

Department of Criminal Justice and Criminology

CRIJ2362 – 03

Criminology

Fall 2017

Professor: Eric J. Connolly, Ph.D.
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Class Hours: Tuesdays and Thursdays 9:30 am – 10:50 am
Classroom: A115 George J. Beto Criminal Justice Center
Office Hours: Mondays and Wednesdays 2:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m. or by appointment

Textbook

Walsh, Anthony. (2015). *Criminology: The Essentials* (2nd edition). Thousand Oaks, CA: Sage.

Course Description

Criminology is the study of examining why individuals commit acts of crime and delinquency. In contrast to Criminal Justice, Criminology collects and analyzes biological, psychological, and social information to better understand why some individuals, compared to others, are more likely to commit unlawful acts. Given the wide range of biological and environmental risk factors that explain criminal behavior, criminologists frequently integrate concepts from biology, psychology, and sociology to better understand the causes of criminal, delinquent, and antisocial behavior. Over time, criminologists have used these concepts to create theories to explain why some individuals are more (or less) likely to engage in antisocial, criminal, and delinquent behavior across the life course. Criminology is therefore considered an interdisciplinary field of study that focuses on identifying the risk factors for antisocial, delinquent, and criminal behavior. Criminological knowledge is often used to inform existing and future policies designed to (1) prevent youth from having contact with the criminal or juvenile justice system and (2) reduce the likelihood that youth and adult offenders will reoffend in the future.

Course Objectives

1. Understand the origin and history of Criminology as a scientific field of study;
2. Identify the most important risk factors for antisocial behavior during childhood, adolescence, and adulthood;
3. Summarize the central arguments of mainstream criminological theories of crime and delinquency;
4. Comprehend how biological and social factors operate with one another to create individual differences in antisocial behavior and;

5. Understand recent developments within Criminology and how they will ultimately affect our understanding of crime and delinquency.

Course Requirements

Exams (60% of final grade): There will be two exams. Each exam is worth a total of 30 points and will consist of 30 multiple-choice and true/false questions. If you miss an exam you are required to notify me within 24 hours before or after the exam is administered and provide me with an acceptable reason for missing the exam. Depending on the reason I may request written documentation for the excuse. If you do not follow this procedure you will receive a zero on the exam. Information regarding the material on each exam will be discussed as each exam date approaches. If you would like to review your midterm or final exam, you are welcome to stop by my office during my office hours to review either exam. If you have any other questions about an exam, please feel free to email me. The midterm exam will be administered at the beginning of class on Tuesday, October 3rd and the final exam will be administered in the same classroom we have met in all semester on Thursday, December 7th at 9:30 a.m.

Quizzes (40% of final grade): There will be four quizzes throughout the semester. Each quiz will be administered at the beginning of class and consist of 10 multiple-choice and true/false questions. If you miss a quiz you are required to notify me within 24 hours before or after quiz and provide me with an acceptable reason for missing the quiz. Depending on the reason I may request written documentation for the excuse. If you do not follow this procedure you will receive a zero on the quiz. The topics covered on each quiz will be reviewed at the end of the class before each quiz. If you would like to review a specific quiz, you are welcome to stop by my office during my office hours to review any of your quizzes. If you have any other questions about a quiz, please feel free to email me. Quiz #1 will be administered at the beginning of class on Thursday, September 14th, Quiz #2 will be administered at the beginning of class on Tuesday, October 10th, Quiz #3 will be administered at the beginning of class on Thursday, October 26th, and Quiz #4 will be administered at the beginning of class on Thursday, November 9th.

Grading

Final grades will be based on the following:

Exam #1	30 points (30%)
Exam #2	30 points (30%)
Quiz #1	10 points (10%)
Quiz #2	10 points (10%)
Quiz #3	10 points (10%)
Quiz #4	<u>10 points (10%)</u>
	100 points (100%)

Grading Scale

A	90-100%
B	80-89%
C	70-79%
D	60-69%
F	59% and below

Make-Up Exam

If you miss the midterm exam, you will need to contact me within 24 hours after the exam is administered and provide a sufficient reason for missing the exam. If there is sufficient reason, I will schedule a time, which is convenient for the student, to make-up the exam.

