

Introduction to Criminology

CRJ 270.1001 Class Syllabus

Semester: Fall 2016

Time/Location: TTH IOam -11:15 pm, WHI197

Instructor:

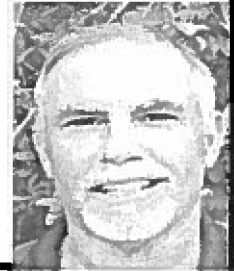
Office:

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Office Hours: TTH 0800-9:00am and 2:30-3:30pm; W Noon-3pm



Course Description

This course will focus on various issues surrounding the study of crime. It examines how crime is defined, its distribution over different types of societies, the different methods of measuring the extent and nature of crime, theories of crime causation, characteristics of particular types of criminal conduct, and approaches to crime control. The course content is organized into 3 units:

- Unit 1 covers basic issues about how crime is defined, the purposes or functions of criminal laws, the relationship between crime and the structure of society, and the different methods of measuring the extent and distribution of crime through police data, self-report studies, and victimization surveys.
- Unit 2 examines theories of crime causation and its distribution over time, particular places, and social groups. These theories include explanations based on biological, psychological, and sociological factors. They cover explanations for crime that derive from the intellectual traditions of *Classical Thought* (e.g., theories that emphasize offender's rational choices or "free will" in criminal decision making) and *Positivistic Science* (e.g., theories that derive from the use of scientific and comparative methods to identify risk factors and the determinants of criminal behavior).
- Unit 3 focuses on crime typologies and the offender, victim, and situational elements that underlie different types of criminal behavior. These major forms of crime include homicide, rape, aggravated assault, burglary, motor vehicle theft, "white collar" crimes, and organized crime. It also describes the types of criminal punishments (e.g., corporal sanctions {capital punishment}, incarceration, financial sanctions) and the dominant penal philosophies that underlie them (e.g., retribution, incapacitation, deterrence, rehabilitation).

learning Outcomes

Upon completion of this course, students should gain the following knowledge:

- An understanding of the basic concepts of crime, criminal law, and the particular ways of defining crime and measuring its nature and distribution.
- A familiarity with the various theories of crime causation and its distribution.
- An ability to provide a profile of the major types of crime and understanding the current research and methods for measuring crime and its control.
- Recognize the strengths and weaknesses of the most common public policies and programs for crime intervention and prevention.

The CRJ 270 WebCampus Homepage

This course is taught as an on-campus course. However, students will use WebCampus to submit much of the course materials (e.g., assignments, Unit Exams). The supplemental readings for assistance on the assignments are also available directly on the WebCampus homepage for CRJ 270.

Once you log on to your student account on WebCampus and click on the CRJ 270 course listing, you will notice several things about the organization of this course. I will discuss in the on-campus lectures how to use WebCampus, but here are some basic ideas about how to proceed in this course:

- To begin to explore the WebCampus material for this course, simply click on the "Course Content". The class Units are numbered consecutively from Unit 1 to Unit 3. You are required to complete them in this order and in the time frame specified for each Unit.

NOTE: late or Early Assignments and/or Exams will NOT be accepted unless you have made prior arrangements with me to depart from the time frame for each Unit.
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- Each Unit contains the following information: (1) an overview of topics within the unit, (2) a listing of the particular chapters in this unit that are contained in the course e-book "Criminology", and (3) a listing of assignments/exams and deadlines for their completion.

NOTE: To maximize your learning and success in this course, just follow the order in which the material is organized within each unit. This order is: read overview-> read the e-book chapters and watch video lectures within them-> attend class and participate in the discussion of these materials in class 7do the WebCampus assignment by the assigned deadlines---> take the unit exams on/by the assigned deadline.

- Talk to the instructor during office hours or immediately before/after class if you have any questions. Using the *Email* feature on your WebCampus class home page or just email me are alternative ways to contact your instructor. I will be sending you several messages through the *Email* command---these messages will include announcements, updates, clarifications, and comments about your progress in the course. Check for these messages on a regular basis throughout the semester and send me messages via this WebCampus command whenever you have questions about the course.

Required Course Materials

The required textbook for this course is entitled *Criminology* (author: T.D. Miethe; Publisher: CJ Research). This e-book can only be purchased directly from the publisher at <http://www.cjresearch.com/CLS/index.php>. It contains 27 chapters on general topics (including about 240 pages of text and graphs/charts of criminological data) and over 50 video clips on particular topics within criminology. You will need both Adobe Reader and Quicktime on your computer to read the text material and watch the videos within this electronic textbook.

