exam	December 6 - 7

* Not on Final Exam

