

CRIM 533.B70 – CRIMINOLOGY AND LAW
SUMMER 2020

Professor: Carrie Trojan, Ph.D.

Office Hours: by appointment

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Course Dates: June 15 to July 10

COURSE OBJECTIVE

The objective of this course is to provide students with an overview of the intersection of criminological theory, the law, and the criminal justice system. This will include an examination of law as a mechanism of formal social control in society and the social forces that inform the law's creation. In this effort, the course will centrally discuss contemporary legal debates in the real-world, combined with relevant criminological research.

This course is not equivalent to a law school course in criminal law. While we will cover some of the basics of criminal law, the course will focus on law as it impacts and shapes society and the individual. As part of this process, we will consider what we know about the causes of crime and how it compliments or contradicts the current structure and intent of the law as a social entity with far-reaching implications for the individual and societal groups.

COURSE STRUCTURE

Teaching a normally semester long Master's level course over only a few weeks is always a challenge. It requires a careful balance between ensuring students are exposed to the same amount of material and the practical time constraints imposed by summer courses. As we will complete the work in four weeks, the course has been divided into four sections.

The Blackboard menu contains a button for each week. Each week you should read the lecture and the required reading(s). At the end of each week, you should take the quiz/exam for the week that will only cover the lecture and required reading. There are two papers that you will complete and more information on those and the exam structure is detailed below.

Both the reaction papers and the quizzes are your chance to demonstrate thoughtful consideration of the topics presented each week - and you should not simply parrot

back what you read in the lectures for either task. All work - reaction paper and quiz - must be completed by the deadlines listed on the course outline at the end of the syllabus.

Please note that structuring the course in this manner has the benefit of spreading your grade across 6 equally weighted items. This will allow you to compensate for a poor grade on one item.

COURSE MATERIALS

This course is taught entirely online. Therefore, it is vital that students have reliable access to a computer and the internet. This is crucial for the quizzes and failure to secure reliable internet access is not a valid excuse for neglecting to submit assignments on time or for not taking the quizzes by the deadlines.

Basic computer literacy and familiarity with Blackboard is assumed; if this is problematic, I must be notified A.S.A.P.

All readings for the course will be made available through blackboard or the internet and you will find the links for the readings at the beginning of the lecture for the week. ***There is no required textbook for this course.***

GRADING:

Students will be graded on the following criteria. The reaction papers will only display a letter grade; the scale below shows the % equivalent for each letter grade. ***As a rule, incompletes are not given in this course. An incomplete would only be given if a student was physically incapable of completing required work due to hospitalization, incapacitation, or other extreme circumstances.***

<u>Item</u>	<u>Point Value</u>	<u>Assignment Grading Scale</u>	<u>Grading Scale</u>
Reaction Papers		A+ = 100	A = 90 – 100%
2 total (100 pts each)	200	A = 95	B = 80 – 89%
Quizzes		A- = 92	C = 70 – 79%
4 total (100 pts each)	400	B+ = 88	D = 60 – 69%
Total	600	B = 85	F = Below 60%
		B- = 82	
		C+ = 78	
		C = 75	
		C- = 72	
		D+ = 68	
		D = 65	
		D- = 62	
		F = 55	

COURSE REQUIREMENTS:

Reaction Papers

In addition, each week has several additional readings listed. These are NOT required and are not on the test. However, you must select **TWO** readings from **different weeks** to complete two reaction papers on.

Each reaction paper will be approximately 3-5 pages in length and will cover one of the optional readings of your choosing. For the reaction papers, you should (briefly) summarize the reading focusing only on the most pertinent information and include thoughtful reflection of the reading in relation to the week's lecture, and your reaction to the topic the reading covered. Finally, each optional reading has a question/topic that I pose that you should address. Please note that these are summary-reaction papers, not term papers. You should not need to do outside research to complete the paper, nor should they be excessively time consuming. However, if you do use additional information, it must be properly cited.

The reaction papers should be submitted through blackboard by the end of the week(s) you choose. Please note that *5 points will be deducted for every hour the paper is late*. So you are advised to submit on time!

Quizzes

There will be four quizzes – one at the end of each week. Each quiz will be worth 100 points and will be in essay format. Each exam will be composed of 5 questions and these questions will ask you to apply the knowledge gained from the lecture and the required readings for the week; *material from the optional readings will not be covered in the quiz.*

The quizzes will be timed *and will turn off 2 hours after you begin the quiz, so monitor your time carefully!!* Because these quizzes are timed, you obviously do not need to write 2 pages per question. Just ensure that you are answering the question thoroughly; 2-3 paragraphs should suffice for most questions.

