

Course Information

Course Number/Section CRIM 6303.0W1(85917)
Course Title Etiology of Crime and Criminality
Term Fall Semester 2016

Professor Contact Information

Professor O. Elmer Polk, Ph.D.
Office Phone 972.883.2983
Email Address elmer.polk@utdallas.edu You must use the course message link on the course homepage to contact me rather than my personal email. Please feel welcome and encouraged to message me as frequently as you like during the course.
Office Location GR 2.208
Online Office Hours 11:00 am to 12:00 noon during fall semester. Other times available by appointment.
Other Information No TA is assigned to this section.

Course Pre-requisites, Co-requisites, and/or Other Restrictions:

Program permission is required to enroll in this section.

Course Description: CRIM 6303, Etiology of Crime and Criminality (3 semester hours): Examines the history of criminological thought incorporating the major works of such theorists as Bentham, Beccaria, Marx, Durkheim, Lombroso, Shaw and McKay, Sutherland, Becker, and Merton.

Student Learning Objectives/Outcomes:

- Provide the student with an advanced theory based vocabulary to enable informed analyses of the criminological literature.
- Provide the student with an understanding of theory construction.
- Examine the history and evolution of criminological thought.
- Provide an overview of the most commonly accepted criminological theories.
- Examine the feasibility of theory integration and the relevance of theory to policy-making.

Required Textbooks and Materials

1. Required Text: *Criminology: Theories, Patterns, and Typologies*, 12th ed. (2016) by Siegel, Larry J. ISBN#: 978-1-305-26109-9. Cengage Learning
2. Required Text: *Criminological Thought: Pioneers Past and Present* (2009) by Mutchnick, Robert J., Randy Martin, and W. Timothy Austin, ISBN#: 9780131190467, Prentice Hall Publishing.

Additionally, students are required to read appropriate, current criminal justice journal articles and access internet materials as assigned in the Course Calendar and Assignment Schedule section of this syllabus or as required for Discussion Board Postings and completion of the required writing assignments. Textbooks and some other bookstore materials can be ordered online through Off-Campus Books <http://www.offcampusbooks.com> or the UT Dallas Bookstore <http://www.bkstr.com/texasatdallasstore/home>. They are also available in stock at both bookstores.

Technical Requirements

In addition to a confident level of computer and Internet literacy, certain minimum technical requirements must be met to enable a successful learning experience. Please review the important technical requirements <http://www.utdallas.edu/elearning/students/getting-started.html#techreqs> on the Getting Started with eLearning webpage <http://www.utdallas.edu/elearning/students/getting-started.html>.

Course Access and Navigation

The course can be accessed using the UT Dallas NetID account at: <https://elearning.utdallas.edu>. Please see the course access and navigation <http://www.utdallas.edu/elearning/students/getting-started.html#courseaccessandnav> section of the site for more information. To become familiar with the eLearning tool, please see the Student eLearning Tutorials <http://www.utdallas.edu/elearning/students/eLearningTutorialsStudents.html>.

UT Dallas provides eLearning technical support 24 hours a day/7 days a week. The eLearning Support Center <http://www.utdallas.edu/elearninghelp> services include a toll free telephone number for immediate assistance (1-866-588-3192), email request service, and an online chat service.

Communication

Interaction with Professor: The professor will communicate with students mainly using the Course Messages, Announcements and Discussions tools. Students must send personal concerns or questions to the instructor using the course message tool. The instructor will reply to student messages or Discussion board postings within 1-3 working days under normal circumstances.

Distance Learning Student Resources

Online students have access to resources including the McDermott Library, Academic Advising, The Office of Student AccessAbility, and many others. Please see the eLearning Current Students page <http://www.utdallas.edu/elearning/students/cstudents.htm> for details.

