

Advanced Criminology
The University of Texas at Dallas
CRIM 3302, Spring 2013
Tues/Thurs, 10am – 11:15pm
Room: GR 2.302

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Office hours: Tuesday 11:30am – 1pm; Thursday 2pm – 4pm; or by appointment

Course Description

Criminology has a rich tradition of theoretical development. Indeed, countless theories have been proffered to explain the etiology of criminal behavior. Though criminology has traditionally been dominated by sociologically oriented theories of crime causation, recent developments have shown other factors such as biological and genetic factors are important to consider. This course will introduce the student to contemporary theoretical developments in criminology. Specific focus will be given to control theories, strain theories, labeling theories, learning theories, structural theories, developmental/life course theories, and biosocial theories. The course will unfold in three interrelated sections. The first part of the course will present an overview of some of the more popular criminological theories (e.g., control, strain, and labeling). The second portion of the course will introduce students to concepts, findings, and theories germane to recent theoretical developments (e.g., developmental/life course theories). The final section of the course will consider whether traditional theories can be integrated with more contemporary foci in an effort to better inform policy and practice.

Required Reading

- 1) Benson, Michael L. 2013. *Crime and the life course: An introduction*. New York: Routledge. ISBN: 9780415994927
- 2) Lilly, J. Robert, Francis T. Cullen, and Richard A. Ball. 2010. *Criminological theory: Context and consequences* (5th Edition). Thousand Oaks, CA: Sage.

Course Requirements

Your grade will be determined based on your performance on two (2) examinations. The exams may contain a mixture of multiple choice, true/false, and short answer questions. Exams may also include essay questions. Each exam will be worth 50 points. Your final grade will be based on the sum of your scores on the two exams. More details will be provided as the examination dates approach. Grades will not be curved and I do not offer extra credit.

Grading Scale

A+	=	97 - 100	C+	=	77 - 79	F	=	0 - 59
A	=	93 - 96	C	=	73 - 76			
A-	=	90 - 92	C-	=	70 - 72			
B+	=	87 - 89	D+	=	67 - 69			
B	=	83 - 86	D	=	63 - 66			
B-	=	80 - 82	D-	=	60 - 62			

Course Policies

Attendance is required if you wish to receive a passing grade. If you miss a class, I strongly encourage you to borrow one of your classmate's notes and then talk with me if you need additional clarification. I do not provide students with my notes nor will I post notes/slides to the internet.

If you miss an exam you must: (1) notify me within 24 hours AND (2) provide me with an acceptable excuse. Note that I may request written documentation. If you do not follow this procedure you will receive a zero on the examination.

Technical Support & University Policies

If you experience any problems with your UTD account you may send an email to: assist@utdallas.edu or call the UTD Computer Helpdesk at 972-883-2911.

University policies can be viewed at: <http://go.utdallas.edu/syllabus-policies>

Course Schedule and Assigned Readings

Course Overview and How to Think Like a Scientist

Lecture Dates: 1/15-1/24

Topics:

Seeing the world as a scientist

Theoretical development

Readings: Lilly Chapter 1

Traditional Criminological Theories

Lecture Dates: 1/29-2/28

Topics:

Control theories

Readings: Lilly Chapter 2, 5, & 6

Strain theories

Readings: Lilly Chapter 4

Labeling theories

Readings: Lilly Chapter 7

Learning theories

Readings: Lilly Chapter 3 (pp. 47-59)

Structural theories

Readings: Lilly Chapter 3 (pp. 42-47, pp. 50-55), Chapter 12 (pp. 319-322), Chapter 13

Reading Day

Date: 3/5

Exam 1

Date: 3/7

Spring Break

Dates: 3/12-3/14

Contemporary Criminological Theories

Lecture Dates: 3/19, 3/26-4/18

ACJS – No Class

Date: 3/21

Topics:

Developmental/life course theories

Readings: Benson Chapters 1, 3, 4, and 5

Biosocial theories

Readings: Benson Chapter 2

Lilly Chapter 14

Theoretical Integration and Policy Implications

Lecture Dates: 4/23-5/2

Topics:

Theoretical integration

Readings: None

Policy implications

Readings: Benson Chapter 7

Exam 2

Date: 5/9

Note: This schedule is not a binding contract. I reserve the right to make changes at any time and it is your job to stay abreast of these changes.