

Eastern Illinois University
CRM 3650 - 001
Criminological Theory
Fall 2020
8/24/2020 – 12/18/2020
ONLINE

Instructor: Mari Kita

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Office Hours: MWF 9:00 – 10:00 AM & 11:00 AM – 1:00 PM via Microsoft Teams (Make an appointment [here](#)) or D2L Chat

Course Description: Why do people commit a crime? Or why not? Criminology is essentially a study dedicated to answering these questions. Criminology considers crime as a *social* phenomenon and thus, it is crucial to examine the social context in which crime is committed. In this course, we will examine how social context contributes to explanations of crime—in other words, how society causes crime. We will also consider how different explanations have emerged at different times and understand and how we as a society respond to crime. By using many real life examples, moreover, we will explore how criminological theories impact the legal responses to various types of crime and how they affect each of us in today's America.

Student Learning Objectives: At the end of the semester students are expected to possess a comprehensive understanding of criminological theories. More specifically, students should be able to:

1. Understand the major criminological explanations of crime.
2. Understand the significance of theory in the studies of crime.
3. Critically assess each explanation of crime based on the theory's adequacy in explaining different types of criminal behavior.
4. Apply the major criminological theories to lived experience.

Required Textbook:

Tibbets, Stephen G. & Craig T. Hemmens 2018. *Criminological Theory: A Text/Reader*. SAGE Publications.

Additional readings will be provided on D2L.

Method of Instruction: This class is offered entirely in an online format. Students can access to the class material via the Internet any time from any location. However, students also have responsibilities to participate in class on a regular basis just as much as they do in a course conducted in a regular classroom. Not only interacting with the instructor but also with other students will be highly valued in this class. Students should make the best use of e-mail and discussion forums to communicate with each other and ask questions to the instructor. Students are also expected to do as much work as they do in a regular face-to-face class. Although powerpoint slides will be posted on D2L to enhance students' understanding of the chapters, it is

critical for students to do their own reading as the textbook will be the primary source of exam questions.

Examinations and Assignments:

Exams – There will be three exams, two mid-terms and one final, which will consist of multiple-choice questions. Tests will be **closed-book** and will not be cumulative as they will cover each sections of the course that they follow. If students are unable to take the test on the scheduled dates, be sure to let the instructor know in advance so accommodations will be made for those with legitimate excuses (e.g. sickness, quarantine, etc.). Exams can be found on D2L under Quizzes.

Weekly Discussion Forum Posts – The instructor will post two sets of questions on the discussion forum each week (posted on D2L every Monday). Students will answer these questions having done the assigned reading for each week. Each post must be at least a few paragraphs long and the responses are due **every Wednesday and Friday at 11:59 PM**. The objective of having discussion forum posts is to improve students' understanding of reading materials and facilitate a discussion among students. Each week, there should be various responses to the instructor's questions as a result of everyone's contribution to the discussion forum. Students are recommended to write a draft in Word and proofread it before they make a post on the forum.

Movie Reflection Paper – You are required to write an analytical paper on *Goodfellas*, or *Maria Full of Grace*. The paper must be 4-5 pages long (1-inch margin, 12-point font, and double spaced). Apply criminological theories to any aspects of the movie using the assigned reading materials. This should show that you have enough understanding of criminology to be able to apply to various situations you observe in the film. In addition to the assigned materials, outside material can be used as sources to support your arguments, provided they are properly cited in the ASA format within the paper. More detailed instructions will be provided later in the semester.

Course Communication:

Email – Make sure to check your emails regularly, as all course communication will be done remotely, due to COVID-19. You can email me via Panthermail or D2L. Make sure that all emails are professional and include specific information about your request for assistance. If you are using Panthermail to communicate with me, please include **the course and section number** in the subject line of the email (e.g. SOC/CRM 4790-001). I strive to answer all emails within 24 hours during the business week. If you have a question about an assignment, I strongly encourage you to email me at least 24 hours prior to the due date.

