

**Department of Criminal Justice and Criminology**  
**CRIJ 2362.01**  
**Criminology**  
**Spring 2018**

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**Professor:** Elisa Toman, Ph.D.

**Office:** C209 — George J. Beto Criminal Justice Center

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**Class Hours:** T/R 11:00AM – 12:20PM

**Classroom:** A290 — George J. Beto Criminal Justice Center

**Office hours:** T/R 9:30AM – 11:00AM or by appointment

**Teaching Assistant:** Micaela Alvarado

**E-Mail:** [mma043@shsu.edu](mailto:mmma043@shsu.edu)

**Appointments by request**

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**GENERAL COURSE INFORMATION**

**Required Textbooks and Materials**

- Lilly, J. Robert, Francis T. Cullen, and Richard A. Ball. *Criminological Theory: Context and Consequences*. 6th edition. ISBN: 9781452258164
- Additional articles/chapters/excerpts provided on the course website

**Course Description**

This course will familiarize students with theoretical and empirical research concerning why deviance and criminal behavior occur. Students will learn about a range of topics including classical, positivistic, macro-level, and micro-level theories. Parts of the course will also focus on how criminological theories inform our thinking about crimes and criminals, and how these theories inform criminal justice policies. The course is broken down into four units with an exam at the end of each unit.

Unit 1 — Classical School, Positivism, and the Chicago School. This unit will introduce students to early criminological theories. Students will learn about the Classical School and the early positivist school and biological positivism. Students will also be introduced to prominent theories emerging out of the Chicago School, including the concentric zone theory, social disorganization, collective efficacy, differential association, and social learning theory.

Unit 2 — Crime and the American Dream. In this unit, strain theories, social bonding theories, social control theories, and labeling theories will be discussed. Students will also gain an understanding of the social context in which these theories emerged.

Unit 3—Social Turmoil and Conflict Theories. This unit will introduce conflict theories to students. Green criminology, convict criminology, and feminist criminology will also be discussed. In addition, students will be exposed to theories of white-collar offending.

Unit 4 —Conservative Criminology and Life-Course Theories. In this final unit, conservative criminology and biosocial theories will be discussed. Students will be exposed to new and emerging directions in biosocial theories. The unit ends with an overview of life-course theories, focus specifically on the work of Sampson and Laub and Moffitt.

### **Course Objectives**

Upon successful completion of this course, students should:

1. Have an understanding of a range of theories concerning the occurrence of deviance and crime.
2. Be familiar with the empirical research bearing on each theory.
3. Be able to describe the current state of various criminological theories.
4. Be able to demonstrate informed views about different criminological theories and how different criminal justice policies may be informed by them.

### **Course Requirements**

The course will include four exams, one for each unit. Each unit will end with an exam, and exams will cover only the content from a given unit (i.e., non-cumulative exams).

Exams (80 percent of grade). There will be four exams. Each exam can consist of multiple-choice, true/false, and short-answer questions. You must bring a Scantron (**Form 882-E**) with you to the exam. **Note that each exam must be taken and there will be no dropping of the lowest score.**

The exams are **non-cumulative** and will cover material only from the given unit. Students should keep in mind that the ability to understand topics from earlier units is imperative to succeed on future units. Exams will cover materials discussed in class and in your readings, materials discussed exclusively in class, and materials discussed exclusively in your readings.

**Students must arrive on time on exam days.** To reduce the possibility of academic dishonesty, students who arrive after the first exam has been turned in will not be allowed to take the exam and will receive a 0 (zero) grade for the exam.

The final exam will take place on Thursday, May 10, 2018 from 12:00-2:00PM.

In-class essay quizzes (10 percent of grade). Over the course of the semester, students will be administered brief, in-class attendance essay quizzes. These quizzes involve writing a brief response in which students will apply a criminological theory to a recent criminal event. The purpose of the quizzes is to gauge critical thinking and students' participation in the course. **A missed quiz cannot be made up.** However, I will drop the **two (2)** lowest scores at the end of the semester. This means that if you miss a class in which an in-class essay quiz was administered, you will be able to drop this score.

