

**CCJ6605 – THEORETICAL APPROACHES TO CRIMINAL BEHAVIOR
FALL 2011 – DISTANCE LEARNING**

Faculty: Fawn T. Ngo, Ph.D.
College of Arts & Sciences, C250
E-mail: fawnngo@sar.usf.edu
Phone: 941-359-4727

Class Meetings: There will be four (4) meetings for the course. The class will meet on four Saturdays - 8/27, 9/24, 10/22, and 12/3 - from 3pm until 5:15pm. These meetings are mandatory.

Office Hours: By appointments only. Also, you may leave me a phone message at the number listed above BUT NOTE THAT THE BEST WAY TO CONTACT ME IS VIA EMAIL.

Course Description

This course covers the diversity of thinking about crime causation that currently dominates the field of criminology. This course is designed to provide the students with an understanding of historical and current criminological perspectives and the foundations upon which criminological policy and research are based. The course also emphasizes the research literature on these perspectives especially the methodological shortcomings inherent in the literature. The focus throughout the course will be on developing critical thinking skills when evaluating and critiquing theory, policy and research on crime.

Required Text and Equipment

1. Kubrin, Charis, Thomas D. Stucky, and Marvin D. Krohn (2009). *Researching Theories of Crime and Delinquency*. New York: Oxford University Press.
2. Given that this is a web-based course, you must have access to a computer.

Blackboard

I will be using Blackboard to post lecture materials, assignments, discussion questions, quizzes, grades, and important announcements. I will also be using Blackboard to email students in the course. Accordingly, students are REQUIRED to access Blackboard and their registered e-mail account with USF at least twice daily for class announcements and important information. For instructions to use the Blackboard tutorials, go to, http://www.sarasota.usf.edu/CampusComputing/Documents/CC_Student_Resources.php If you need technical assistance, contact Academic Computing at **866-974-1222** or via email at **help@usf.edu**.

FURTHER, in the event of an emergency, it may be necessary for USF to suspend normal operations. During this time, USF may opt to continue delivery of instruction through methods that include but are not limited to: Blackboard, Elluminate, Skype, and email messaging and/or an alternate schedule. It's the responsibility of the student to monitor Blackboard site for each class for course specific communication, and the main USF,

College, and department websites, emails, and MoBull messages for important general information.

Course Requirements and Student Evaluation

Course Surveys

There will be ten (10) course surveys in this course. Course surveys are located under the “Course Surveys” tab at Blackboard and students will have from 12:01am on Monday until 11:59pm on Sunday to complete each survey. Course surveys will consist of questions designed to assess the main criminological theories covered in the class or examine students’ perception on various criminal justice topics. Survey results will be posted at Blackboard.

Quizzes

There will be ten (10) weekly quizzes in this course. Quizzes are located under the “Quizzes” tab at Blackboard. Quizzes will become available at 12:01am on Monday and students will have until 11:59pm on Sunday to complete them. Each quiz will include 25 multiple choice and true/false questions. Quizzes are timed and students will have two (2) hours to complete each quiz. Answers to the quizzes will be made available at Blackboard once all students have completed the quiz.

Exams

There will be three (3) exams in this course. Each exam will include four (4) essay questions and students are allowed to have one sheet of notes (8 ½ by 11, front and back) for the exam. Exams are not cumulative and will cover lecture materials and readings in the textbook.

Laptops will be available in the examination room and students will have to type their answers. The first exam will be administered on Saturday, 9/24. The second exam will be administered on Saturday, 10/22, and the third exam will be administered on Saturday, 12/3. The scheduled time for all exams is from 3-5:15pm.

Course Paper

To prepare students for the core component of the MCJA Program, i.e., the construction of a grant proposal, for the course paper, students are to compose a *comprehensive* review of the literature relating to his/her research topic. The paper should be approximately ten pages in length (double space and excluding references) and adheres to the APA guidelines. The course paper is due at the beginning of class on Saturday, 12/3.

Make-up Exams

To make-up a missed examination, students must provide a written excuse to the professor as soon as possible. Valid excuses include illness (self or dependent) and bereavement.

Grading

Your final grade in this course is as follows:

Course Surveys	10%
Quizzes	15%

Course Paper	15%
Exam 1	20%
Exam 2	20%
<u>Exam 3</u>	<u>20%</u>
Total	100%

Grading Scale

A+= 96 and above	B+= 87-89	C+= 77-79	D+= 67-69
A = 93-95	B = 83-86	C = 73-76	D = 63-66
A-= 90-92	B- = 80-82	C- = 70-72	D- = 60-62
			F = 59 or below

Note that extra credits and incompletes will not be granted.