Virtual Office Hours – If you wish to speak with me, you can make an appointment during my office hours to have a virtual meeting. Schedule your appointment [here](#).

Grade Postings/Concerns:

All grades will be posted on D2L. If a student has a concern about a grade or feels that there is a discrepancy between the posted grade and the grade awarded, the instructor must be contacted via email within one week of when the grade was posted. Grade concerns will not be considered after one week has passed.

Assignment Submission:

All assignments must be submitted in **Microsoft Word or PDF documents** via D2L. If you use alternatives to Microsoft Word such as Google Docs, OpenOffice, or Pages, etc., be sure to convert your file to a MS Word or PDF document before uploading. Otherwise, the layout setting of your paper may be lost. Do not wait until the last minute to submit assignments as the D2L server may become busy and prevent you from uploading your work. Back up your work and have a “Plan B” if your computer malfunctions. Computer labs are located throughout campus if you need Microsoft Word or have issues with your personal computer. Late papers will be penalized ½ of a letter grade for each day late, including the day on which they are due.

Course Schedule:

Week	Topics	Reading Assignments	Examinations and Discussion Forum Posts
Week 1: 8/24 -	Introduction <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - What is Criminology? - What is Theory? - What is Crime? - Classifications of Criminological Theories - Characteristics of Good Theories - Measures of Crime - Rates of Crime 	Section 1	Discussion forum post #1 due on 8/26 Discussion forum post #2 due on 8/28
Week 2: 8/31 -	Preclassical and Classical Theories of Crime <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Preclassical Perspectives of Punishment - The Age of Enlightenment - The Classical School of Criminology - The Neoclassical School of Criminology 	Section 2	Discussion forum post #3 due on 9/2 Discussion forum post #4 due on 9/4
Week 3: 9/9 -	Early Positive School Perspectives of Criminality <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Lombroso’s Theory of Atavism and Born Criminals - The IQ Testing Era - Body Type Theory 	Section 4	Discussion forum post #5 due on 9/9 Discussion forum post #6 due on 9/9
Week 4: 9/14 -	Rational Choice and Routine Activity Theories of Crime <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The Rebirth of Deterrence 	Section 3	Discussion forum post #7 due on 9/16

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Rational Choice Theory - Routine Activities Theory 		Discussion forum post #8 due on 9/18
Week 5: 9/21 -	<p>Early Social Structure and Strain Theories of Crime</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Early Theories of Social Structure 	Section 6	<p>Discussion forum post #9 due on 9/23</p> <p><u>First Midterm on Friday, 9/25</u></p>
Week 6: 9/28 -	<p>Early Social Structure and Strain Theories of Crime Cont.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Strain Theories - Film: How to Sell Drugs 	Section 6 Cont.	<p>Discussion forum post #10 due on 9/30</p> <p>Discussion forum post #11 due on 10/2</p>
Week 7: 10/5 -	<p>The Chicago School and Cultural and Subcultural Theories of Crime</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The Ecological School and the Chicago School of Criminology - Cultural and Subcultural Theories of Crime 	Section 7	<p>Discussion forum post #12 due on 10/7</p> <p>Discussion forum post #13 due on 10/9</p>
Week 8: 10/12 - (NO CLASS on Friday, 10/16)	<p>Social Process and Learning Theories of Crime</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Learning Theories 	Section 8	Discussion forum post #14 due on 10/14
Week 9: 10/19 -	<p>Social Process and Learning Theories of Crime Cont.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Control Theories 	Section 8 Cont.	<p>Discussion forum post #15 due on 10/21</p> <p>Discussion</p>