Online quizzes (10 percent of grade). Throughout the semester, there will be 8 online quizzes that students will take via Blackboard. Each quiz will be open for a 24-hour period and is due at 11:59PM on the due date outlined in the course schedule below. These quizzes are intended to gauge students' understanding of the unit's material and to help students prepare for the exams. Group work is not allowed and sharing of answers (via GroupMe screenshots, text messages, Facebook messenger or otherwise) will be considered **cheating**. In addition, **a missed quiz cannot be made up.** However, I will drop the **two (2)** lowest scores at the end of the semester.

Extra credit. Over the course of the semester, there may be opportunities to earn extra credit. Extra credit may be offered at my discretion and only if it can be available to the entire class. **I will not offer individual opportunities for extra credit.** No credit will be given for late extra credit assignments.

Grading. The exams and in-class essays contribute to your grade using the following scheme and grading scale:

In-class essay quizzes	10%
Online quizzes	10%
Exam 1	20%
Exam 2	20%
Exam 3	20%
Exam 4	20%
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Total	100%

- A = 90 - 100%
- B = 80 - 89%
- C = 70 - 79%
- D = 60 - 69%
- F < 60

An important note on grades. **There will be no end-of-the-semester adjustments made to your grade.** Student who are having trouble in the course or who are worried about their grade should feel free and are encouraged to meet with me during office hours or contact me via e-mail. I am happy to discuss strategies and goals for improving learning the course with you at any time during the semester, but I encourage you to do this sooner rather than later, before it becomes too late in the semester to improve understanding of course content, and in turn, performance on assessments. Also note that **course grades are not rounded.** That means, for example, an 89.1%, 89.5%, and 89.9% are all a B.

Make-Up Policy. In-class essay quizzes and online quizzes **cannot** be made up. There are also no make-up exams, except in instances where there is an excused absence related to religious observances (when formal notification is given the first week of the semester) and medical emergencies (with notification prior to the exam and documentation). **Make-up exams will be administered in essay format.**

### **Other Requirements, Policies, and Recommendations**

- General Information: Student academic policies concerning attendance, academic honesty, disabled student and services for disabled students, and absences on religious holy days may be found at: <http://www.shsu.edu/dept/academic-affairs/aps/aps-students.html>
- Attendance: In accordance with Academic Policy Statement 800401 attendance will be taken regularly. Although attendance is not mandatory, please remember that in-class essay quizzes require you to be present in class in order to receive credit for participation and completion of the assigned essay quiz. I strongly recommend students attend class regularly to succeed.
- Academic Honesty: Sam Houston State University's policy on academic honesty is as follows: "Sam Houston State University expects all students to engage in all academic pursuits in a manner that is above reproach and to maintain complete honesty and integrity in the academic experiences both in and out of the classroom" (see Student Guidelines Handbook, Section 5.3). Academic dishonesty is, therefore, prohibited. Academic dishonesty includes but is not limited to, cheating, plagiarism—including self-plagiarism, collusion, falsification, and abuse of resource materials. Refer to the University's Code of Student Conduct and Discipline for the specific definitions associated with academic honesty at Sam Houston State University. **You assume full responsibility for the content and integrity of all academic work that you submit for a course requirement or grade.** Academic dishonesty in any form is regarded as a very serious matter and can lead to the failure of this course and dismissal from the University. I strongly recommend you review the University's policy on academic honesty and appeal procedures as needed. For a complete listing of the University's policy, see: <http://www.shsu.edu/dept/dean-ofstudents/index.html>
- Disabled Student and Services for Disabled Students: It is the policy of Sam Houston State University that no otherwise qualified disabled individual shall, solely by reason of their disability, be excluded from the participation in, be denied benefit of, or be subjected to discrimination under any academic program or activity. Any student with a disability that affects his/her academic performance should contact the Office of Services for Students with Disabilities in the SHSU Lee Drain Building Annex (936-294-3512; TDD 936-294-3786) to request accommodations. If you have a disability that may adversely affect your work in this class, then I encourage you to register with the SHSU Services for Students with Disabilities and talk with me about how I can best help you. All disclosures of disabilities will be kept strictly confidential. Note: **No accommodation can be made until you register with the**