Server Unavailability or Other Technical Difficulties

The University is committed to providing a reliable learning management system to all users. However, in the event of any unexpected server outage or any unusual technical difficulty which prevents students from completing a time sensitive assessment activity, the instructor will provide an appropriate accommodation based on the situation. Students should immediately report any problems to the instructor and also contact the online eLearning Help Desk <http://www.utdallas.edu/elearninghelp>. The instructor and the eLearning Help Desk will work with the student to resolve any issues at the earliest possible time.

Grading Policy

Grades will be posted based on the following scale: Graduate: A=94-100, A-=90-93, B+= 87-89, B=84-86, B-=80-83, C+=77-79, C=70-76, F=0-69. Grades are based on the following events. **Please note that there is absolutely no extra credit work available in this class** and each student should strive to do his or her best work on each and every grading event as the course progresses. **The mathematical rule of rounding will apply to the computation of the final grade** in the course based on the grades received in the following events.

1. Examination I (100 points). 3 hours, online, open-book; objective questions from textbook (T1) and internet sites testing the breadth of knowledge gained at this point in the semester.
2. Forum 1 grade (100 points) Answers to five of the issues must be posted on the discussion board in essay format of 350 words or more per answer. Three bibliographic citations and the word count must be posted with each of the issue postings along with internal cites – sources may include your textbooks.
3. Forum 2 grade (100 points) Same as Forum 1 except on Forum 2 questions.
4. Responses (100 points) to five of your classmates' postings agreeing or disagreeing and stating why.
5. Theory Testing Research Paper (100 points) on an individual criminology theory chosen by you from your textbooks. **Topic must be approved via course message (not email) by the professor prior to commencing** work on the paper. Only one or two students will be allowed to write on each theory – it is up to the student to get permission early if you have individual interest in a particular theory (details below). Your grade will focus on your discussion of how the theoretic concepts were operationalized into research variables in the testing of the theory.
6. Crime Measure Assignment (100 points) See details below. Each student must compare official UCR crime rates in Dallas to crime rates in their hometown and explain WHY there is a difference in rates using the theoretical knowledge gained in the course.
7. Exam 2 Final Examination: (100 points) 3 hours, online, open-book; objective questions from textbook (T1) and internet sites testing the breadth of knowledge gained at this point in the semester.
8. Syllabus Quiz (0 points) This quiz is required by the due date in the course calendar before any student takes any of the exams or posts any discussion questions. Please email your professor via the course email if you have any questions whatsoever after taking the quiz. Quiz should be repeated until you obtain a score of 100.
9. Introductions: (0 points) Each student should log onto the discussion board the first week of class and provide a brief introduction to the rest of the class. Please give us your class standing (where you are in the program) and why you are in the graduate program plus any other information you would like to share. Please do not provide personal phone numbers or addresses on the discussion board.

Incomplete Grade Policy: As per university policy, incomplete grades will be granted only for work unavoidably missed at the semester's end and only if 70% of the course work has been completed. An incomplete grade must be resolved within eight (8) weeks from the first day of the subsequent long semester. If the required work to complete the course and to remove the incomplete grade is not submitted by the specified deadline, the incomplete grade is changed automatically to a grade of F.

University Drop Policy: It is the responsibility of the student to process the official drop and add forms. Faculty/staff cannot drop students from class. Please be aware the professor cannot drop a student for never attending or missing too many classes and can only assign grades based on the work submitted. For this reason it is important to your grade that if, for any reason, you decide to not complete the course, to complete the appropriate paperwork to drop the class officially or to withdraw from the university.

Examinations: Exams 1&2 are open-book and will consist of 100 objective items each with a maximum cumulative score of 100 points on each exam. Questions are taken from your textbook (T1) and the required internet sites identified in the Course Calendar & Assignment Schedule section of this syllabus. Your score will be posted in percentage scores in your gradebook with a maximum score of 100% on each. You will be given a maximum of three hours to complete each exam. Please read and study the text (T1) and required internet sites in detail before beginning the exams. The exams will be available to you seven or more days before the due date. Failure to take the exams during the time window available results in a grade of 0. It is highly recommended to take the exams as early as possible during the open window of time. You can access both exams by clicking the Exams folder on the course menu on the course homepage.