			forum post #16 due on 10/23
Week 10: 10/26 -	Social Reaction and Criminal Models of Crime <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Labeling and Social Reaction Theory 	Section 9	Discussion forum post #17 due on 10/28 <u>Second Midterm on Friday, 10/30</u>
Week 11: 11/2 -	Social Reaction and Criminal Models of Crime Cont. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Marxist Theories of Crime - Conflict Theories of Crime 	Section 9 Cont.	Discussion forum post #18 due on 11/4 Discussion forum post #19 due on 11/6
Week 12: 11/9 -	Feminist Models of Crime and Queer Criminology <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Social Traits and Feminism - Contemporary Theories of Female Criminality - Gender-Based Theories of Criminality - The Feminist Agenda: Five Perspectives for Criminologists 	Section 10 Chesney-Lind, Meda and Mary Morash. <i>Feminist Theory, Crime, and Justice</i>	Discussion forum post #20 due on 11/11 Discussion forum post #21 due on 11/13
Week 13: 11/16 -	Feminist Models of Crime and Queer Criminology Cont. <i>Film: Maria Full of Grace</i>	Buist, C. L. & Stone, Codie. 2014. "Transgender Victims and Offenders: Failures of the United States Criminal Justice System and the Necessity of Queer Criminology." <i>Critical Criminology</i> . 22:35-47.	Discussion forum post #22 due on 11/20 Discussion forum post #23 due on 11/22
Week 14: 11/23 – (NO			

CLASS THANKS GIVING BREAK)			
Week 15: 11/30 -	Life Course Perspectives of Criminality <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Developmental theories - Antidevelopmental theories - Sampson and Laub's Developmental Model - Moffitt's Developmental Taxonomy 	Section 11	Discussion forum post #24 due on 12/2 Discussion forum post #25 due on 12/4
Week 16: 12/7 -	Colonial Criminology	King, S. 2017. Colonial Criminology: A Survey of What It Means and Why It Is Important.	Discussion forum post #26 due on 12/9 <u>Movie Reflection Paper due on Friday, 12/11</u>
Finals Week: 12/14 -			<u>Final Exam: Tuesday, 12/15</u>

Grading Scale:

- Three exams – 45% (15% each)
- Discussion Forum Posts – 30%
- Movie Reflection Paper – 25%

Grade Distribution:

94 – 100%= A	80 – 82%= B-	67 – 69%= D+
90 – 93%= A-	76 – 79%= C+	64 – 66%= D
86 – 89%= B+	73 – 75%= C	60 – 63%= D-
83 – 85%= B	70 – 72%= C-	59% or lower= F

Plagiarism and Academic Dishonesty:

Academic dishonesty in any form (plagiarism, cheating, lying, stealing, etc.) will NOT be tolerated in this course. Academic dishonesty includes signing in for students who are not present in class or including an absent classmate's name on an in-class assignment. Students who turn in the work of other students either past or present will be in violation of this policy. The

regulations for academic conduct set forth in the Code of Conduct will be strictly enforced. If you are found to be violating these expectations, you could fail the assignment, fail the course, and/or be reported to the Office of Student Standards. All assignments will be submitted through TurnItIn to check for plagiarism. Not properly citing your work is a form of plagiarism and will be treated as such. Familiarize yourself with in-text citation and visit the Writing Center if you need assistance.

Academic integrity:

Students are expected to maintain principles of academic integrity and conduct as defined in EIU's Code of Conduct (<http://www.eiu.edu/judicial/studentconductcode.php>). Violations will be reported to the Office of Student Standards.

COVID-19 Safety Precautions & Behavior Expectations: To protect our campus community during the Covid-19 pandemic, all persons on campus are required to observe social distancing guidelines, wash hands frequently, and wear a clean cloth or disposable face mask in all shared spaces, including classrooms, hallways, offices, dining halls, grounds and parking lots. Students should also self-monitor for possible Covid-19 symptoms, and contact university health services if feeling sick. Students who refuse to comply with the Covid-19 mask policy will be asked to leave the classroom, and will be reported to the Office of Student Standards for further disciplinary action. For additional information about EIU Covid-19 policies and expectation, please refer to the *EIU Covid-19 Return to Campus Guidebook* at <https://www.eiu.edu/covid/returntocampus.php>.