

## **CRIJ 3305-130: CRIMINOLOGY (ONLINE)**

**\*\*\* DISCLAIMER: SYLLABUS MAY BE REVISED LATER IF NEEDED \*\*\***

### **COURSE AND CONTACT INFORMATION**

**Classroom.** Online

**Office.** Founder's room 217N

**Email.** MQuinones@TAMUCT.edu

**Office Hours:** Tuesdays 10:00AM-4:00PM, please emails me ahead of time for an appointment.

**Communication.** Canvas has an email function we will use to communicate. To learn how to use Canvas *Conversations*, visit <https://community.canvaslms.com>

### **CATALOG DESCRIPTION**

CJK 305. Criminology. 3 Semester Credit Hours.

Study and critical appraisal of various theories of crime causation, including an examination of classical, biological, psychological, and sociological perspectives on the etiology of crime.

### **COURSE GOALS AND OBJECTIVES**

The goal of the course is to help students become familiar with crime theory and research. By the end of this course students should be able to demonstrate they understand criminological theories and can critically evaluate them.

Objectives of the course are to learn key concepts of criminology. Which includes learning,

- the historical contexts of major criminological theories.
- the content of major criminological theories.
- theoretical research within the field of criminal justice.
- and applying these concepts to problems in criminal justice.

### **REQUIRED TEXTBOOKS**

Akers, R.L., & Sellers, C.S. (2017). *Criminological theories: Introduction, evaluation, and application* (7th ed.). New York: Oxford University Press.

### **ADDITIONAL MATERIALS**

Students will receive additional materials to read and watch. Additional materials are posted on Canvas as assignments or in the resources section.

### **COURSE DESCRIPTION**

This course is completed online using the TAMUCT Canvas Learning Management System <https://tamuct.instructure.com>. Students must be able to access Canvas in order to complete assignments. I communicate with the class using Canvas *Announcements*, so please make sure you enable notifications for announcements. For the most part, I allow students to work at their own pace, but there are some deadlines that must be met throughout the semester. You will find due dates under the *Calendar* or in the assignment tab.

**Organization** Complete assignments and exams by going to the *Assignment* tab or *Modules* tab. *Assignments* lists in chronological order all assignments due throughout the semester. *Modules* are organized by topics and groups assignments with supplemental information, such as PowerPoints, links to videos, links to articles, and other resources. I recommend completing modules and have set that as the main page for the course.

**Calendar** You can see when items are due in the assignment link or by accessing the course calendar. For a tutorial on accessing the calendar, visit <https://community.canvaslms.com/docs/DOC-10693-4212717347>

**Course Interaction** We may communicate privately through the course messaging feature. If for some reason I do not respond, *email* me to make sure I received the message. Technology fails at times. I will communicate with the class as a whole using *Announcements* and its reply function.

**Assignments** All written assignments are completed on Canvas. To learn how to view assignments in Canvas, visit <https://community.canvaslms.com/docs/DOC-10566-4212191416>. All assignments are run through *VeriCite*, Canvas' anti-plagiarism check software. Plagiarism is a form of academic dishonesty. **Plagiarism, most simply defined, is not properly crediting sources of information through the use of textual citations and the provision of a works cited list. If something is not your own original idea, thought, words, or the product of your original data collection and analysis, you must cite your source in the text.** For this course, simply follow this rule, *if you read it cite it*. Students who plagiarize will receive a 0 for the assignment and may be referred to the Office of Student Conduct. To learn more about plagiarism, please visit <https://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/589/02/>

**Exams** To learn how to view and complete quizzes in Canvas, please visit <https://community.canvaslms.com/docs/DOC-10581-421250756>

### **ATTENDANCE & MISSED MATERIAL/ASSIGNMENTS**

Students are responsible for keeping up with the reading, assignments, and additional information provided during the semester. All materials are posted on Canvas at the beginning of the semester. If any links or materials are inaccessible, contact me immediately. Assignments are posted long before they are due, so late assignments will not be accepted and make-up exams are not allowed. *Canvas Student* a smartphone app you can also use to keep up assignments even if you do not have access to a computer <https://community.canvaslms.com/docs/DOC-10567-4212717947>

## **COURSE REQUIREMENTS**

Your final grade in this course is based on how well you do on assignments and exams. I recommend students complete assignments in a timely manner and contact me for explanation or clarification of the material. There is only so much help I can provide students who wait until the last minute to complete assignments.

