

CRIM 330.D70 – CRIMINOLOGY

SUMMER 2021

Professor: Carrie Trojan, Ph.D.
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**Email is the best way to reach me over the summer*

Course Dates: July 12 to July 30

COURSE OBJECTIVE

During the course we will explore the following questions: How do criminologists define ‘crime’? Why do we punish offenders? Is punishment in general (and prison in particular) effective? Do people think before they act? Are some people born with biological predispositions that compel them to commit crimes, or can the root causes of crime be found strictly in the social environment? Are there wider social forces at work that explain why the United States has higher crime rates than other Western nations? The goal of this course is to get students thinking about crime beyond stereotypes and explore the crime problem in society from a new perspective.

Upon finishing this course, students should feel confident in their abilities to engage in intelligent conversation regarding crime and the origins of criminality.

TEXTBOOK AND COURSE MATERIALS

The required text for this course is: there is no text. You paid enough for this course.

All lectures and readings will be posted on the course site. *Note: the lectures are long and may take some time to read through, but this is to compensate for not having a required text (it's college - I have to make you read something...)*. In addition, all assignments and exams will be submitted through Blackboard.

GRADING:

Students will be graded on the following criteria. Students should make every effort to keep track of their grade and seek help if the student believes he/she is doing poorly in the course. To help students with this, an excel file is posted on Blackboard that will allow students to track their grade as they progress through the course. ***As a rule, incompletes are not given in this course.***

Item	Points	
3 Exams (100 pts each)	300	A = 315 - 350 points
Writing Assignment	50	B = 280 - 314 points
Total	350	C = 245 -279 points
		D = 210 - 244 points
		F = below 210 points

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

EXAMS

There will be three exams that will consist of multiple choice, true/false, and brief essays. Each exam is worth 100 points. *There is no comprehensive final exam.*

All exams MUST be taken by the deadlines listed in the course outline. The exams are NOT proctored, so you can take them at home (and by default are open notes). **However, the exams are timed.** *Students will have 1 ½ hours to take each exam.* The exams must be completed within this time frame. *Students are advised to prepare for these exams and study.* In an effort to help you with this, study guides will be posted at the beginning of each lecture to help you organize the material.

As this course is taught entirely online, you are responsible for securing a *reliable* internet connection while taking exams.

To prevent your work from being lost (in case blackboard crashes or you lose your internet connection), you should constantly save your answers on these tests by clicking the save answer button next to each question. For the essays, you may want to type your answers into a word document. You can then simply copy and paste them into blackboard.

Please note the following: *I have set the exams on blackboard to allow you to re-enter the exam if you are suddenly kicked offline. As such the instructions will state “you can save this exam and resume it later” - that is not the case.* Once you click begin, you have 1 ½ hours to complete the exam and the clock will continue to run even if you exit the exam - so when you start, you must finish. I have used this setting in blackboard, because it should allow you to re-enter the exam if you temporarily lose your internet (and if you have been saving your answers, they should still be there). If I do not use this option, I would have to manually delete your prior attempt to allow you complete the exam. ***So just to clarify - ignore that instruction; when you start - the clock starts and you must finish in the allotted time frame.***

WRITING ASSIGNMENT

There a brief written assignment of approximately 2 pages in length and guidelines for the paper are posted on the blackboard site. The assignment will require you to read an article and write a response to questions posted. You will not need to any additional research for the assignment.

The assignment is due by the date and time listed in the course outline below. Late submissions will have 5 points deducted for every hour it is late, so please submit on time.

POLICY ON PLAGIARISM

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 including www.turnitin.com.

COURSE OUTLINE:

***** Reminder: This syllabus is subject to change at the instructor's discretion *****

Week	Topic	Notes
Week 1: Mon. 7/12 to Fri. 7/16	<i>Defining Crime and Deviance</i> <i>Concept of Law/Punishment</i> <i>Measuring Crime</i> <i>Classical and Neo-Classical Theories</i> <i>Biological / Psychological Theories</i>	*Exam 1 must be completed by 11:59PM Friday 7/16
Week 2: Mon. 7/19 to Fri. 7/23	<i>Social Disorganization Theory</i> <i>Anomie / Strain Theories</i> <i>Social Learning Theories</i>	*Writing assignment due on Monday 7/19 by 11:59PM *Exam 2 must be completed by 11:59PM Friday 7/23
Week 3: Mon. 7/26 to Fri. 7/30	<i>Social Bond / Control Theories</i> <i>Labeling Theory</i> <i>Conflict / Marxist Theories</i> <i>Feminist Theories</i> <i>Integrated Theories</i>	*Exam 3 must be completed by 11:59PM Friday 7/30

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.