

CRIM 330 Criminology Correspondence Course (WEB Version)

Instructor

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Course Description

Criminology, CRIM 330, is an upper-level introductory course in the scientific study of crime from a sociological perspective. Attention is focused on the structure and administration of the criminal justice system, law, causes of criminal behavior, characteristics of law violators, the social distribution of crime, and the operation of the police, courts and corrections in response to law violating behavior. The course is intended as a general introduction to the area for social and behavioral science students, and to prepare minors in criminology for other upper-division courses in the department.

Using Blackboard on the WEB

This course is designed to be done entirely on the WEB (both lessons and examinations) by using the BLACKBOARD program available at through the WKU homepage (www.wku.edu). Lessons can be done at home by linking to the WKU homepage and Blackboard.

Examinations are also given online using Blackboard but examinations **must be taken at an approved testing site** under supervision. Read the instructions provided by the Correspondence Office regarding the procedures to follow for examination testing.

Required Reading

Larry J. Siegel, *Criminology: Theories, Patterns and Typologies*, 9th edition, Thompson Wadsworth 2007

This book is available at the College Heights Bookstore on the WKU campus. You can also get it through places such as Amazon.com (probably at a great savings).

Lesson Points and Examinations

The course is composed of 14 lessons, a midterm examination and a final examination. Each of the lessons cover one chapter in the text and is composed of 40 questions in two sections: (a) 28 multiple choice questions, and (b) 12 true-false questions. Students who do poorly on a lesson (less than 75%) will be asked to retake the lesson one more time before they go on, as explained below.

Lessons ONLY appear on blackboard AFTER you have successfully completed the previous lesson. For example, Lesson 2 will appear only AFTER lesson 1 has been completed. However, there is a catch. You MUST get at least 75% (or a score of 30) the first time you take a lesson for the next lesson to appear. If you score less than 30 the first time, you have to RETAKE the lesson. A second posting of the same lesson will appear (it will have a **-B** in the

lesson title) and it must be completed before the next lesson will appear. Once the –B version is taken, the next lesson will appear regardless of the score earned on the retake lesson. For example:

Lesson 1 you get a 38, Lesson 2 will appear. But,

if you scored a 26 on Lesson 2, Lesson 2-B will appear.

After you complete Lesson 2-B, Lesson 3 will appear, regardless of the score on Lesson 2-B. etc.

The midterm will appear only after Lesson 7 (or 7B) but it must be taken at an approved test site and it will require a password provided by the testing monitor.

Lesson 8 will appear after the midterm has been completed

If the midterm is failed (see below) a RETAKE Examination will be posted and this also must be taken at an approved test site.

SPECIAL THINGS TO KEEP IN MIND

- Lessons do not have to be completed all at once. Blackboard allows lessons to be “saved” so you can start a lesson and complete it at a later time. This is NOT true of examinations.
- You can progress through the course at your own pace at home (subject to the general rules of the Correspondence Office). However, plan the midterm and final examination in advance since it must be taken at a testing site and arrangement must be made.
- Anytime the retake lesson (-B) appears, **it is the score that will count**, even if it is lower than the first score.
- Record your progress in the space provided below. DO NOT use the Blackboard point total shown for you because it does not adjust for lesson or examination retakes.
- Examinations are TIMED, closed book with no notes or other study materials. You have 90 minutes to complete both the midterm and final examination.

Examinations and Retake Policy

The midterm examination is composed of 70 (all multiple choice) questions drawn **from chapters 1-7 of the text**. The exam contains both review and new questions from the chapters. **It MUST Be taken at an approved testing site.**

The final examination is also composed of 70 questions (all multiple choice) **drawn from chapters 8-14**. In other words, the final is not comprehensive. This exam also contains both review and new questions. **It MUST Be taken at an approved testing site.**

Any student who fails either the midterm or the final examination (less than a 60% which means less than 168 points) will be given **one** opportunity to retake each exam. This RETAKE examination will automatically appear on Blackboard. Like the other exams, RETAKE examinations **MUST Be taken at an approved testing site.** The retakes will be a different exam and entirely multiple choice. The points earned on the retake examination will be **averaged** in with the first exam attempt. The average of the two examinations will be added with the lesson points to determine the final course grade.

The course is based on a total of 1300 points according to the following distribution:

<u>Source</u>	<u>Points</u>
Lessons 1-7 (40 points each)	280
Midterm Examination	280
Lessons 8-14 (40 points each)	280
Final Exam	<u>280</u>
TOTAL	1120

Final Grades

RECORD LESSON SCORES HERE:

<u>Lesson</u>	<u>Points</u>
1	_____
2	_____
3	_____
4	_____
5	_____
6	_____
7	_____
Midterm	_____
8	_____
9	_____
10	_____
11	_____
12	_____
13	_____
14	_____
Final	_____
TOTAL POINTS	_____

Final grades will be based on the total points earned in the course:

<u>Grade</u>	<u>Points</u>
A	1008-1120
B	896-1007
C	784-895
D	672-783

Regardless of the total points earned between the 14 lessons and the final examination, **each student must receive a passing grade on the final in order to pass the course.** A passing grade on the final is considered any score of at least 60% (or a minimum score of 168 on the final). There is no minimum score requirement for the midterm.

Lesson and Reading Assignments

<u>Lesson</u>	<u>Reading Assignment</u>
1	Chapter 1, Crime and Criminology
2	Chapter 2, The Nature and Extent of Crime
3	Chapter 3, Victims and Victimization
4	Chapter 4, Choice Theories
5	Chapter 5, Trait Theories
6	Chapter 6, Social Structure Theories
7	Chapter 7, Social Process Theories
8	Chapter 8, Social Conflict Theories
9	Chapter 9, Developmental Theories: Life Course and Latent Trait
10	Chapter 10, Violent Crime
11	Chapter 11, Property Crime
12	Chapter 12, Enterprise Crime: White Collar and Organized Crime
13	Chapter 13, Public Order Crime
14	Chapter 14, Cyber Crime and Technology