**Services for Students with Disabilities.** For a complete listing of the University policy, see: <http://www.shsu.edu/dotAsset/187f9029-a4c6-4fb4-aea9-2d501f2a60f3.pdf>

- Absences on Religious Holy Days: Section 51.911 (b) of the Texas Education Code requires that an institution of higher education excuse a student from attending classes or other required activities, including examinations, for the observance of a religious holy day, including travel for that purpose. A student whose absence is excused under this subsection may not be penalized for that absence and shall be allowed to take an examination or complete an assignment from which the student is excused within a reasonable time after the absence. "Religious holy day" means a holy day observed by a religion whose places of worship are exempt from property taxation under Section 11.20, United States Tax Code. See: <http://www.shsu.edu/dotAsset/0953c7d0-7c04-4b29-a3fc-3bf0738e87d8.pdf>
- Use of telephones and text messages in academic classrooms and facilities: Mobile phones, tablets, laptops, etc. **must be silenced** during class. Those not heeding this rule will be asked to leave the classroom so as not to disrupt the learning environment. **Please do not text or otherwise use cell phones or other mobile devices in class.** Students who habitually disrupt the class by using a mobile device (via texting, using SnapChat, Twitter, Facebook, Instagram, or any other new social media outlet) and have been warned, will receive a reduction in their final class grade. As per the University's policy (100728), "any use of a telephone or text messenger or any device that performs these functions during a test period is prohibited, except when expressly permitted by the instructor. These devices should not be present during a test or should be stored securely in such a way that they cannot be seen or used by the student. **Even the visible presence of such a device during the test period will result in a zero for that test.** Use of these devices during a test is considered de facto evidence of cheating and could result in a charge of academic dishonesty." For more information see <http://www.shsu.edu/dept/academic-affairs/aps/aps-curriculum.html>
- Right to change syllabus: Adjustments to the content, timeline, and due dates for assignments may be required during the semester. If this is necessary, some components of this syllabus may change. However, any such changes will be announced to the students in class. Students are responsible for adhering to any such announced changes.
- Course schedule changes: The course schedule (below) is only tentative, and changes to the readings may occasionally be made. In instances when these changes are made, I will notify students in class and via email well in advance. Students should follow the included course schedule unless otherwise notified. The instructor, however, reserves the right to change the course schedule without notice.
- Course notes, materials, and recording policy: Students may take notes during lectures/class presentations. **Students may not make tape or audio recordings of the lectures/presentations or take photographs of the presentations.** Notes, handouts, or other materials provided by the instructor cannot be exchanged or distributed for commercial purposes or for any purpose not related to a student's study or enrollment without the expressed written authorization of the instructor. Materials for this course are considered proprietary and are copyrighted. Notes, PowerPoint slides, quizzes, and any written, audio,

and video materials developed by the professor or provided to the students may not be sold or distributed to other persons.

- Tobacco and electronic cigarettes policy: The use of tobacco products (cigarettes, cigars, pipes, smokeless tobacco, and all other tobacco products) and electronic cigarettes/nicotine/THC devices is strictly prohibited. See: <https://www.shsu.edu/intranet/policies/administrative/documents/pre19tobaccopolicy.pdf>
- E-mail etiquette: Some basic courtesies sometimes get lost in modern electronic conversation. To ensure proper and courteous communication, here are a couple of basic rules regarding e-mail:
  - I will answer your e-mails as soon as possible, but I do not typically check my e-mail before 7:00AM or after 7:00PM. **Please allow at least 24 hours for an answer.**
  - Please begin your e-mails with a salutation (“Hello Dr. Toman”) and sign your name to the e-mail (“Thank you, [your name]”).
  - **Please include your course name and number** in the subject of your e-mail.
  - Be sure to write your e-mail as you would write a paper. That is, use capital letters where capital letters are supposed to go, use punctuation, and do not write like you are sending a text message.
  - **I will not respond to e-mails if they are unprofessional**; please be sure to use appropriate respectful language and structure in your communications with me or you will not get a response.
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## COURSE SCHEDULE

