

COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course examines major theoretical perspectives of crime and deviance. Students and instructor will analyze theories for their logical and empirical adequacy in light of what is known about the distribution of crime and deviant behavior.

*Prerequisite(s): Undergraduate or graduate coursework in Criminology or permission of instructor.

COURSE OBJECTIVES

By the end of this course students should be able to demonstrate an advanced understanding of crime and deviance theories and critically evaluate them. To successfully demonstrate an advanced level of understanding, students must be able to:

1. demonstrate knowledge of the core literature and debates that make up the discipline of criminology.
2. critically evaluate the literature on a specific topic and identify suitable research questions.
3. question conventional thought about crime and punishment; and be able to put discussions on crime and punishment in their wider social, historical, political, and economic context.
4. demonstrate an ability to critically evaluate theories of crime and deviance.
5. achieve a good standard of academic writing.

REQUIRED TEXTBOOK

Cullen, Francis T. and Agnew, Robert (2018). *Criminological Theory: Past to Present*, 6th Edition. Oxford University Press. ISBN: 0199301115, ISBN-13: 9780199301119.

MAJOR COURSE REQUIREMENTS

Your final grade in this course is based on how well you do on written assignments. Writing is important and significantly affects scores. Overall, writing should be concise, without losing important information, and submission should be well organized. I recommend that all students meet with a writing tutor either on campus or Tutor.com.

MAJOR ASSIGNMENTS & EXAMINATIONS

Program Reviews (75%) Each assignment asks you examine how theories are used to guide crime and justice related programs. Students will access criminal justice databases to find programs that target youth, repeat offenders, and special populations (i.e. soldiers, parents, spouses, victims, mentally ill, etc).

Annotated Bibliography (25%) Annotated bibliographies are the gold standard in graduate studies across the nation. After reading an article, note the proper citation (APA style), type a summary of the material, and save it.

As you read articles, you add them to your annotated bibliography. The document should consist of 10 article citations and summaries for each article, for a total of 10 summaries.

*There are no exams for this course.

LECTURE TOPICS

The Rise And Growth of American Criminology

- I. The Origins of Modern Criminology
- II. The Chicago School: The City, Social Disorganization, and Crime
- III. Learning to Be a Criminal: Differential Association, Subcultural, and Social Learning Theories
- IV. Anomie/Strain Theories of Crime
- V. Varieties of Control Theory

Rethinking Criminology

- VI. Labeling, Interaction, and Crime: Societal Reaction and the Creation of Criminals
- VIII. Critical Criminology: Power, Peace, and Crime
- IIIX. Feminist Theories: Gender, Power, and Crime
- IX. Theories of White-Collar Crime

Choice, Opportunity, and Crime

- X. Reviving Classical Theory: Deterrence and Rational Choice
- XI. Environmental Criminology

Development and Crime Across the Life Course

- XII. Growing Up Criminal: Biosocial Traits and Theories of Crime
- XIII. Getting Into and Out of Crime: Life Course Theories

Contemporary Criminology

- XIV. Positive Criminology
- XV. How Black Lives Matter: Theoretical Developments
- XVI. Pulling It All Together: Integrated Theories of Crime
- XVII. Putting Theory to Work: Guiding Crime Control Policy