Additional reading material for this class is available directly on your CRJ 270 Homepage under the title "Readings". This material will assist you in completing the WebCampus assignments. This additional reading material will also be included in the class exams. You should read the particular chapters on the e-book and the additional reading before our classroom discussion of this material.

For receiving extra credit for classroom participation, an i>clicker (i.e., a portable "polling" device) is required for this course. The latest version of i>clicker can be purchased at the UNLV bookstore. If you bought an i>clicker for a previous course (either the original version or i>clicker 2), you can reuse it in this course.

Course Format

The required textbook chapters and videos, additional reading material, assignments, and exams are organized within the 3 separate Units of this course. A listing of these materials is contained within each Unit on your CRJ 270 Homepage and is also included in the "*COURSE SCHEDULE*" section at the end of this syllabus.

NOTE: For technical support for weird problems with WebCampus (e.g., you can't save and submit an assignment to the instructor), you should contact the UNLV Student Support Services at 895-0777.

Exams and Grading Materials

Your final grade in this course will be based on your performance on 15 assignments (1 assignment every week) and 6 exams (multiple choice, short answer). Only the final exam (Exam 6) is comprehensive. The other exams focus only on the material covered within the particular segment of the Unit.

All assignments and most of the exams will be submitted through WebCampus. After you submit your assignments and exams for grading, your scores will be posted under the "*My Grades*" category on your course homepage. I'll provide general feedback on assignments and exams to the entire class at the beginning of the on-campus lectures and through the email command in WebCampus. Please contact me directly for specific feedback on your assignments/exams.

<u>CONTRIBUTION TO GRADE</u>	<u>GRADING SCALE</u>
15 points- Assignments (1 point each)	75 - 69 points =A 68 - 67 points =A-
10 points--- Exam #1*	66 - 64 points =B+
10 points--- Exam #2*	63 - 61 points =B 60 - 59 points =B-
10 points-- Exam #3*	58 - 56 points =C+
10 points-- Exam #4*	55 - 54 points =C 53 - 52 points =C-
10 points--- Exam #5*	51 - 50 points =D+
20 points--- Exam #6 -- (Comprehensive Exam)	49 -47 points =D 46 - 45 points =D-
75 Points Total**	44 or fewer pts.= F
* The lowest score on Exams 1-5 will be dropped and the points for your top 4 of these first 5 exams will be used to compute the final course grade.	
** 3 points of extra-credit will be earned by daily participation in classroom activities through the use of iclicker. You must have attended at least 27 of the 30 classes to get these 3 points of extra credit.	

No Make-up Assignments, Exams, or Class Participation Activities are given in this course. This course requires that you complete all class work during a specified time period. If you have a particular problem with this schedule, you should contact the instructor immediately to determine whether alternative arrangements are possible. If you miss an exam or assignment deadline, you will receive a score of 0 for this material.

University Policies

Academic Misconduct- Academic integrity is a legitimate concern for every member of the campus community; all share in upholding the fundamental values of honesty, trust, respect, fairness, responsibility and professionalism. By choosing to join the UNLV community, students accept the expectations of the Academic Misconduct Policy and are encouraged when faced with choices to always take the ethical path. Students enrolling in UNLV assume the obligation to conduct themselves in a manner compatible with UNLV's function as an educational institution. An example of academic misconduct is plagiarism. Plagiarism is using the words or ideas of another, from the Internet or any source, without proper citation of the sources. See the Student Academic Misconduct Policy (approved December 9, 2005) located at: <http://studentconduct.unlv.edu/misconduct/policy.html>.

The instructor will fully enforce the UNLV policy concerning academic misconduct and cheating. Working with someone else on exams or other graded materials and submitting another's work as your own are clear examples of cheating. If you are suspected of cheating in this course, the instructor will file a formal complaint against you. Aside from getting an F in the course, other penalties for cheating include expulsion from UNLV and a designation on your permanent college transcript that you were found guilty of academic misconduct.

If the instructor suspects that you are involved in academic misconduct, you may be asked to take an oral exam to demonstrate your knowledge of the subject matter. Your performance on this oral exam and the other evidence will be used to press official action against you.

Don't risk your entire college career by doing something stupid like cheating!!!

