CRIJ 6332 CRIMINAL JUSTICE THEORY – Graduate Level
Spring “A” 2018  8-Week Online

Course Description

This course develops an overview of the major paradigms of Criminal Justice Theory, focusing on the behavior of the criminal justice system and its actors, control of crime, causes of crime and deviant behavior with special attention given to the social, political, and intellectual philosophies within which each perspective arises. Students discuss theories from a philosophy of science perspective, focusing upon such issues as theory construction, theoretical integration, and the formal evaluation of theory.

Course Objectives

Students develop a comprehensive understanding of criminal justice theory through a variety of learning projects.

1. To define and analyze the origins and historical contexts of criminal justice theories
2. To understand the construction, integration and evaluation of the theories in a scientific manner

Learning Outcomes

There are three (2) measurable learning outcomes in this course.

1. Students will demonstrate their understanding of the origins and historical contexts of criminal justice theory construction through discussions and writing assignments.
2. Students will demonstrate their understanding of the construction and scientific evaluation of criminal justice theory through discussions and writing assignments.

Prerequisites

There are no prerequisites for this class.

Grading Policies

This course utilizes three (3) 5 page writing assignments and weekly discussions and activities to guide and assess student knowledge acquisition and comprehension. You will also be graded on your ability to critically read and critically write about the work of others. There is an extensive amount of reading assigned that will drive student responses to discussion questions and writing assignments and the student should be prepared to spend upwards of six (6) hours each week on this course. Additionally, where possible, other sources, such as videos, are utilized to enhance student learning. This may increase the time needed to prepare for classwork.

Writing Assignments #1 and #2 will involve picking a current (or recent) event topic that can be “explained” by one of the Criminal Justice theories that your instructor will pick. You will pick the event and “apply” the theory by telling how it fits or explains the event.

Writing Assignment #3 will involve a news topic that your instructor will pick and you will pick one of the Criminal Justice theories and describe how the theory predicts the event. You will extend your analysis to include the description of a national-level policy that would have prevented the event!

More information will be forthcoming within the course on Blackboard.
As with all online courses, students must be able to operate a computer and have the necessary technical skills to navigate around a web page. Additional technical skills are not a prerequisite for this course. Links to “how to” videos are provided at the beginning of the course.

Assignments and Percent of Grade

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Assignment</th>
<th>Percent of Grade</th>
<th>Due</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Writing Assignment #1</td>
<td>20%</td>
<td>Week 3 by SUNDAY Midnight (01/28/18)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Writing Assignment #2</td>
<td>20%</td>
<td>Week 5 by SUNDAY Midnight (02/11/18)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Writing Assignment #3</td>
<td>20%</td>
<td>Week 7 by SUNDAY Midnight (02/25/18)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Prompt and Full Participation in Discussion Board</td>
<td>40%</td>
<td>Each Week when we have Discussion Board on a brief quiz/activity. Post your ROBUST initial response to the discussion board questions and respond (using “thinking” questions or gentle critique) to the posts of at least 3 other students per discussion. A robust initial response to the discussion board topic will range from 150-250 words and include in-text citations and references placed at the bottom of the post. Your robust initial response will be a combination of your analysis and opinion and should always be backed up by facts and sources cited in your post. Due Sunday at midnight. Responses to initial posting of 2 classmates due by the following Thursday. Your response needs to be a “thinking” type of response of at least 50 words. “Great post!” is NOT an acceptable response.</td>
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*REMEMBER: these grades are all “weighted” percentages of your total grade. As an example, 6 grades of 100 in this ONE category only amount to 40% of your TOTAL grade for the semester.*

Angelo State University employs a letter grade system for graduate courses. Grades in this course are determined on a percentage scale:

A = 90 - 100%
B = 80 - 89%
C = 70 - 79%
F = 69% and below

Writing Guidelines

Formal academic writing uses standardized styles and citation formats. The preferred format for Criminal Justice programs is the APA style. To access the APA writing guidelines go to http://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/560/01/.

Papers should have 1-inch margins all around. You are expected to use a standardized font, preferably Times New Roman, 12 point. **Cite your references in EVERY instance and include a properly formatted reference list with every assignment. Remember, plagiarism is grounds for failing the class. Improper or missing citations are the same as plagiarism.**

Every writing assignment should be submitted as a Word or PDF document. If you do not have Microsoft Office or Adobe Acrobat, then the document should be submitted as a TEXT file. Any formal papers submitted should include a cover page and reference sections (not counted as part of the paper’s length). An abstract is not required. If you wish to use another citation system, such as Chicago style or MLA, please be consistent!
Rubrics

Discussion forums and writing assignments will be graded using standardized rubrics. It is recommended that you be familiar with these grading criteria and keep them in mind as you complete the writing assignments. There are two rubrics and a criminological theory analysis handout provided in the Course Content area on Blackboard.

