Class Time:  R: 4:00-6:45  
Professor:  Nicole Leeper Piquero, Ph.D.  
Email:  npiquero@utdallas.edu  
Office Hours:  R: 2:00-3:00 and immediately after class; also by email and appointment

Course Description

The purpose of this course is to introduce and expose students to the major theories of crime and delinquency. As such, an in-depth examination of each criminological theory, from the earliest classical explanations to contemporary theories, will be reviewed and critiqued. Specific attention will be paid to the propositions, assumptions, and empirical validity of these criminological theories. Current theoretical debates will also be highlighted and the relationship between criminological theory and social policy will be explored.

Please Note: There is a significant reading and writing component to this class. Students are expected to read the assigned material prior to class and come to class prepared to discuss the readings, use critical thinking skills, and be able to analyze issues in written assignments.

Student Learning Objectives/Outcomes

1. To learn the basic concepts and principles of major theoretical approaches to crime and delinquency.
2. To critically analyze criminological theories.
3. To understand how criminological theories can be used to inform policies on crime prevention and reduction.

Required Textbooks and Materials:

Readings for the course will consist of the book (listed below) and journal articles (listed in the class schedule). All readings are expected to be completed prior to the class date listed.


Assignments: Course Requirements

Exams (50%)
There will be two exams this semester. Both exams are in-class and the last exam is not cumulative. Each exam is worth 100 points or 25% of the final grade in the course. See Class Schedule (listed below) for dates of the two exams.
Review Papers (25%)
Students are required to turn in five (5) critical reviews of selected readings over the course of the semester. Each review is worth 20 points or 5% of the final grade in the course. Reviews must be done on weeks when you are NOT presenting and only one critique can be handed in each class! These should not simply review or summarize the readings but rather they should provide an integrated discussion and critique of the assigned reading. As such, these papers will require that you integrate the other assigned readings that week with your opinion (i.e., overall reaction) into each of your reviews.

Student Presentation and Summary of Readings (20%)
Students will be required to make one oral class presentation. Each student will select a specific class (or theory) for their presentation. In order to reduce the number of presentations in any one class, the assignment of topics will be made on a first-come-first-save basis with the final decision left to the discretion of the instructor. So, a word to the wise, sign-up for your topic early!

Presentations will require each student to: (1) locate an article on the assigned weekly subject matter* (2) have the selected article approved by the instructor – preferably one week prior to the class presentation (3) prepare an outline or overview of the selected reading – which should be no more than 2 single spaced typed pages (4) share thoughts in-class on BOTH the selected and assigned readings and (5) lead a discussion (aided by at least five discussion questions) on the subject matter involved in the readings. You will be expected to provide each class member (and me) with a copy of the article outline including the full citation for the selected article and your discussion questions.

* The article selected must NOT be one from the assigned reading list and CANNOT be one that has been previously used by another student. The literature source selected must be a published journal article, book chapter or other source that is an original statement or presentation (i.e., not a summary, textbook, or other secondary source) on a criminological theory (or theories).

Participation (5%)
Your active participation is the key to your success in this class. Through participation, I expect you to (1) be in class (2) show me that you have read the assigned material and (3) are able (and willing) to ask insightful questions pertaining to the issues involved. Therefore, attendance is required and absences, lateness and leaving class early will be factored into your final grade.
### Class Schedule

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Week 1 – August 28</th>
<th>Introduction: What is Theory</th>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Readings:</strong></td>
<td>None</td>
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<tr>
<th>Week 2 – September 4</th>
<th>Choice Theories</th>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Readings:</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Part I: The Origins of Modern Criminology</td>
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<td>Chapter 1: Beccaria, C.</td>
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<td>Chapter 2: Lombroso, C.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Part XI: Reviving Classical Theory (pp. 417-425)</td>
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<td>Chapter 33: Stafford, M.C. &amp; Warr, M.</td>
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<td>Chapter 34: Cornish, D.B. &amp; Clarke, R.V.</td>
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<td>Chapter 35: Wright, R.T. &amp; Decker, S.H.</td>
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<th>Week 3 – September 11</th>
<th>Trait Theories</th>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Readings:</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Part II: Biosocial and Trait Theories</td>
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<td>Chapter 5: Peski et al.</td>
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Chapter 6: Caspi et al.


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<th>Week 4 – September 18</th>
<th>Chicago School</th>
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**Readings:**

Part III: The Chicago School: The City, Social Disorganization, and Crime
- Chapter 7: Shaw, C.R. & McKay, H.D.
- Chapter 8: Sampson, R.J. & Wilson, W.J.
- Chapter 9: Sampson, R.J., Raudenbush, S.W. & Earls, F.


Chapter 12: Anderson, E.


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<th>Week 5 – September 25</th>
<th>Environmental Criminology</th>
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**Readings:**

Part XII: Environmental Criminology
- Chapter 36: Cohen, L.E. & Felson, M.
- Chapter 37: Clarke, R.V.
- Chapter 38: Newman, O.
- Chapter 39: Wilson, J.Q. & Kelling, G.L.


**Week 6 – October 2**

**Exam #1**

**Week 7 – October 9**

**Learning Theories**

**Readings:**

Part IV: Learning to Be a Criminal: Differential Association, Subcultural, and Social Learning

Chapter 10: Sutherland, E.H. & Cressey, D.R.
Chapter 11: Akers, R.L.
Chapter 17: Sykes, G. M. & Matza, D.
Chapter 31: Benson, M.L.


**Week 8 – October 16**

**Strain Theories**

**Readings:**

Part V: Anomie/Strain Theories of Crime

Chapter 13: Merton, R.K.
Chapter 14: Cohen, A.K.


Chapter 16: Agnew, R.


Chapter 15: Rosenfeld, R. & Messner, S.F.


### Week 9 – October 23

**Control Theories**

**Readings:**
- Part VI: Varieties of Control Theory
  - Chapter 18: Hirschi, T.
  - Chapter 19: Hirschi, M.R. & Hirschi, T.


### Week 10 – October 30

**Social Reaction Theories**

**Readings:**

Part VII: Labeling, Interaction, and Crime: Societal Reaction and the Creation of Criminals
Chapter 20: Lemert, E.M.


Chapter 21: Braithwaite, J.


Chapter 22: Sherman, L.W.


### Week 11 – November 6

**Critical Theories**

**Readings:**

Part VIII: Critical Criminology: Power, Peace and Crime
Chapter 23: Bonger, W.
Chapter 25: Colvin, M.

Part IX: Feminist Theories: Gender, Power, and Crime
Chapter 26: Adler, F.
Chapter 27: Chesney-Lind, M.
Chapter 28: Messnerschmidt, J.W.
Chapter 29: Steffensmeier, D.J. & Allan, E.


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<th>Week 12 – November 13</th>
<th>Developmental Theories</th>
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Readings:

Part XIII: Developmental Theories: Crime and the Lifecourse
Chapter 3: Glueck, S. & Glueck, S.
Chapter 40: Moffitt, T.E.
Chapter 41: Laub, J.H. & Sampson, R.J.
Chapter 50: Farrington, D.P. & Welsh, B.C.


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<th>Week 13 – November 20</th>
<th>No Class – ASC Meeting</th>
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<th>Week 14 – November 27</th>
<th>No Class – UTD Fall Break</th>
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<th>Week 15 – December 4</th>
<th>Exam #2</th>
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