### **DESCRIPTION, VALUE OF ASSIGNMENTS, & GRADING CRITERIA**

**Chapter Reviews (25%).** There are 15 chapter reviews available, the sum of your scores is 25% of your grade. Reviews require students match definitions to terms and concepts found in the chapter. The purpose of reviews is to ensure reading and understanding of the material. Reviews may be retaken once. Students receive limited feedback with their score, for more detailed feedback contact me.

**Exercises (25%).** Each assignment is worth up to 20 points and there are 5 exercises to complete, the sum of your scores is 25% of your grade. Participation exercises are completed throughout the semester. These written assignments require students to seek out information on their own and complete exercises that help tie theory to real world issues. Read the instructions carefully. Each exercise has different requirements and additional resources to use. Writing is important and significantly affects scores. I will provide feedback or refer students to a writing tutor for additional help when necessary. TAMUCT offers free on-campus and online writing assistance through the writing center. Students also have free access to writing tutors through Tutor.com. Students can access Tutor.com directly from Canvas.

**Exams 1, 2, 3 (50%).** Exams assess your level of understanding of all course material, including videos and additional readings. The average of your 3 scores makes up 50% of your final grade. It is necessary to visit all links to videos and articles embedded in the PowerPoints, modules, and assignments. Videos and additional readings expand on the material, present it in a unique way, and/or help clarify the material, so always assume they are there for a reason. The format is multiple choice, fill in the blank, true/false, and matching. Exams are timed and once an exam is started it may not be

stopped and resumed later. Exams provide limited feedback, for more detailed feedback contact me. Please provide the specific exam question in the message.

### **GRADING CRITERIA RUBRIC AND CONVERSION**

Refer to the assignment descriptions to see what % of the final grade they represent. Below I include a link to a calculator that allows students to manipulate their scores to calculate the course grade. Let me know if this link no longer works. Last checked 12/22/2017 <https://www.rapidtables.com/calc/grade/grade-calculator.html>

**90-100 A:** Outstanding work and mastery of material

**80-89 B:** High quality work and good understanding of the material

**70-79 C:** Satisfactory work and basic understanding of the material

**60-69 D:** Minimally acceptable performance/little to no understanding of the material.

**<59 F:** Poor performance and does not understand basic elements of course

A C grade is average, to earn an overall grade higher than a C you must consistently produce high quality and outstanding work.

### **POSTING GRADES**

Grades are available on Canvas, on the *Grades* page. Since all assignments are completed on Canvas, grades are usually returned quickly. I will let you know of any delays or technical difficulties. Learn how to view grades on Canvas, by visiting <https://community.canvaslms.com/docs/DOC-9540-4212724430>

### **COURSE OUTLINE AND CALENDAR**

This course runs from January 16<sup>th</sup> – May 11<sup>th</sup>. Notice that I have created 12 modules, but there are 16 weeks in the semester. This is to allow additional time for some modules and to give students some flexibility in their schedule. Plan your semester accordingly. Due dates are firm and make-up exams are not allowed. Complete the appropriate modules before moving on to the exams. Check Canvas for assignment details and due dates.