1. Discussion Rubric
2. Writing Assignment Rubric
3. Theory Analysis Handout

Date and Time of Final Exam

This course uses writing assignments and discussion assignments to evaluate student performance and there is no final exam.

Office Hours and/or hours of outside-of-office contact

The instructor’s office hours and contact information are available in the Blackboard class under the “Instructor” tab.

Required Textbook: (1)


Access to online sources regarding Criminological Theory (theories of criminality—why people commit crimes) or a Criminological Theory book is also important for completing your assignments.

Unless otherwise specified in a specific module, all reading assignments refer to the entire chapters of these texts. Other readings may be assigned and provided by the instructor through the course of completing this class.

You may purchase or rent this book from a university bookstore or an online store. You may find used books much more cheaply to buy or rent, on the Internet. The textbook is needed as soon as possible. Many online stores offer free two-day delivery. Please arrange to obtain this book immediately and begin reading ahead!

Participation and Communication

The essence of this course revolves around effective communication by both the instructor and students. The nature of our subject, Criminological and Criminal Justice Theory, means we engage in meaningful discussion and critical thinking concerning its many facets. Everyone in this class brings something to the table. Your ideas and thoughts count, not only to the instructor but also to the entire class. Our online modules and discussions are designed to facilitate open discussion and stimulate thinking processes. This is of the utmost importance to the success of our class!

Some of you may be taking this class as your first online class. It might seem somewhat intimidating for a person new to this model of learning. As a class, we need to assist each other with this learning process and share our collective knowledge on how best to communicate, resolving technical issues and assisting each other to find answers to our questions. We will learn and work as a team.
**Courtesy and Respect**

Courtesy and respect are integral to this course. We will respect each other’s opinions and respect points of view at all times in our class sessions. The use of profanity and harassment of any form is strictly prohibited (Zero Tolerance), as are any remarks concerning ethnicity, lifestyle, race, religion, culture, etc. Violations of these rules will result in immediate dismissal from the course.

**Contacting the Instructor**

Please post questions related to the class in the “Student Lounge” discussion forum. This way all students can see both your question and my answer. Questions of a more personal nature, such as your grade or problems completing assignments should be asked using the “Messages” link in the Blackboard course menu. See the Instructor Information section for contact information.

**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.

**Course Organization:**

This is an eight (8) week, eight-lesson course and there is limited time to finish the assigned readings and associated projects. Please keep this in mind as you schedule your work. The readings, assignments and associated projects have been constructed to enhance your learning process. Unless otherwise directed, you will complete one entire online lesson module each week, including the weekly discussions.

This is an online course and attendance is not taken. However, failure to participate in the discussion board, to communicate or respond to e-mails from the professor, is an indication something is wrong. Participation and communication, both, are a significant component of the course grade as an enticement to keep you engaged in the learning process. Failure to participate or communicate on the part of a student will result in an appropriate reduction of your grade and possibly in your failure of this course.

Assignments and Discussion Postings should be completed and submitted on time. However, reality dictates that exceptional events may cause problems for students. Please consult with your instructor regarding circumstances causing the submission of late work. We would much rather work with you than potentially lose you as a student.
The University policy on grades of “Incomplete” is that the deficiency in performance must be addressed satisfactorily by the end of the next long (16 week) semester or the grade automatically becomes an “F”. Grades of “Incomplete” will only be awarded to students who have demonstrated sufficient progress to earn the opportunity to complete the course outside of the normal course duration. The award of an “Incomplete” will only be made in rare circumstances, with the concurrence of the student and the professor on what specific tasks remain and when they are due for the grade to be changed to a higher grade. The determination of the need to award an “Incomplete” is entirely up to the professor’s personal judgment.

Students may add this course up to the last Friday of the first week of class (01/19/18).
Students may drop this course up to the last drop date as specified by the University (02/16/18).
This course begins on Tuesday, (01/16/18) and ends on Friday, (03/05/18).