TOPICS DISCUSSED IN CLASS TO READ PRIOR TO CLASS		
<b>Unit I. Classical School, Positivism, and the Chicago School</b>		
January 18, R	Introduction to course Syllabus	Syllabus Chapter 1 (pp. 1-6)
January 23, T	Spiritualism Classical School	Chapter 2 (pp. 13-20)
January 25, R	Positivism Classical School and Positivism: Policy Implications <b>QUIZ 1 DUE</b>	Chapter 2 (pp. 20-35)
January 30, T	The Chicago School: Concentric Zone Theory Social Disorganization Collective Efficacy	Chapter 3 (pp. 36-43) Chapter 3 (pp. 47-50)
February 1, R	The Chicago School: Differential Association The Code of the Street <b>QUIZ 2 DUE</b>	Chapter 3 (pp. 43-46) Chapter 3 (pp. 54-56)

February 6, T	Social Learning Theory The Chicago School: Policy Implications Exam #1 Review	Chapter 3 (pp. 56-64)
<b>February 8, R</b>	<b>Exam #1</b>	
<b>Unit II. Crime and the American Dream</b>		
February 13, T	Strain Theory: Merton's Strain Theory Agnew's Strain Theory	Chapter 4 (pp. 65-85)
February 15, R	Institutional Anomie Theory Strain Theory and IAT: Policy Implications QUIZ 3 DUE	Chapter 4 (pp. 85-93)
February 20, T	Social Bonding Theory	Chapter 6 (pp. 114-125)
February 22, R	Social Control Theory Control Theories Control Theories: Policy Implications QUIZ 4 DUE	Chapter 6 (pp. 125-148)
February 27, T	Labeling Theory	Chapter 7 (pp. 149-163) Kubrin PDF
March 1, R	No Class — Instructor Unavailable	
March 6, T	Labeling Theory: Policy Implications Exam #2 Review	Chapter 7 (pp. 163-175) Marked PDF
<b>March 8, R</b>	<b>Exam #2</b>	
<b>Unit III. Social Turmoil and Conflict Theories</b>		
March 13, T	No Class — Spring Break	
March 15, R	No Class — Spring Break	
March 20, T	Early Conflict Theories Advancing Conflict Theories	Chapter 8 (pp. 176-199)
March 22, R	Conflict Theory and Causes of Crime Conflict Theory: Policy Implications QUIZ 5 DUE	Chapter 8 (pp. 199-206)
March 27, T	Green Criminology	Chapter 9 (pp. 233-236) Lynch PDF
March 29, R	Convict Criminology	Chapter 9 (pp. 242-246)
April 3, T	Feminist Criminology	Chapter 10 (pp. 254-279)
April 5, R	Theories of White Collar Crime: Edwin Sutherland QUIZ 6 DUE	Chapter 11 (285-305)

April 10, T	Theories of White Collar Crime: Organizational Strain and Opportunity Exam #3 Review	Chapter 11 (pp. 305-316)
<b>April 12, R</b>	<b>Exam #3</b>	
<b>Unit IV. Conservative Criminology and Life-Course Theories</b>		
April 17, T	Conservative Criminology: Social Context Varieties of Conservative Theory	Chapter 12
April 19, R	Routine Activities Theory Rational Choice Theory QUIZ 7 DUE	Chapter 13 (pp. 350-369)
April 24, T	Biosocial Theory: Genetics	Chapter 14 (pp. 396-401)
April 26, R	Biosocial Theory: New Directions Policy Implications QUIZ 8 DUE	Chapter 15
May 1, T	Life-Course Theories: Integrated Theories	Chapter 16 (pp. 427-438)
May 3, R	Life-Course Theories: Moffitt Sampson and Laub Policy Implications Exam #4 Review	Chapter 16 (pp. 443-453) Chapter 16 (pp. 456-459)
<b>May 10, R</b>	<b>Exam #4 (EXAM TIME 12:00PM – 2:00PM)</b>	