Discussion Board Questions: Ten of the questions posted on the discussion board must be answered with each item worth 20 points for a cumulative score of 100 on each forum. Five of the discussion questions must be posted from Forum 1 and five more posted from Forum 2 by the due dates in the course calendar & assignment section of this syllabus. Discussion Board items may be posted early and this is highly encouraged to avoid last minute problems. Questions not posted by the due dates will be reduced in grade 10 percent per calendar day. Any questions not received by the last day of regular class will receive a score of zero. Do not post your answers as an attached file because attached files will not receive a grade, ultimately resulting in a zero. Discussion question answers must be the student's own original work and must be 350 words or longer. Post the question number and repeat the question you are answering before writing your answer. Each answer must be followed by the bibliographic information on three sources of information including your textbook and the posting must be followed by a word count. The word count does not include the bibliographic information or the question. Be sure to indicate through internal citations where you use each source in your posting. The bibliographic information and word count must be repeated for each and every answer and you should strive to use as many different sources as possible other than your textbook. In other words, please treat each discussion question as a mini-paper with three references including your textbook and two additional sources. Answers that are simply blocked and moved from any other site that are not the original work of the student posting the answer will receive a grade of zero unless properly cited and the student will be referred for disciplinary action by the university.

Responses: Students are required to briefly and respectfully comment in five responses to other students' discussion questions. There is no length requirement for the responses to other student answers. Your responses should be based on the substantive content of their posting and must address the content of their answer. **DO NOT criticize the other student or make negative references about the student. Be sure you are responding to another student's posting rather than to my posting of the question.**

Attention to proper writing and correct spelling when posting the discussion questions and responses is expected and is a part of the grade received for the assignment. Use proper grammar and spelling and do not use any type of abbreviations not found in a commonly accepted, standardized English dictionary. **All comments posted by students must be in formal language with no intolerant, rude, abusive, or obscene language.** Violations of this policy will be referred for disciplinary action with the recommendation that the student be expelled from the class!

Theory Testing Research Paper: Pick a criminology theory of your choice from the assigned textbooks or criminology literature. Get permission to proceed with that topic from the professor via course email. You may request such permission any time **after 8 am** on the first day of class and only one or two students (depending on the size of the class) will be permitted to write on any one individual theory. Topics will be assigned in the order in which the request is received by the professor. Proceed to write a 10 to 12 page paper on your theory in APA format, double spaced, in font 11 or 12, with one inch margins. The paper must detail the history and evolution of the theory. You must discuss the primary theorists' contributions to the conceptual development of the theory in the first part of the paper and the latter part will detail exactly how the theory has been tested in the empirical literature. **The paper will have two headings. The first heading is: The History and Development of (your selected theory). The second heading will be Empirical Testing of (your selected theory).** The paper must contain a properly formatted list of selected references. The paper should be written in the APA style of writing (these writing manuals are available in the UTD bookstore if you do not currently have one in your

library). Pictures, charts, figures, tables or any other graphic representations in your paper do not count towards the required page count! All pages must be numbered. Your references must contain a MINIMUM of eight or more references with a minimum of three scholarly articles including one test article. **Finding the test article is key to this assignment – please proceed early!** Submit paper on the course assignment tool on the course homepage by clicking on the required paper link and following the on screen instructions to upload and submit your paper as a single document.

Crime Measure Assignment: Each student must go to the FBI website, find the *Crime in the United States Reports* (the UCR) and determine whether violent and property crimes went up or down last year over the preceding year. Each student must list and define the Index1 crimes covered in the report, both property crimes and violent crimes. You must then compare the crime rates in Dallas, TX to your hometown (if your hometown is not listed then choose the closest larger city that is reported by the FBI). Then use information learned in the class thus far in the semester to discuss in a couple of paragraphs why you think crime differs between Dallas and your hometown. Papers are to be printed in font 11 or 12 with one inch margins. Papers must be at least two and no more than five pages in length. Papers may include Tables if student wishes but most of the paper must be narrative text, double spaced, with correct spelling and usage. Submit paper on the course assignment tool on the course homepage by clicking on the crime measure assignment and following the on screen instructions to upload and submit your paper.