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<tr>
<th>LESSON / WEEK #</th>
<th>Please see the Course Instructional Narratives and List of Tasks for each lesson.</th>
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</table>
| 1              | The readings assigned are intended to expand your understand of both applications of theory. Each reading in the series assigned will have some similarity or family type or opposing relationship. These readings are chosen by the instructor as related but could also be ordered differently depending upon the relationships between components of the theories. As you progress in the course, please analyze the relationships and determine which other theories could be related on various criteria. We begin the course with an introduction to criminological and criminal justice theory. We examine Biological and Biosocial Theories of Criminology with an emphasis on the shifts in philosophical orientation and the implied social policies geared toward crime prevention and control.  
To Do:  
Read the Instructional Narrative  
Read Kraska Ch. 1, Criminal Justice Theory: It’s Time to Ask Why  
Post on Discussion Board or complete Activity per instructions in lesson |
| 2              | We continue the course with exploration of Rational/Legalism, Classical/Rational Theory and associated underlying assumptions and components. We contrast this with a glimpse of Scientific Positivism, rejecting individual choice and full free-will and explore implications for policies, primarily forms of deterrence for both criminological and criminal justice theory.  
To Do:  
Read the Instructional Narrative  
Read Kraska Ch. 2, Criminal Justice as Rational/Legalism  
Post on Discussion Board or complete Activity per instructions in lesson  
Writing Assignment #1 release. Assignment due in Week/Lesson 3 by midnight on Sunday DUE (01/25/18). |
| 3              | We continue the course with analysis of Packer’s Framework of the Criminal Justice “System”  
To Do:  
Read the Instructional Narrative  
Read Kraska Ch. 3, Criminal Justice as a System  
Post on Discussion Board or complete Activity per instructions in lesson |
| 4              | We explore a Crime Control Model and its tension with assertions of Due Process Rights. Then we look at positivistic models of self-control, instilled in individuals to protect them from offending, ending up with developmental theory (positivism). These models of criminological theory feed into the conservative notions of crime control (at the individual level) in a society.  
To Do:  
Read the Instructional Narrative  
Read Kraska Ch. 4 Criminal Justice as Crime Control vs. Due Process  
Post on Discussion Board or complete Activity per instructions in lesson  
Writing Assignment #2 release. Assignment due in Week/Lesson 5 by midnight on Sunday DUE (02/11/18). |
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<th>Week</th>
<th>Notes</th>
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| 5    | Conservative and Liberal ideals are explored as competing notions of political thought clash. We include punishment policies. We also explore more positivistic approaches to crime in strain theories.  
**To Do:**
Read the Instructional Narrative  
Read Kraska Ch. 5, Criminal Justice as Politics  
Post on Discussion Board or complete Activity per instructions in lesson |
| 6    | The ability and power to define Criminal Justice and Crime is the topic of our exploration this week. The implications of this power and ability to manipulate history are massive.  
**To Do:**
Read the Instructional Narrative  
Read Kraska Ch. 6, Criminal Justice as Socially Constructed Reality  
Post on Discussion Board or complete Activity per instructions in lesson  
*Watch for and complete the IDEA Survey when it appears by email or below the list of lessons in either Week 6 or Week 7. I do not receive any feedback from IDEA until well after grades are assigned but I DO get a list of who has completed it so that I can give you the full points. It counts as 10% of your grade! P.S. Be kind and constructive in your comments and criticisms, please!*  
*Writing Assignment #3 Preparation. Assignment due in Week/Lesson 7 by midnight on Sunday DUE (02/25/18)* |
| 7    | This is the week when we will critically consider the possibility of criminal justice as a growth complex. Do you know about the Military-Industrial Complex predicted by President Eisenhower in his last term?  
**To Do:**
Read the Instructional Narrative  
Read Kraska Ch. 7, Criminal Justice as Growth Complex  
Post on Discussion Board or complete Activity per instructions in lesson |
| 8    | We will look at the framework of Criminal Justice as Oppression and use the example of Feminist Criminology to illustrate the notion of CJ Oppression. We will also look at Crimes of the Powerful and finally, wrap up with the idea that CJ is a product of our times as well as new ways to critically look at crime which may influence the interpretation of new frameworks for Criminal Justice Theory.  
**To Do:**
Read the Instructional Narrative  
Read Kraska Ch. 8, Criminal Justice as Oppression  
Read Kraska Ch. 9, Criminal Justice as Late Modernity  
Post on Discussion Board or complete Activity per instructions in lesson |

THE END... THANK YOU FOR PARTICIPATING IN THE CLASS!