**Module 1:** Introduction to Criminological Theory, 3 assignments

**Module 2:** Deterrence and Rational Choice Theories, 2 assignments

**Module 3:** Biological and Psychological Theories, 3 assignments

**-----Complete Exam 1-----**

**Module 4:** Social Learning (ch 5), Social Bonding and Control Theories (ch 6), 2 assignments

**Module 5:** Labeling and Reintegrative Shaming Theory, 1 assignment

**Module 6:** Social Disorganization, 2 assignments

**Module 7:** Anomie and Strain Theories, 2 assignments

**-----Complete Exam 2-----**

**Module 8:** Conflict Theory (ch 10) and Marxist Theories (ch 11), 3 assignments

**Module 9:** Radical and Critical Theories, 1 assignment

**Module 10:** Feminist Theories, 1 assignment

**Module 11:** Development and Life-Course Theories, 1 assignment

**Module 12:** Integrating Criminological Theories, 1 assignment due

**-----Complete Exam 3-----**

## TECHNOLOGY REQUIREMENTS AND SUPPORT

This course will use the TAMUCT Instructure Canvas learning management system.

- Logon to TAMUCT Canvas <https://tamuct.instructure.com>
- Username: Your MyCT username (xx123 or everything before the "@" in your MyCT e-mail address)
- Password: Your MyCT password

For technology issues, students should contact Help Desk Central. 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. Email: [helpdesk@tamu.edu](mailto:helpdesk@tamu.edu) Phone: (254) 519-5466

Webchat: <http://hdc.tamu.edu>

*When calling for support please let your support technician know you are a TAMUCT student.* For issues related to course content and requirements, contact your instructor.

## COPYRIGHT NOTICE

Students should assume that all course material is copyrighted by the respective author(s). Reproduction of course material is prohibited without consent by the author and/or course instructor. Violation of copyright is against the law and Texas A&M University-Central Texas' Code of Academic Honesty. All alleged violations will be reported to the Office of Student Conduct.

## COURSE AND UNIVERSITY RESOURCES, PROCEDURES, AND POLICIES

**Drop Policy.** If you discover that you need to drop this class, you must complete a Drop Request Form, found through the Registrar's web page

<https://www.tamuct.edu/departments/business-office/droppolicy.php>

*Professors cannot drop students; this is always the responsibility of the student.* The Registrar's Office will provide a deadline on the University Calendar for which the form must be completed, signed and returned. Once you return the signed form to the Registrar's Office, you must go into Warrior Web and confirm that you are no longer enrolled. If you still show as enrolled, FOLLOW-UP with the Registrar's Office immediately. You are to attend class until the procedure is complete to avoid penalty for absence. Should you miss the drop deadline or fail to follow the procedure, you will

receive an F in the course, which may affect your financial aid and/or VA educational benefits.

**Academic Integrity.** Texas A&M University -Central Texas values the integrity of the academic enterprise and strives for the highest standards of academic conduct. A&M-Central Texas expects its students, faculty, and staff to support the adherence to high standards of personal and scholarly conduct to preserve the honor and integrity of the creative community. Academic integrity is defined as a commitment to honesty, trust, fairness, respect, and responsibility. Any deviation by students from this expectation may result in a failing grade for the assignment and potentially a failing grade for the course. Academic misconduct is any act that improperly affects a true and honest evaluation of a student's academic performance and includes, but is not limited to, cheating on an examination or other academic work, plagiarism and improper citation of sources, using another student's work, collusion, and the abuse of resource materials. All academic misconduct concerns will be reported to the university's Office of Student Conduct. Ignorance of the university's standards and expectations is never an excuse to act with a lack of integrity. When in doubt on collaboration, citation, or any issue, please contact your instructor before taking a course of action.

**Plagiarism.** Plagiarism is a form of academic dishonesty. Plagiarism, most simply defined, is not properly crediting sources of information through the use of textual citations and the provision of a works cited list. If something is not your own original idea, thought, words, or the product of your original data collection and analysis, you must cite your source in the text. Students who plagiarize will receive a 0 for the assignment and may be referred to the Office of Student Conduct. To learn more about plagiarism, please visit <https://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/589/02/>

**Academic Accommodations.** At Texas A&M-Central Texas, we value an inclusive learning environment where every student has an equal chance to succeed and has the right to a barrier free education. The Department of Access and Inclusion is responsible for ensuring that students with a disability receive equal access to the University's



programs, services and activities. If you believe you have a disability requiring reasonable accommodations please contact the Department of Access and Inclusion at (254) 501-5831. Any information you provide is private and confidential and will be treated as such.

