Fall 2014 CJ 3305: Criminology

Online Course

Dr. Brittany Rodriguez
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Office Hours:
Tuesday/Thursday: 2:20-3:30
Wednesday 9:00-12:00 and 1:00-3:00
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Please feel free to contact me if these times do not work for you and we will set up an appointment.

Required course material:
Introduction to Criminology
Schram and Tibbetts
Sage publications, 2014

Course Description:
A study and critical appraisal of various theories of crime causation, including an examination of classical, biological, psychological, and sociological perspectives on the etiology of crime.

Course Objectives:
Students who complete this course will:

* Become familiar with the different theories of Criminal Justice
* Be able to apply theories of Criminal Justice to real world applications
* Be able to understand modern problems in CJ systems throughout the world.
* Be able to conduct research regarding criminal justice systems and current events.

Course Requirements and Expectations:
1. Participation and discussions are extremely important in an online course. Everyone will be required to discuss every chapter.
2. I expect that all students will participate and share their views on specific topics while respecting their peers.
3. To complete all readings prior to discussions.
4. To complete all assignments on their due date.
5. To complete all exams as required.

Academic Honesty: Tarleton State University expects its students to maintain high standards of personal and scholarly conduct. Students guilty of academic dishonesty are subject to
disciplinary action. Academic dishonesty includes, but is not limited to, cheating on an examination or other academic work, plagiarism, collusion, and the abuse of resource materials. The faculty member is responsible for initiating action for each case of academic dishonesty that occurs in his/her class.

Disabilities: If you, as a student, believe that you will require any special assistance because of a learning disability or other kinds of disabilities to accomplish the goals of this course, please feel free to discuss this with me at the start of the semester or contact the Director of Student Disability Services in the Mathematics Building, Room 201, at (254) 968-9400.

Tarleton Undergraduate Catalog: The university catalog has important information to assist students with information concerning majors, minors, student program and services, course descriptions, and much more. The catalog is available for all students online at: [http://www.tarleton.edu/catalog/](http://www.tarleton.edu/catalog/)

Grade Scale:

- Exam 1= 100 points
- Exam 2= 100 points
- Exam 3= 100 points
- Discussion Questions=100 points
- Total: 400 points

There are three exams in this course and each exam is worth 100 points. The final exam is not cumulative. Exam #1 will cover chapters 1-5; exam #2 will cover chapters 6-10; exam #3 will cover chapters 11-15.

Discussion Question—please note that not all chapters will have discussion questions.

Discussion Question #1: Chapter 1-- Introduction to Criminology: Introduce yourself to the class (your name, job, what you want to do when you graduate, what you expect to get out of this course). Due August 29 by midnight.
Discussion Question #2: Chapter 2-- Classical School of Criminological Thought. P 59, #4: What concept/proposition of Beccaria’s reforms do you find least practical? Most practical? Due by September 5 at midnight.

Discussion Question #3: Chapter 3-- Contemporary Classical and Deterrence Research P. 80, #7: Regarding routine activities theory, which places, residences, or areas of your hometown do you feel fits this idea that certain places attract more crime than others (i.e. hotspots)? Explain how you, your friends, or others (including police) in your community deal with such areas. Does it work? Due September 12 by midnight.

Discussion Question #4: Chapter 4--Early Positivism: Biological Theories of Crime P. 107, #1: What characteristics distinguish the Positive School from the Classical School regarding criminal thought? Which one of these schools do you lean toward in your own perspective of crime and why? Due September 19 by midnight.

There is no discussion question for Chapter 5. You will still be responsible for this chapter on the exam.

Exam #1—Chapters 1-5. Exam will open on September 19 and will close on September 23 at midnight.

Discussion Question #5: Chapter 6--Psychological/Trait Theories of Crime p. 161, #5: What are the key features of the attachment theory? Due by September 26 at midnight.

Discussion Question #6: Chapter 7—Social Structure Theories of Crime I p. 192, # 6: How would you describe the neighborhood where you or others grew up, in terms of Coward and Ohlin’s model of organization/disorganization? Can you relate to the types of gangs they discussed? Due October 3 by midnight.

There is no discussion question for Chapter 8. You will still be responsible for this chapter on the exam.

Discussion Question #7: Chapter 9—Social Process and Control Theories of Crime P. 251, #1: What distinguishes learning theories from other criminological theories? Due October 10 by midnight.

Discussion Question #8: Chapter 10—Labeling Theory and Conflict/Marxist/Radical Theories of Crime P. 283, #10: What are some examples of policies that reflect the labeling and conflict theories? Due by October 17 at midnight.

Exam #2—Chapters 6-10. Exam will open on October 17 and will close on October 23.

There is no discussion question for Chapter 11. You will still be responsible for this chapter on the exam.

Discussion Question #9: Chapter 12—Developmental/Life-Course Perspective of Criminality P. 334, #3: Discuss the primary criticisms regarding the developmental perspective, particularly that presented by Gottfredson and Hirschi. Which theoretical paradigm do you consider the most valid? Why? Due October 31 by midnight.

Discussion Question #10: Chapter 13—White-Collar Crime, Organized Crime, and Cybercrime P. 375, #2: How does white collar crime compare with traditional street crimes in terms of property damage
and damage to society? In terms of physical damage, such as injury or death? Due by November 14 at midnight.

**Discussion Question #11** (Extra credit)—Chapter 14—Hate Crimes, Terrorism, and Homeland Security  P. 414, # 3: How would you apply routine activities theory to hate crimes? Due by November 21 at midnight.

**Exam #3—Chapters 11-15.** This exam will open on November 25 and close on December 2 at midnight.

Please let me know if you have any questions or concerns. Power point slides can be found on Blackboard. I suggest that you read all chapters as this information is necessary in future criminal justice courses.

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