Students with Disabilities

By university policy, students with disabilities who seek special accommodations must register with the Office of Students with Disabilities Services (SDS). Students who have been approved for accommodations will be given a memorandum from SDS to give to each of their instructors advising of the special accommodations needed in their cases. If you have been approved for special accommodations, please notify me during the first week of classes so I can be sure to assist you as approved. You can contact Pat Lakey, SDS Coordinator, at 941-359-4714, plakey@sar.usf.edu, or access additional information on student responsibilities through this link: <http://www.asasd.usf.edu/Students.htm>

Religious Holidays

In accordance with university policy, students who need accommodation due to the observance of religious holidays must notify the instructor in writing by the second week of class so that arrangements to fulfill class assignments can be made.

Academic Dishonesty

Academic dishonesty will not be tolerated. Academic dishonest encompasses any act that misrepresents the quality or integrity of academic work; this includes cheating or plagiarizing on any assignment.

In accordance with the University's policy, I will assign a failing grade to any assignment, exam, and possibly for the whole course, if I believe academic dishonesty is present. Furthermore, I will initiate disciplinary review against any student that I believe has committed academic dishonesty (see current University Catalog, www.ugs.usf.edu/catalogs/0607/adadap.htm).

TENTATIVE COURSE SCHEDULE AND READING ASSIGNMENTS:

August 22- 28	<i>Introduction; What is Theory; Defining Crime; The Measurement of Crime; Sources of Crime Data; Assumptions Underlying Criminological Theories; The Classical and Positive Schools of Criminology</i>
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August 29-
September 4

- **Lecture Notes #1**
- **Required Text: Chapter 1**
- **Quiz #1 and Survey #1 are due at 11:59pm on Sunday, 9/4**

September 5 - 11

Classical Criminology; Deterrence/Rational Choice/Routine Activity Theories

- **Lecture Notes #2**
- **Required Text: Chapter 2**
- **Quiz #2 and Survey #2 are due at 11:59pm on Sunday, 9/11**

September 12-18

Positivist Criminology; Biological/Psychological/Trait Theories

- **Lecture Notes #3**
- **Required Text: Chapter 3**
- **Quiz #3 and Survey #3 are due at 11:59pm on Sunday, 9/18**

**SEPTEMBER 21
OR 23**

REVIEW FOR EXAM #1; OPTIONAL

EXAM #1

SEPTEMBER 24
September 26-
October 2

Social Disorganization Theory; Sampson's Theory of Collective Efficacy

- **Lecture Notes #4**
- **Required Text: Chapter 4**
- **Quiz #4 and Survey #4 are due at 11:59pm on Sunday, 10/2**

October 3-9

Anomie and Strain Theories; Subculture Theories; General Strain Theory (GST); Institutional Anomie Theory;

- **Lecture Notes #5**
- **Required Text: Chapter 5**
- **Quiz #5 and Survey #5 are due at 11:59pm on Sunday, 10/9**

October 10-16	<i>Differential Association/Social Learning Theories</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lecture Notes # 6 • Required Text: Chapter 6 • Quiz #6 and Survey #6 are due at 11:59pm on Sunday, 10/16
OCTOBER 19 OR 21	REVIEW FOR EXAM #2; OPTIONAL
OCTOBER 22	EXAM #2
October 24-30	<i>Control Theories</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lecture Notes #7 • Required Text: Chapter 7 • Quiz #7 and Survey #7 are due at 11:59pm on Sunday, 10/30
October 31- November 6	<i>Labeling Theory</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lecture Notes #8 • Required Text: Chapter 8 • Quiz #8 and Survey #8 are due at 11:59pm on Sunday, 11/6
November 7-13	<i>Conflict/Radical/Feminist Theories</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lecture Notes #9 • Required Text: Chapter 9 • Quiz #9 and Survey #9 are due at 11:59pm on Sunday, 11/13
November 14-20	<i>Integrated Theories; Developmental and Lifecourse Theories</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lecture Notes #10 • Required Text: Chapter 10 • Quiz #10 and Survey #10 are due at 11:59pm on Sunday, 11/20
NOVEMBER 21-27	THANKS GIVING
NOVEMBER 30 OR DECEMBER 2	REVIEW FOR EXAM #3; OPTIONAL
DECEMBER 3	EXAM #3; COURSE PAPER DUE