For more information please visit our Access & Inclusion webpage (Links to an external site.)Links to an external site.: <http://www.tamuct.edu/departments/access-inclusion>  
TAMUCT supports students who are pregnant and/or parenting. In accordance with requirements of Title IX and guidance from US Department of Education's Office of Civil Rights, the Dean of Student Affairs' Office can assist students who are pregnant and/or parenting in seeking accommodations related to pregnancy and/or parenting. For more information, please visit <https://www.tamuct.departments/index.php>. Students may also contact the institution's Title IX Coordinator. If you would like to read more about these requirements and guidelines please visit: <http://www2.ed.gov/about/offices/list/ocr/docs/pregnancy.pdf>

**Tutoring.** Tutoring is available to all TAMUCT students, both on-campus and online. On-campus subjects tutored include Accounting, Advanced Math, Biology, Finance, Statistics, Mathematics, and Study Skills. Tutors are available at the Tutoring Center in Warrior Hall, Suite 111.

If you have a question regarding tutor schedules, need to schedule a tutoring session, are interested in becoming a tutor, or any other question, contact Academic Support Programs at 254-519-5796, or by emailing Kim Wood at [k.wood@tamuct.edu](mailto:k.wood@tamuct.edu).  
Chat live with a tutor 24/7 for almost any subject on your computer! Tutor.com is an online tutoring platform that enables TAMUCT students to log-in and receive FREE online tutoring and writing support. This tool provides tutoring in over forty subject areas. Access Tutor.com through Canvas.

**The University Writing Center.** Located in 416 Warrior Hall, the University Writing Center (UWC) at Texas A&M University – Central Texas is a free workspace open to all TAMUCT students from 10am-4pm Monday-Thursday. Students may arrange a one-on-

one session with a trained and experienced writing tutor by visiting the UWC during normal operating hours (both half-hour and hour sessions are available). Tutors are prepared to help writers of all levels and abilities at any stage of the writing process. While tutors will not write, edit, or grade papers, they will assist students in developing more effective composing practices. By providing a practice audience for students' ideas and writing, our tutors highlight the ways in which they read and interpret students' texts, offering guidance and support throughout the various stages of the writing process. In addition, students may work independently in the UWC by checking out a laptop that runs the Microsoft Office suite and connects to WIFI, or by consulting our resources on writing, including all of the relevant style guides. Whether you need help brainstorming ideas, organizing an essay, proofreading, understanding proper citation practices, or just want a quiet place to work, the University Writing Center is here to help!

If you have any questions about the University Writing Center, please do not hesitate to contact Dr. Bruce Bowles Jr. at [bruce.bowles@tamuct.edu](mailto:bruce.bowles@tamuct.edu).

**University Library.** The University Library provides many services in support of research across campus and at a distance. We offer over 200 electronic databases containing approximately 250,000 eBooks and 82,000 journals, in addition to the 72,000 items in our print collection, which can be mailed to students who live more than 50 miles from campus. Research guides for each subject taught at TAMUCT are available through our website to help students navigate these resources. On-campus, the library offers technology including cameras, laptops, microphones, webcams, and digital sound recorders.

Research assistance from a librarian is also available twenty-four hours a day through our online chat service, and at the reference desk when the library is open. Research sessions can be scheduled for more comprehensive assistance, and may take place on Skype or in-person at the library. Assistance may cover many topics, including how to find articles in peer-reviewed journals, how to cite resources, and how to piece together research for written assignments.

Our 27,000-square-foot facility on the TAMUCT main campus includes student lounges, private study rooms, group work spaces, computer labs, family areas suitable for all ages, and many other features. Services such as interlibrary loan, TexShare, binding, and laminating are available. The library frequently offers workshops, tours, readings, and other events. For more information, please our homepage

<https://tamuct.libguides.com>