CRIJ 3305 PERSPECTIVES ON CRIME IN AMERICA
(Second 8-Week On-line Version)
Fall 2017

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Office: HAR 209
Telephone: (325) 486-6717
Email: wlee@angelo.edu
Office Hours: Tuesday through Thursday: from 1 p.m. to 4 p.m.
Other times by appointment

MAIN TEXTBOOK FOR PURCHASE:


COURSE DESCRIPTION

Topics for this course include American crime problems in historical perspective, social and public factors affecting crime, impact and crime trends, social characteristics of specific crimes, prevention of crimes.

COURSE OBJECTIVES:

As a result of completing this course, the student will be able to:

- Gain and comprehend each theoretical development, causal logic, empirical studies and criticism of the major theories.
- Develop skill in analyzing and comparing theories in light of the comprehensive theoretical knowledge.
- Do an on-line assignment by analyzing and applying the acquired theoretical knowledge to the contemporary social phenomena.
GRADING POLICY:

Student learning outcomes will be assessed using a combination of quizzes, written assignments, and exams.

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<tr>
<th>Lesson Quizzes (25%)</th>
<th>160 points (Possible points 20 per quiz)</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>The instructor requires students to take a set of lesson-based fundamental quizzes (all multiple choice questions) at the conclusion of the lecture on each lesson.</td>
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<tr>
<th>Lesson Assignments (25%)</th>
<th>160 points (Possible points 20 per assignment)</th>
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<td>The instructor requires students to focus on lesson-based fundamental questions at the conclusion of the lecture on each lesson.</td>
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<tr>
<th>Midterm Exam (25%)</th>
<th>160 points (Possible points 2 per question)</th>
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<td>During Week 3, the students will be required to take this 100 minute midterm exam. The total of 80 questions will cover the materials discussed over the course. The exam will have two sections included: (1) A 80-point 40-item multiple choice section; and (2) A 80-point 40-item true/false section.</td>
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<tr>
<th>Final Exam (25%)</th>
<th>160 points (Possible points 2 per question)</th>
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<td>During Week 8, the students will be required to take this 100 minute final exam. The total of 80 questions will cover the materials discussed over the course. The exam will have two sections included: (1) A 80-point 40-item multiple choice section; and (2) A 80-point 40-item true/false section.</td>
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<tr>
<th>Total</th>
<th>640 points</th>
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Final Grade

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<th>Grade</th>
<th>Cumulative Points</th>
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<tr>
<td>A</td>
<td>576 to 640 (equal to 90 - 100 %)</td>
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<tr>
<td>B</td>
<td>512 to 575 (equal to 80 - 89 %)</td>
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<tr>
<td>C</td>
<td>448 to 511 (equal to 70 - 79 %)</td>
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<tr>
<td>D</td>
<td>384 to 447 (equal to 60 - 69 %)</td>
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<tr>
<td>F</td>
<td>383 and below (equal to 59 % and below)</td>
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MAKE-UP EXAMS:
No make-up exams will be given.

COURSE ORGANIZATION

Module One: Ch 1. Criminology and the Sociological Perspective

Module 1 introduces Sociological Criminology by reviewing the social perspective and discussing the mutual relevance of sociology and criminology. It also introduces the development of sociological criminology and its approaches to crime and criminal justice.


Most of us hold strong opinions about crime and criminal justice. Related to this fact, Module 2 answers the following questions: Where do these beliefs come from?; How accurate are the sources of our beliefs and, for that matter, our beliefs themselves?; and What does social science research reveal about these matters? and indicates the major findings on public opinion about crime. Also, it discusses about different measurements of crime to have more accurate picture of crime problem in our society.

Module Three: Ch 4. Victims and Victimization

Module 3 is all about the study of victims, or Victimology. Specifically, it focuses on definition of victims, victimization rate in the U.S. and its patterning of victimization, victim proneness through major theories of victimization, and victim accommodation by the criminal justice system.

Module Four: Ch 5. Classical and Neoclassical Perspectives & Ch 6. Biological and Psychological Explanations

Module 4 highlights classical and neoclassical explanations, rooted in economic thinking, that emphasize the rationality of crime and crimes. Also, it discusses biological and psychological explanations which attribute crime primarily to traits inside the individual.