Copyright - The University requires all members of the University Community to familiarize themselves and to follow copyright and fair use requirements. **You are individually and solely responsible for violations of copyright and fair use laws. The university will neither protect nor defend you nor assume any responsibility for student violations of fair use laws.** Violations of copyright laws could subject you to federal and state civil penalties and criminal liability, as well as disciplinary action under University policies. Additional information can be found at <http://provost.unlv.edu/copyright>.

Disability Resource Center (DRC) - The UNLV Disability Resource Center (SSC-A 143, <http://drc.unlv.edu/>, 702-895-0866) provides resources for students with disabilities. If you feel that you have a disability, please make an appointment with a Disabilities

Specialist at the DRC to discuss what options may be available to you. If you are registered with the UNLV Disability Resource Center, bring your Academic Accommodation Plan from the DRC to me during office hours so that we may work together to develop strategies for implementing the accommodations to meet both your needs and the requirements of the course. Any information you provide is private and will be treated as such. To maintain the confidentiality of your request, please do not approach me in front of others to discuss your accommodation needs.

UNLV complies with the provisions set forth in Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 and the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990. The DRC is located in the Student Services Complex (SSC-A), Room 143, phone (702) 895-0866, fax (702) 895-0651. For additional information, please visit: <http://Udrc.unlv.edu/>.

Incomplete Grades - The grade of I – Incomplete – can be granted when a student has satisfactorily completed three-fourths of course work for that semester/session but for reason(s) beyond the student's control, and acceptable to the instructor, cannot complete the last part of the course, and the instructor believes that the student can finish the course without repeating it. The incomplete work must be made up before the end of the following regular semester for undergraduate courses. Graduate students receiving "I" grades in 500-, 600-, or 700-level courses have up to one calendar year to complete the work, at the discretion of the instructor. If course requirements are not completed within the time indicated, a grade of F will be recorded and the GPA will be adjusted accordingly. Students who are fulfilling an Incomplete do not register for the course but make individual arrangements with the instructor who assigned the I grade.

Transparency in Learning and Teaching - The University encourages application of transparency method of constructing assignments for student success. Please see these two links for further information:

<https://www.unlv.edu/provost/teachingandlearning>

<https://www.unlv.edu/provost/transparency>

Religious Holidays Policy- Any student missing class quizzes, examinations, or any other class or lab work because of observance of religious holidays shall be given an opportunity during that semester to make up missed work. The make-up will apply to the religious holiday absence only. It shall be the responsibility of the student to notify the instructor no later than the end of the first two weeks of classes, of his or her intention to participate in religious holidays which do not fall on state holidays or periods of class recess. This policy shall not apply in the event that administering the test or examination at an alternate time would impose an undue hardship on the instructor or the university which could have been avoided. For additional information, please visit:

<http://catalog.unlv.edu/content.php?catoid=4&navoid=164>.

Tutoring and Coaching - The Academic Success Center (ASC) provides tutoring, academic success coaching and other academic assistance for all UNLV undergraduate students. For information regarding tutoring subjects, tutoring times, and other ASC programs and services, visit <http://www.unlv.edu/asc> or call 702-895- 3177. The ASC building is located across from the Student Services Complex (SSC). Academic success coaching is located on the second floor of the SSC (ASC Coaching Spot). Drop-in tutoring is located on the

second floor of the Lied Library and College of Engineering TEB second floor.

University Library - Students may consult with a librarian on research needs. For this class, the subject librarian is Susie Skarl (https://www.library.unlv.edu/contact/librarians_by_subject). UNLV Libraries provides resources to support students' access to information. Discovery, access, and use of information are vital skills for academic work and for successful post-college life. Access library resources and ask questions at <https://www.library.unlv.edu/>.

UNLV Writing Center - One-on-one or small group assistance with writing is available free of charge to UNLV students at the Writing Center, located in CDC-3-301. Although walk-in consultations are sometimes available, students with appointments will receive priority assistance. Appointments may be made in person or by calling 895-3908. The student's Rebel ID Card, a copy of the assignment (if possible), and two copies of any writing to be reviewed are requested for the consultation. More information can be found at: <http://writingcenter.unlv.edu>.

Rebelmail - According to university policy, faculty and staff should e-mail students' Rebelmail accounts only. Rebelmail is UNLV's official e-mail system for students. It is one of the primary ways students receive official university communication such as information about deadlines, major campus events, and announcements. All UNLV students receive a Rebelmail account after they have been admitted to the university. Students' e-mail prefixes are listed on class rosters. The suffix is always @unlv.nevada.edu. For more information, go to <http://provost.unlv.edu/policies.html>. It is acceptable to email within WebCampus.