Introductions: Students should go to the discussion board and post a brief introduction about themselves during the **first week of class**. Please do not post addresses or other personal contact information on the discussion board. Give a brief summary about yourself including what year you are in, your major, and any future career goals if you have formulated them.

Course Calendar & Assignment Schedule

Please note that all chapter reading assignments made in this assignment schedule refer to readings in the required textbooks: (T1): *Criminology: Theories, Patterns, and Typologies*, 12th ed. and (T2): *Criminological Thought: Pioneers Past and Present* plus additional readings in the required internet sites noted in the schedule below.

As per the UTD Academic Calendar, fall semester classes begin on August 22 and end on Dec. 7 with a final exam due no later than Dec. 9 by 11:59 pm. **Early submission of Exams and writing assignments is highly encouraged.**

Please be aware that the exams are open book and will be accessible for a period of one week prior to the due date. Because of this large amount of time, make-up tests are not permitted. Early completion of all graded events is highly encouraged to avoid late penalties. Only the dates in this syllabus are official and if they conflict with a date anywhere else in the course or on eLearning, only the syllabus dates will be honored.

Week 1 of Class (8/22-8/27): Read the entire class syllabus available on the course website. Welcome to the class! These readings will introduce you to the course, the professor, and the expectations of you in the course. Please feel free to message me at the eLearning message tool on the course homepage and ask any questions you may have. Read chapter 1 in T1

Required internet site #1: http://www.importanceofphilosophy.com/Epistemology_Main.html

Read the brief overview of Epistemology and know the meaning of the terms epistemology, knowledge, and concepts.

8/29 Monday by 11:50 pm. SYLLABUS QUIZ: ALL STUDENTS MUST COMPLETE THE POSTED QUIZ.

8/29 Monday by 11:59 pm. INTRODUCTIONS: ALL STUDENTS SHOULD GO TO THE DISCUSSION BOARD UNDER INTRODUCTIONS and post a brief introduction of themselves. Please do not post any personal addresses or contact information. Just tell us a little bit about yourself such as what year you are in, your major, your interests, and future career plans if you have formulated any at this time.

Week 2 (8/28-9/3): Read chapter 2 in T1 and explore the Uniform Crime Report tables on required internet site #2. Topic: the Nature and Extent of Crime. Primary and secondary sources of crime data, crime trends and patterns.

Required internet site #2: <http://www.fbi.gov> Click on stats and services in top menu and then on crime statistics/UCR in the pull down menu. Read the page and then click on the 2014 Crime in the US (not 2015 preliminary). Under the heading Offenses Known to Law Enforcement click on Go to Offense Tables. On that page please browse carefully Table 1, Table 1A, and Table 8-Texas. Also browse the definitions of all eight of the Index1 crimes including the four violent crimes and the four property crimes which include arson. Remember exactly where to find this information as you will have to return to it later in the semester to complete your Crime Measure writing assignment. According to Table 1A, what is the percent change in the violent crime rate

over the first 10 years of the new millennium? What is the hierarchical rule and to which offense does it not apply?

Week 3 (9/4-9/10): Read chapter 3 in T1 and chapter 17 in T2. Topics: Victims and victimization. Routine activities.

Required Internet site #3: Go to:

http://www.txdps.state.tx.us/administration/staff_support/victimservices/pages/index.htm

Browse the various victim services pages in the menu at left and read carefully the page on crime victims' compensation and victims' rights. Who is qualified for compensation? How does compensation differ from restitution? How is compensation funded? Does the victim have a right to be informed of subsequent parole proceedings for the offender? (Do not email the professor these answers. Questions pertaining to this website will appear on the mid-term examination).