Module Five: Ch 7. Sociological Theories: Emphasis on Social Structure

The individual-level theories of crime in the Module 4 cannot easily account for why some locations and groups have higher crime rates than others. In response, Module 5 highlights the role of social structural conditions which are social forces external to the individual that affect behavior and attitudes and explains why crime and other behaviors vary across locations and groups.
Module Six: Ch 8. Sociological Theories: Emphasis on Social Process

Module 6 reviews the major social process theories of criminal behavior by focusing on learning, socialization, human interaction and other social processes and helps understand why some individuals are more likely than others to commit crime even though they live in similar circumstances.


Module 7 reviews critical perspectives that emphasize social inequalities at the heart of the perspectives and challenge fundamental ideals in criminology and evidences that labeling theory generated a new focus on social reaction to crime and the operation of the legal system that continues to influence the study of crime and delinquency. In addition, it compares and contrasts differences of Crime-Control and Due Process models which are the two competing models of the U.S. criminal justice system regarding how best to deal with crime.

Module Eight: Ch 18. Conclusion: How Can We Reduce Crime?

Based upon the structural and cultural causes of crime and victimization, reviewed in earlier Modules, the final Module proposes and reviews a sociological prescription (Public Heath Strategy) to possibly change these structural and cultural forces in order to prevent and reduce crime for a safer society.

COURSE SCHEDULE

Module One
Ch 1. Criminology and the Sociological Perspective
- 1st Lesson Test and 1st Assignment due by 10 p.m. on Friday, October 27

Module Two
Ch 2. Public Opinion, the News Media, and the Crime Problem
Ch 3. The Measurement and Patterning of Criminal Behavior
- 2nd Lesson Test and 2nd Assignment due by 10 p.m. on Friday, November 3

Module Three
Ch 4. Victims and Victimization
- 3rd Lesson Test and 3rd Assignment due by 10 p.m. on Thursday, November 10

Midterm Exam
Chapters 1, 2, 3 & 4
*The midterm exam will be posted at 12:01 a.m. on Friday, November 10 - Due by 10 p.m. on Sunday 12*
Module Four  Ch 5. Classical and Neoclassical Perspectives
Ch 6. Biological and Psychological Explanations
   • 4th Lesson Test and 4th Assignment due by 10 p.m. on Friday, November 17

Module Five  Ch 7. Sociological Theories: Emphasis on Social Structure
   • 5th Lesson Test and 5th Assignment due by 10 p.m. on Friday, November 24

Module Six  Ch 8. Sociological Theories: Emphasis on Social Process
   • 6th Lesson Test and 6th Assignment due by 10 p.m. on Friday, December 1

Module Seven  Ch 9. Sociological Theories: Critical Perspectives
Ch 16. Policing: Dilemmas of Crime Control in a Democratic Society
   • 7th Lesson Test and 7th Assignment due by 10 p.m. on Friday, December 8

Module Eight  Ch 18. Conclusion: How Can We Reduce Crime?
   • 8th Lesson Test and 8th Assignment due by 10 p.m. on Friday, December

Final Exam  Chapters 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 16 & 18
   The final exam will be posted at 12:01 a.m. on Friday, December 15 - Due by 10 p.m. on Sunday, December 17

IMPORTANT DATES

October 23, 2017: 1st 8-week session begins.

November 27, 2017: Last day to drop a 2nd 8-week class or withdraw from the second 8-week session.
UNIVERSITY POLICIES

Academic Integrity

Angelo State University expects its students to maintain complete honesty and integrity in their academic pursuits. Students are responsible for understanding and complying with the university Academic Honor Code and the ASU Student Handbook.

Accommodations for Disability

The Student Life Office is the designated campus department charged with the responsibility of reviewing and authorizing requests for reasonable accommodations based on a disability, and it is the student’s responsibility to initiate such a request by contacting the Student Life Office at (325) 942-2191 or (325) 942-2126 (TDD/FAX) or by e-mail at Student.Life@angelo.edu to begin the process. The Student Life Office will establish the particular documentation requirements necessary for the various types of disabilities.

Student absence for religious holidays

A student who intends to observe a religious holy day should make that intention known in writing to the instructor prior to the absence. A student who is absent from classes for the observance of a religious holy day shall be allowed to take an examination or complete an assignment scheduled for that day within a reasonable time after the absence.