Final Examinations

The University requires that final exams given at the end of a course occur at the time and on the day specified in the final exam schedule. See the schedule at: <http://www.unlv.edu/registrar/calendars>.

For more information, go to <http://provost.unlv.edu/policies.html>. It is acceptable to email within WebCampus.

TENTATIVE COURSE SCHEDULE

Unit 1 (August 30 to September 30, 2016):		
<p>The chapters and videos in your Criminology e-book/textbook, WebCampus readings, and assignments/exams in this unit cover basic issues about how crime is defined, the purposes or functions of criminal laws, the relationship between crime and the structure of society, and the different methods of measuring the extent and distribution of crime</p>		
Deadline (Due Date)	Chapters/Readings :	WebCampus Assignments/Exam
September 2	Chapter 1 (Intro to Study of Crime) Chapters 2 (Definitions of Crime)	Assignment #1
September 9	Chapter 3 (Functions of Criminal law) Chapter 4 (Crime & Society Structure) WebCampus Reading #2	Assignment #2 Exam #1
September 16	Chapter 5 (Crime Stats- UCR data) WebCampus Reading #3	Assignment #3
September 23	Chapter 6 (Self-Reports of Offending) WebCampus Reading #4	Assignment #4
September 30	Chapter 7 (Victimization Surveys) Chapter 8 (Crime Trends: Summary) WebCampus Reading #5	Assignment #5 Exam #2

Unit 2 (October 4 to November 4, 2016):

The chapters and videos in your Criminology textbook, WebCampus readings, and assignments/exams in this unit examine theories of crime causation and its distribution over time, particular places, and social groups. These theories include explanations based on biological, psychological, and sociological factors. They cover explanations for crime that derive from the intellectual traditions of *Classical Thought* (e.g., theories that emphasize offender's rational choices or "free will" in criminal decision making) and *Positivistic Science* (e.g., theories that derive from the use of scientific and comparative methods to identify risk factors and the determinants of criminal behavior).

Deadline (Due Date)	Chapters/Readings	WebCampus Assignments/Exam
October 7	Chapter 9 (Overview Theories) Chapter 10 (Classical Criminology) WebCampus Reading #6	Assignment #6
October 14	Chapter 11 (Positive Criminology) Chapter 12 (Biological Theories) WebCampus Reading #7	Assignment #7 Exam #3
October 21	Chapters 13 (Psychological Theories) WebCampus Reading #8	Assignment #8
October 28	Chapter 14 (Social Structural Theories) Chapter 15 (Social Process Theories) WebCampus Reading #9	Assignment #9
November 4	Chapter 16 (Social Conflict Theories) Chapter 17 (Theories of Crime Events) WebCampus Reading #10	Assignment #10 Exam #4

Unit3(November8toDecember13,2016):

The chapters and videos in your Criminology textbook, WebCampus readings, and assignments/exams in this unit focus on crime typologies and the offender, victim, and situational elements that underlie different types of criminal behavior. These major forms of crime include homicide, rape, aggravated assault, burglary, motor vehicle theft, "white collar" crimes, and organized crime. It also describes the types of criminal punishments (e.g., corporal sanctions {capital punishment}, incarceration, financial sanctions) and the dominant penal philosophies that underlie them (e.g., retribution, incapacitation, deterrence, rehabilitation).

Deadline (Due Date)	Chapters/Readings: WebCampus Assignments/Exam
November 11	Chapter 18 (Crime Typologies) Chapter 19 (Homicide/Agg.Assault) WebCampus Reading #11 Assignment #11
November 18	Chapter 20 (Rape/Sexual Assault) Chapter 21 (Robbery) WebCampus Reading #12 Assignment #12 Exam #5
November25	Chapter 22 (Burglary) Chapter 23 (Motor Vehicle Theft) WebCampus Reading #13 Assignment #13
December 2	Chapter 24 (White Collar Crime) Chapter 25 (Organized Crime) WebCampus Reading #14 Assignment #14
December9	Chapter 26 (Criminal Sanctions) Chapter 27 (Capital Punishment) WebCampus Reading #15 Assignment #15
Tuesday December 13 (Final Exam 10:10-11:10 am)	Exam #6 (comprehensive)

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