Course Expectations:

1. You are expected to read all required material before the assigned date.
2. You are expected to attend each class.
3. You are encouraged to be respectful to your fellow classmates and myself.
4. Emails should include a salutation such as “Dear Dr. Connolly” or “Hi Professor Connolly” and a signature so I know whom I’m responding to. Emails without a salutation *and* signature will not be answered.
5. This syllabus is not a contract and may be slightly modified during the semester. You are responsible for staying up-to-date on any and all changes.
6. Any type of cheating will not be tolerated.

Student Academic Policies

All students are expected to adhere by Sam Houston State University academic policies. Academic policies for attendance, academic honesty, disabled student and services for disabled students, and absences on religious holy days can be found at:
<http://www.shsu.edu/dept/academic-affairs/aps/aps-students.html>.

Use of Telephones and Text Messages in Academic Classrooms and Facilities

Students are not allowed to text or use their cell phone during class time. If an emergency arises, the student may answer and use their cell phone outside of the classroom environment. To see more information regarding university policies for cell phone use, please visit:
<http://www.shsu.edu/dept/academic-affairs/aps/aps-curriculum.html>.

Course Schedule and Assigned Readings

Criminology Course Schedule		
Date	Topics	Readings
Week #1 (8/20 - 8/26)		
Tuesday	-	-
Thursday	Introduction	No readings
Week #2 (8/27 – 9/02)		
Tuesday	Crime and Criminology	Walsh (2015): Chapter 1
Thursday	Crime and Criminology	Walsh (2015): Chapter 1
Week #3 (9/03 - 9/09)		
Tuesday	Measuring Crime and Criminal Behavior	Walsh (2015): Chapter 2
Thursday	Measuring Crime and Criminal Behavior	Walsh (2015): Chapter 2
Week #4 (9/10 - 9/16)		
Tuesday	Victimology	Walsh (2015): Chapter 3
Thursday	Quiz #1	No Readings
Week #5 (9/17 - 9/23)		
Tuesday	Early Schools of Criminology	Walsh (2015): Chapter 4
Thursday	Early Schools of Criminology	Walsh (2015): Chapter 4
Week #6 (9/24 – 9/30)		
Tuesday	Crime as Choice	Walsh (2015): Chapter 5
Thursday	Crime as Choice	Walsh (2015): Chapter 5
Week # 7 (10/01 - 10/07)		
Tuesday	Midterm Exam	No Readings
Thursday	Social Structural Theories	Walsh (2015): Chapter 6
Week # 8 (10/08 - 10/14)		
Tuesday	Quiz #2	No Readings

Thursday	Social Process Theories	Walsh (2015): Chapter 7
Week #9 (10/15 - 10/21)		
Tuesday	Social Process Theories	Walsh (2015): Chapter 7
Thursday	Psychosocial Theories	Walsh (2015): Chapter 9
Week #10 (10/22 - 10/28)		
Tuesday	Psychosocial Theories	Walsh (2015): Chapter 9
Thursday	Quiz #3	No readings
Week #11 (10/29 – 11/04)		
Tuesday	Biosocial Criminology	Walsh (2015): Chapter 10
Thursday	Biosocial Criminology	Walsh (2015): Chapter 10
Week #12 (11/05 – 11/11)		
Tuesday	Developmental Theories	Walsh (2015): Chapter 11
Thursday	Quiz #4	No Readings
Week #13 (11/12 - 11/18)		
Tuesday	No Class	No Readings
Thursday	No Class	No Readings
Week #14 (11/19 - 11/25)		
Tuesday	No Class	No Readings
Thursday	No Class	No Readings
Week #15 (11/26 – 12/02)		
Tuesday	Crimes of Violence	Walsh (2015): Chapter 12
Thursday	Review and Conclusion	Walsh (2015): Chapter 16