Week 4 (9/11-9/17): Read chapter 4 in T1 and chapter 1 in T2. Topics: Classical School of Thought, Rational Choice Theory, Cesare Beccaria, assumptions, key ideas and critique.

Required Internet site #4: http://www.constitution.org/cb/crim_pun.htm. Read the introduction and all chapters in *An Essay on Crimes and Punishments* (1764 original publication date). Do you think Beccaria would have approved waterboarding as a method of interrogation? How has this small publication written during the Age of Enlightenment impacted life in the United States today? (Do not email the professor these answers. Questions pertaining to this website may appear on the mid-term and final examinations).

Week 5 (9/18-9/24): Read chapter 5 in T1 and chapters 2, 4 & 6 in T2. Topics: Trait theory, biological, biosocial and psychological theories. Thoughts of Cesare Lombroso, William Sheldon, & Sigmund Freud.

Week 6 (9/25-10/1): Read chapter 6 in T1 and chapters 3 & 5 in T2. Topics: Sociological School of thought. Anomie and human ecology. Thoughts of Durkheim & Park.

Week 7 (10/2-10/8): Continue to read chapter 6 in T1 and read chapters 9, 10, & 11 in T2. Topics: Social Structure Theories: social disorganization, strain, and cultural deviance. Thoughts of Merton, Cohen, Cloward & Ohlin, Agnew, & Shaw & McKay.

Week 8 (10/9-10/15): Read chapter 7 in T1 and chapters 7, 8, 16, 12 & 14. Topics: Social Process Theories: differential association, differential reinforcement, neutralization, social reaction, containment, social bonds, and labeling. Thoughts of Sutherland, Hirschi, Becker, Matza & Sykes, Reckless, & Lemert

10/21 Friday → MID-TERM (EXAMINATION 1) ON CHAPTERS 1- 7 in T1 and required internet sites 1-3 by 11:59 pm.

Week 9 (10/16-10/22): Read chapter 8 in T1 and chapters 13 & 15 in T2. Topics: critical criminology and restorative justice. Thoughts of Marx, Goffman, and Quinney.

Required Internet site #5: Go to <https://ncjrs.gov> and familiarize yourself with the homepage. You may use articles from this database in addition to others in your discussion question bibliographies as you will find hundreds of valid articles at this site.

Week 10 (10/23-10/29): Read chapters 9 & 10 in T1 and chapters 18 & 19 in T2. Topics: developmental theories, causes of violence, rape, murder, assault & battery, and robbery. (Remember that the definitions of these violent crimes are in the UCR on the FBI homepage and are required in your crime Measure writing assignment).

10/28 Friday → MUST POST THE FIRST FIVE DISCUSSION ISSUE ANSWERS FOR FORUM 1 PLUS TWO RESPONSES TO YOUR CLASSMATES' ANSWERS BY 11:50 pm.

Week 11 (10/30-11/5): Read chapter 11 in T1. Topics: Violence, political crime & terrorism.

11/4 Friday →. THEORY TESTING PAPER DUE. MUST BE SUBMITTED THROUGH THE COURSE ASSIGNMENTS TOOL. Early submission is highly encouraged. Late penalties commence at 12:01 am on 11/5.

Week 12 (11/6-11/12): Read chapter 12 in T1. Topics: property crime, larceny/theft, burglary, auto theft, & arson. (Remember that the definitions of these property crimes are in the UCR on the FBI homepage and are required in your crime Measure writing assignment).

11/11 Friday →. CRIME MEASURE ASSIGNMENT DUE. MUST BE SUBMITTED THROUGH THE COURSE ASSIGNMENTS TOOL. Early submission is encouraged. Late penalties commence at 12:01 am on 11/12.

Week 13 (11/13-11/19): Read chapter 13 in T1. Topics: White collar crime.

