## COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course introduces students to various theories of crime causation, and provides an examination of classical, biological, psychological, and sociological perspectives on the etiology of crime.

## COURSE OBJECTIVES

The goal of the course is to help students become familiar with theories of crime, theory research, and the role of theory in policies and programs. By the end of this course students should be able to demonstrate they understand criminological theories and can critically evaluate them. The objectives of the course are to learn key concepts of criminology. Which includes learning,

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

## REQUIRED TEXTBOOK

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

## MAJOR COURSE REQUIREMENTS

A student's final grade in this course is based on how well they perform on chapter quizzes, written assignments, and exams.

## MAJOR ASSIGNMENTS & EXAMINATIONS

**Chapter Review Quizzes (20%).** 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. Students receive limited feedback with their score, for more detailed feedback students must contact the instructor.

**Application Exercises (30%).** Application exercises are written assignments that require students to seek out information on their own. These assignments help tie theory to real world issues and show students how theory influences criminal justice policy and programs. Each exercise has different requirements and additional resources to use. *Writing is important and significantly affects scores.*

**Exams (x3) (50%).** Exams assess your level of understanding of all course material, including videos and additional readings. The format is multiple choice, fill in the blank, true/false, and matching. Students receive limited feedback with their score, for more detailed feedback students must contact the instructor.

**LECTURE TOPICS**

    **I.**     Introduction to Criminological Theory

    **II.**    Deterrence and Rational Choice Theories

    **III.**   Biological Theories of crime

    **IV.**   Psychological Theories of crime

    **V.**    Social Learning

    **VI.**   Social Bonding and Control Theories

    **VII.**  Labeling and Reintegrative Shaming Theory

   **VIII.**  Social Disorganization

    **IX.**  Anomie and Strain Theories

    **X.**    Conflict Theory

    **XI.**  Marxist Theories

    **XII.**  Radical and Critical Theories

   **XIII.**  Feminist Theories

   **XIV.**  Development and Life-Course Theories

    **XV.**  Integrating Criminological Theories