


CRIJ 3305 PERSPECTIVES ON CRIME IN AMERICA
(8-Week On-line Version)
1st Spring Session, 2022

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MAIN TEXTBOOK FOR PURCHASE:

 Steven E. Barkan (2014). *Criminology: A Sociological Understanding (6th Ed.)*.
Pearson.

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.

<p>Lesson Quizzes (25%)</p> <p>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.</p>	<p>160 points (Possible points 20 per quiz)</p>
<p>Lesson Assignments (25%)</p> <p>The instructor requires students to focus on lesson-based fundamental questions at the conclusion of the lecture on each lesson.</p>	<p>160 points (Possible points 20 per assignment)</p>
<p>Midterm Exam (25%)</p> <p>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:</p> <p>(1) A 80-point 40-item multiple choice section; and (2) A 80-point 40-item true/false section.</p>	<p>160 points (Possible points 2 per question)</p>
<p>Final Exam (25%)</p> <p>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:</p> <p>(1) A 80-point 40-item multiple choice section; and (2) A 80-point 40-item true/false section.</p>	<p>160 points (Possible points 2 per question)</p>
<p>Total</p>	<p>640 points</p>

Final Grade

<u>Grade</u>	<u>Cumulative Points</u>
A	576 to 640 (equal to 90 -100 %)
B	512 to 575 (equal to 80 -89 %)
C	448 to 511 (equal to 70 -79 %)
D	384 to 447 (equal to 60 -69 %)
F	383 and below (equal to 59 % and below)

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.

Module Two: Ch 2. Public Opinion, the News Media, and the Crime Problem & Ch 3. The Measurement and Patterning of Criminal Behavior

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 Seven: Ch 9. Sociological Theories: Critical Perspectives & Ch 16. Policing: Dilemmas of Crime Control in a Democratic Society

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 Health 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 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>1st Lesson Test and 1st Assignment</u> due by 10 p.m. on Saturday, January 22
Module Two	Ch 2. Public Opinion, the News Media, and the Crime Problem Ch 3. The Measurement and Patterning of Criminal Behavior <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>2nd Lesson Test and 2nd Assignment</u> due by 10 p.m. on Saturday, January 29
Module Three	Ch 4. Victims and Victimization <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>3rd Lesson Test and 3rd Assignment</u> due by 10 p.m. on Saturday, February 5
<u>Midterm Exam</u>	Chapters 1, 2, 3 & 4 <i>The midterm exam will be posted at 12:01 a.m. on Saturday, February 5 - Due by 10 p.m. on Sunday, February 6</i>

- 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 Saturday, February 12
- Module Five** Ch 7. Sociological Theories: Emphasis on Social Structure
- 5th Lesson Test and 5th Assignment due by 10 p.m. on Saturday, February 19
- Module Six** Ch 8. Sociological Theories: Emphasis on Social Process
- 6th Lesson Test and 6th Assignment due by 10 p.m. on Saturday, February 26
- 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 Saturday, March 5
- Module Eight** Ch 18. Conclusion: How Can We Reduce Crime?
- 8th Lesson Test and 8th Assignment due by 10 p.m. on Saturday, March 12
- Final Exam** Chapters 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 16 & 18
The final exam will be posted at 12:01 a.m. on Saturday, March 12 - Due by 10 p.m. on Sunday, March 13

IMPORTANT DATES

January 18: 1st 8-Week Term begins.

January 26: 1st 8-Week Session “W” period begins – Drops and withdrawals will now be recorded on transcripts.

February 24: Last Day to Drop/Withdraw from the 1st 8-Week Term – The appropriate form must be submitted by 5:00 pm. Central Time.

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.

Title IX at Angelo State University

The University prohibits discrimination based on sex, which includes pregnancy, sexual orientation, gender identity, and other types of Sexual Misconduct. Sexual Misconduct is a broad term encompassing all forms of gender-based harassment or discrimination including: sexual assault, sex-based discrimination, sexual exploitation, sexual harassment, public indecency, interpersonal violence (domestic violence and/or dating violence), and stalking. As a faculty member, I am a Responsible Employee meaning that I am obligated by law and ASU policy to report any allegations I am notified of to the Office of Title IX Compliance.

Students are encouraged to report any incidents of sexual misconduct directly to ASU's Office of Title IX Compliance and the Director of Title IX Compliance/Title IX Coordinator at:

Michelle Boone, J.D.

Director of Title IX Compliance/Title IX Coordinator

Mayer Administration Building, Room 210

325-942-2022

michelle.boone@angelo.edu

You may also file a report online 24/7 at www.angelo.edu/incident-form.

If you are wishing to speak to someone about an incident in confidence you may contact the *University Health Clinic and Counseling Center* at 325-942-2173 or the *ASU Crisis Helpline* at 325-486-6345.

For more information about Title IX in general you may visit www.angelo.edu/title-ix.