To prevent your work from being lost (in case blackboard crashes or you lose your internet connection), you may want to type your answers into a word document. You can then simply copy and paste them into blackboard. Please note: if you are 'kicked off' the exam you may need to email me to reset the exam; so take this into consideration when taking the exam at the last minute – as I am not on email 24/7. If I have to reset the exam after the deadline, I will need to see your backup word document to demonstrate that are not simply asking for an extension.

POLICY ON PLAGIARISM

Students at the Master's level should be very familiar with academic writing and proper source citation. Plagiarism is representing the ideas of another as your own. Any idea, concept, statement or summary that is taken from or guided by a published source (including internet websites) must be properly cited in all writing assignments. Students are expected to conform to the highest ethical standards regarding academic integrity. Plagiarism will **NOT BE TOLERATED** and will be **DEALT WITH MOST HARSHLY**. *Lack of dishonest intent does not necessarily absolve a student of responsibility for plagiarism.* When in doubt – cite a source!! Various computer software programs may be used to check for plagiarized material. **Possible repercussions for submitting a plagiarized paper may include: failing the assignment, failing the course, and/or notification made to the university.**

COURSE OUTLINE:

Week 1: Monday June 15 to Sunday June 21

Topics for the Week:

- ~Introduction to the course
- ~Overview of criminal law, current social climate
- ~Defenses to criminal culpability; insanity defense

Quiz and Reaction Paper are due by 11:59PM on Sunday evening – 6/21

Week 2: Monday June 22 to Sunday June 28

Topics for the Week:

- ~Connecting theory to law
- ~Policy development in the US
- ~Selfishness and morality: Critical and Feminist theory reflected in the law
- ~Collateral damage created by the system

Quiz and Reaction Paper are due by 11:59PM on Sunday evening – June 28

Week 3: Monday June 29 to Sunday July 5

Topics for the Week:

- ~Crimes against person
- ~Homicide in the US and abroad: Applying anomie, biological, and subcultural theories
- ~Sexual offending and the law

Quiz and Reaction Paper are due by 11:59PM on Sunday evening – July 5

Week 4: Monday July 6 to Sunday July 12

Please submit all work as early as possible and do not submit late this week as I have to submit grades early Tuesday

Topics for the Week:

- ~Crimes against property: Applying environmental criminology and rational choice
- ~Drug crimes
- ~Morality crimes
- ~Punishing non-violent crimes: labeling theory and modern day shaming

Quiz and Reaction Paper are due by 11:59PM on Sunday evening – July 12

Resolving Complaints about Grades

The first step in resolving a complaint about grades is for the student to attempt to resolve the problem directly with the course instructor. See the Student Handbook, available at <http://www.wku.edu/handbook/> for additional guidance.

Title IX Misconduct/Assault Statement

Western Kentucky University (WKU) is committed to supporting faculty, staff and students by upholding WKU's Title IX Sexual Misconduct/Assault Policy (#0.2070) at <https://wku.edu/eoo/documents/titleix/wkutitleixpolicyandgrievanceprocedure.pdf> and the Discrimination and Harassment Policy (#0.2040) at <https://www.wku.edu/policies/docs/251.pdf>.

Under these policies, discrimination, harassment and/or sexual misconduct based on sex/gender are prohibited. If you experience an incident of sex/gender-based discrimination, harassment and/or sexual misconduct, you are encouraged to report it to the Title IX Coordinator, Andrea Anderson, 270-745-5398 or Title IX Investigators, Michael Crowe, 270-745-5429 or Joshua Hayes, 270-745-5121.

Please note that while you may report an incident of sex/gender based discrimination, harassment and/or sexual misconduct to a faculty member, WKU faculty are "Responsible

Employees” of the University and **MUST** report what you share to WKU’s Title IX Coordinator or Title IX Investigator. If you would like to speak with someone who may be able to afford you confidentiality, you may contact WKU’s Counseling and Testing Center at 270-745-3159.

ADA Accommodation Statement

In compliance with University policy, students with disabilities who require academic and/or auxiliary accommodations for this course must contact the Student Accessibility Resource Center located in Downing Student Union, 1074. SARC can be reached by phone number at 270-745-5004 [270-745-3030 TTY] or via email at sarc.connect@wku.edu . Please do not request accommodations directly from the professor or instructor without a faculty notification letter (FNL) from The Student Accessibility Resource Center.