Required Internet site #6: Go to <http://www.theatlantic.com/magazine/archive/1982/03/broken-windows/4465/1/> and read the original "Broken Windows" *Atlantic Magazine* article by Kelling and Wilson. Be sure to read all pages.

Required Internet site #7: Go to "Broken Windows: New Evidence from New York City and a Five-City Social Experiment" at https://lawreview.uchicago.edu/sites/lawreview.uchicago.edu/files/uploads/73.1/73_1_Harcourt_Ludwig.pdf and read the study by Harcourt and Ludwig.

What do you think are the policy implications of the first article? Should those implications still be invoked given the findings in the second article? (You must respond to this question by answering the discussion board question related to the articles).

Week 14 (11/20-11/26): **Fall Break/Holiday**

Week 15 (11/27-12/3): Read chapters 14&15 in T1. Topics: Theory integration, Public order crime: sex, substance and alcohol, cybercrime and transnational organized crime.

Required Internet site #8: Go to <http://www.csudh.edu/dearhabermas/osgood.htm> and read Dr. Osgood's presentation.

11/28 Monday → MUST POST FIVE ADDITIONAL DISCUSSION QUESTION ANSWERS FOR FORUM 2 PLUS THREE ADDITIONAL RESPONSES TO YOUR CLASSMATES' ANSWERS BY 11:59 pm.

Week 16 (12/4-12/12/7): Review all course materials for Final Exam.

12/9 Friday → EXAMINATION 2 (FINAL EXAM) on all material covered in chapters 8-15 in T1 and the required internet sites. DUE BY 11:59 pm. Exam can be submitted up to one week early. No time extensions permitted.

Scholastic Honesty

The University has policies and discipline procedures regarding scholastic dishonesty. Detailed information is available on the [UTD Judicial Affairs](#) web page. All students are expected to maintain a high level of responsibility with respect to academic honesty. Students who violate University rules on scholastic dishonesty are subject to disciplinary penalties, including the possibility of failure in the course and/or dismissal from the University. Since such dishonesty harms the individual, all students and the integrity of the University, policies on scholastic dishonesty will be strictly enforced.

Course Evaluation

As required by UTD academic regulations, every student must complete an evaluation for each enrolled course at the end of the semester. An online instructional assessment form will be made available for your confidential use. A link to your end of course evaluation will be sent to your UT Dallas email account toward the end of the semester.

University Policies

Students wishing information on the following topics and policies should visit the website following the list. Student Conduct & Discipline, Student Grievance Procedures, Incomplete Grade Policy, Disability Services, Religious Holy Days, Academic Integrity, Copyright Notice, Email Use, Withdrawal from Class, Technical Support, Class Attendance, Avoiding Plagiarism, Resources to help you succeed, and Off-Campus Instruction and Course Activities: <http://go.utdallas.edu/syllabus-policies>.

Course Policies

Make-up exams

Due to the fact that you will have one week to submit each exam, **make-up exams are not permitted** and failure to complete an exam will result in a posted grade of zero.

Extra Credit

There is no extra credit work available in this class for any reason. Please be concerned with your final course grade throughout the semester maximizing your performance on each graded event and minimizing your need for extra credit at the end of the course.

Late Work

Discussion board requirements and written assignments will be reduced in grade by 10 percent for each 24 hour period after the due date and time. Please calendar effectively and submit work early to avoid this penalty.

Comet Creed

This creed was voted on by the UT Dallas student body in 2014. It is a standard that Comets choose to live by and encourage others to do the same:

“As a Comet, I pledge honesty, integrity, and service in all that I do.”

UT Dallas Syllabus Policies and Procedures

The information contained in the following link constitutes the University's policies and procedures segment of the course syllabus.

Please go to <http://go.utdallas.edu/syllabus-policies> for these policies.

The descriptions and timelines contained in this syllabus are subject to change at the discretion of the Professor.